

News & Views

*The Official Newsletter of the
Coast Guard Spouses' Association of Southeastern Conn.*
<http://www.cgspouses-sect.org>

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NOVEMBER 2009

TIFFANI KAMINSKI, EDITOR

Holiday Party /Cookie & Gift Exchange **Thursday, December 10 at 7PM**

Our annual party is always great time to get together before the hustle and bustle of the holidays. We hope you can join us for the festivities, graciously hosted by Betsy Burhoe at her beautifully decorated home at One Seneca Drive, CGA, at 7PM on December 10. The attire for this event will be holiday casual. Participation in the Cookie Exchange and Gift Exchanges are voluntary, but both are loads of fun and you will walk away with a variety of cookies and some new gifts. This year the appetizers and desserts will be provided by the CGSA, so no need to do anything more than come and enjoy yourself!

The following are guidelines for the Cookie Exchange: Bring two dozen cookies split into four packages (don't forget to include the recipe). You'll then bring home two dozen assorted cookies to enjoy with your family.

The following are guidelines for the Gift Exchange: Bring a gift of your choice valued at \$10, and it will be assigned a number. The recipient of your gift will be the gal who draws the corresponding number out of a hat. This is a new addition this year, so all who attend will bring home a little something special.

In addition, if you would like to participate in the wacky White Elephant Gift Exchange the guidelines are as follows: Wrap the oddest, funniest thing you can find in your house (or buy for under \$10) and be prepared to laugh! As a hint – sometimes it is good to include something desirable within the gift, this way you can sit back and watch the many trades the ladies do in order to get or keep the gift!

Please RSVP by December 7 to Joellen Podoll at (231) 818-0769, jat_22@hotmail.com or Christina Allen at (914) 489-8335, hanker00@hotmail.com.

A HUGE THANK YOU for the Wonderful Success of our Fund Raisers

A big 'Thank you' goes out to our fabulous volunteers for Ways & Means and Cadet Cakes at two of our major events - Parent's Weekend and Homecoming: **Megan Bennett, Carolyn Bradley, Jennifer Calhoun, Kim Davis, Sharnel Duarte, Marion Gesele, Raena Kempe, Allison McSorley, Christy Newell, Meredith Novak, Joellen Podoll, Patricia Pruett, and Pat Simpson.**

Ladies, all your help is truly appreciated! Cadet Cakes brought in \$978 for Parent's Weekend, Ways and Means earned \$1681.50 for Parent's Weekend and \$1065 for Homecoming. We made a total of \$3724.50 that will allow us to help fund cadet activities and other good causes in the Coast Guard community. We couldn't have done it without you!

Activities & Events

November General Membership Meeting

Join us for this month's meeting, and enjoy a night out as well! We will be meeting at Tastings in Mystic (4 Hendel Dr.) at 6:30PM on **Tuesday, November 10**. Enjoy a glass of wine and some delicious appetizers, or even a whole meal if you wish. We will start the meeting in the back room at 7PM. The restaurant **requires** an RSVP from us by Friday, November 6 so they can properly staff the restaurant.

Please RSVP to Christy Newell at cnewell925@comcast.net or (860) 287-2282 **no later than November 6**.

On the Waterfront

Please join us at the restaurant "On the Waterfront" for a scenic view and enjoy some seafood or Italian cuisine. A



children's menu is available. Let's meet on Wednesday, **November 18**, at 11:30AM. The restaurant is located at 250 Pequot Avenue in New London.

Please RSVP to Sharnel Duarte at (860)326-5405 or sharchar5@yahoo.com.

November Playdate

Let's begin to explore some of the indoor activities in the area as the weather heads toward winter. This month we will meet at the Children's Museum of Southeastern Connecticut (409 Main St., Niantic) on **Friday, November 13**, at 10AM. The museum has activities for newborns through elementary-aged children and is small but packed with fun!

Some of us are members and have free passes available so let us know if you'd like one when you RSVP. Afterward, let's head to the fast and kid-friendly East Coast Taco for lunch (51 W Main St., Niantic, right up the street).

Please RSVP to Christy Newell by November 12 at cnewell925@comcast.net or (860) 287-2282.

Thanksgiving Turkey Trot & Dip

Many of us remain in the area for Thanksgiving. Looking for a fun, healthy way to start your day before you indulge in turkey and pie? Let's meet at the 17th Annual Turkey Trot & Dip (dip optional!) on Thanksgiving morning. The event begins at the Mystic YMCA and includes a 3-mile run/walk/jog followed by a brisk dip in the river. Go to <http://www.oceancommunityymca.org/mystic/files/turkey.pdf> to get the form to register. Bring the whole family and meet us at the pavilion in the back of the Mystic YMCA at 8:15AM.

Please RSVP to Christy Newell at cnewell925@comcast.net or (860)287-2282 so we will know to look for you.

Club Notes

Thanks to Our Local Starbucks Patrons!

The Starbucks on Rt. 1 in Groton has a box to which patrons can donate coffee that they purchase to send to the troops overseas. The CGSA is now the beneficiary of these donations! We will be including them in our monthly care packages to the CGC ADAK in Bahrain. We have 8 pounds of whole bean coffee ready to go for the month of November. The ship does have a coffee grinder and the crew is aware of the donations and very much looking forward to them. We are working with Starbucks to also start accepting donations of their new instant coffee single-serving packets as they would be perfect for ship life.



Coffee House Theme for Monthly Care Package

The theme for November's care package to the CGC ADAK in Bahrain is **Coffee House**. We will be sending Dunkin Donuts and Starbucks coffee along with powdered creamers and light reading material. If you would like to donate items for this care package, magazines and puzzles would be appreciated.

The ADAK was very grateful for the instant meals sent in the past and we would be happy to add those items to the package as well.

Please note that pork or pork by-products are prohibited in care packages going to the Middle East. Also, no chocolate or items that will melt can be shipped. Please bring any donations to the General Membership meeting on Tuesday, November 10 at 6:30pm.

The sponsors for this month's package are Andrea Krautler and Jennifer Calhoun. If you have any questions or suggestions contact Andrea at ainguam@hotmail.com or (860) 245-5147.



Club Notes

Coast Guard Spouses' Association of Southeastern Connecticut General Membership Meeting • October 13, 2009 • CGA, Munro Hall

Present: Christy Newell, Joellen Podoll, Tiffani Kaminski, Melissa Brown, Sharnel Duarte, Raena Kempe, Allison McSorley, Jamie Luzader, Laura Egan, Marion Gisele, Meredith Novak

Call to Order: Christy Newell called the meeting to order at 1903

Report of the Recording Secretary: Laura Egan passed out copies of the September minutes and noted one mistake on the minutes that will be corrected. Tiffani Kaminski accepted the published minutes and Joellen Podoll seconded the motion.

Report of the Treasurer: Jill Billau was unable to attend. Christy passed out the Treasurer's Report for September.

Report of the Corresponding Secretary: Melissa Brown reported that an email was received from the CGC ADAK. They appreciate the care packages that have been received. The ADAK command did suggest sending coffee in future packages.

Report of the Vice President: Christina Allen was unable to attend. Christy reviewed the upcoming activities.

October 17: Bronx Zoo Trip, weather permitting, rain date of possibly November 7. Visit the Facebook page for a discount code for admission.

October 22: Lunch Bunch, Olio, 11:30am, RSVP to Sharnel Duarte

October 23: Fall Playdate, Holmberg Orchards

November 10: General Membership Meeting, location TBD

Report of Standing Committees:

Awards & Scholarships: Jill was unable to attend and had nothing to report. Christy presented the awards to the cadets at Parents' Weekend.

Cadet Cakes: Allison McSorley reported that in September, 27 cakes were baked and the CGSA made \$459 and received \$64 in donations. October has 57 cakes to be baked. She still needs volunteers for 7 more cakes.

Historian: Christina was unable to attend.

Hospitality/Luncheons & Socials: Joellen stated that there was a good turn out for the Wine & Cheese social. She will be assisting Christina in planning the holiday party.

Membership: Kim Davis was unable to attend. Christy spoke with Kim and reported that this year's membership is down from last year. This year the CGSA has received membership forms for 36 members compared to last year at 66 members. The membership directory will be delayed to allow for any membership forms that haven't been received yet. It was suggested that we allow for members to complete their membership forms online and pay dues via paypal and is something that will be looked into.

Newsletter: Tiffani stated the deadline for the October newsletter is October 23.

Sunshine: Allison had nothing new to report. She did suggest meals for Christina after her baby arrives.

Ways & Means: Marion Gisele reported the CGSA made \$1065 at Homecoming.

Special Committees:

Audit Committee: Jill and Christina were not in attendance.

Babysitting: A volunteer is still needed for this committee.

Care Packages: Melissa reported that Andrea and Jennifer are in charge of the care package for next month. Joellen & Raena showed off the current care package entitled, Home Away for the Holidays.

Family Support Fund: Nothing to report

Lunch Bunch: RSVP to Sharnel for this month's lunch and she also needs a count for those who need high chairs.

MWR Representative: Pat Simpson was unable to attend, but has nothing to report.

OCS Representative: The new OCS command has not been contacted yet, this committee is on hold until then.

Retiree Representative: Nothing to report

Secret Pals: Melissa has sent out the secret pal match-ups. Email accounts were set up through the club website for those participating to email their secret pal anonymously. If you bring a gift for your secret pal to the general membership meetings she can distribute the gift.

Website: Nothing to report

International Dinner Club: Christy reported for Jill that more couples are needed to sign up.

Old Business:

a.) Michelle Beale expressed her gratitude for those who helped with weeding her flower beds. She will contact the club if she needs more help in the future. Allison will contact her to see if they would like a Sunshine meal for the weekends she is home.

b.) The by-laws revision will be presented at the November general membership meeting and then will be voted upon in January.

New/Upcoming Business:

a.) Holiday Party/December meeting was discussed. A change of location was discussed but ultimately it was decided to keep the location at Quarters One. Joellen will check with Mrs. Burhoe on availability for the holiday party. Marion did suggest using her home at Quarter Two as a back up location.

Adjournment: Christy adjourned the meeting at 2013.

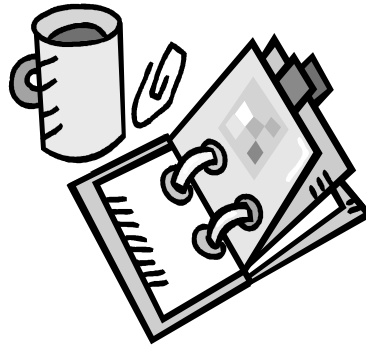
*Respectfully Submitted October 23, 2009
Laura Egan, Recording Secretary*

President's Corner

Ahhh, November! Crisp air, falling leaves, and the holidays are right around the corner. Secret Pals is in full swing, Lunch Bunch is a huge success, and our fundraisers are making money! Our club year is off to a great start.

I'd like to send a special welcome and thank you to all of our fantastic new members who have jumped right in to help out with our events. It's wonderful to get a new perspective on our traditional events and ideas for new ones. Your immediate involvement in club activities has been greatly appreciated.

Back by popular demand, our November meeting will be held at Tastings in Mystic. Come enjoy a glass of wine, chat with friends old and new, and make our meeting an evening out at the same time! It was also suggested that we try an appetizer potluck for an upcoming meeting, so we will give that a go in January. Get those recipes ready! Another suggestion was that we have a craft or



seasonal activity during our membership meetings since the Crafts Committee is on hold this year. Have an idea? Pass it on!

Plans are in the works for our annual holiday party at Quarters One. This is always a lovely time to enjoy the Burhoe's beautifully decorated home and gather with friends to celebrate the holidays. Will it be your year to end up with the frog ornaments? If you don't know what I'm taking about, you'll have to come to find out! Look for details coming soon.

We have been trying to plan a wide range of activities so there is something that appeals to each of our members. If there's something you'd like to plan with the group, please let us know! With nearly 60 members, there's bound to be others interested as well.

Wishing you a happy Thanksgiving spent with those you love,

Christy Newell
President

2008-2009 Leadership Roster

Honorary President

Betsy Burhoe

Executive Board

President	Christy Newell	287-2282
Vice President	Christina Allen	245-5150
Treasurer	Jill Billiau	391-5601
Recording Secretary	Laura Egan	405-8114
Corresponding Secretary	Melissa Brown	(517) 974-4417

Standing Committees

Awards & Scholarships	Jill Billiau	391-5601
Cadet Cakes	Allison McSorley	848-3798
	Megan Bennett	447-3345
Luncheons/Socials/ Hospitality	Joellen Podoll	(231) 818-0769
Membership	Kim Davis	434-7047
News & Views	Tiffani Kaminski	(401) 348-8789
Parliamentarian	Kim Davis	434-7047

Sunshine	Allison McSorley	848-3798
Ways & Means	Pat Simpson	739-4033
	Marion Gesele	444-8620

Babysitting
Bowling
Care Packages

Crafts
Family Support Fund
Historian/Publicity
Lunch Bunch
MWR Representative
OCS Representative
Retiree Rep.
Secret Pals
Website

Special Committees

Volunteer Needed

Janice Norton	437-3671
Melissa Brown	(517) 974-4417
Christy Newell	287-2282
Kim Davis	434-7047
Jill Billiau	391-5601
Christina Allen	245-5150
Sharnel Duarte	326-5405
Pat Simpson	739-4033
Christine O'Connor	(401) 823-8707
Sue Branagan	691-1285
Melissa Brown	(517) 974-4417
Jill Billiau	391-5601

**COAST GUARD SPOUSES' ASSOCIATION OF
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT**

Coast Guard Spouses' Association
USCGA Chase Hall, Box A-25
15 Mohegan Avenue
New London, CT 06320

First Class Postage

Be sure to add info@cgsouples-sect.org to your email address book to ensure that all CGSA emails and newsletters always go straight to your inbox.

Mark Your Calendar!

General Membership Meeting • November 10

Playdate at Niantic Children's Museum • November 13

Lunch Bunch at "On the Waterfront" • November 18

Turkey Trot & Dip • November 26

Holiday Party • December 10



Having trouble keeping up with all of our events? Want to hear about last-minute additions or changes to our schedule, or give your input on our event planning? **Become a Fan of CSGSA on Facebook!** Just sign in to Facebook (or visit www.facebook.com and create a free account) and search "Coast Guard Spouses' Association of Southeastern Connecticut."