

Backchannels

Army Officers' Spouses' Club of the Greater Washington Area

April 2018



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March Charitable Cause—Ronald McDonald House

Thanks to the generosity of our AOSCGWA members who contributed gift cards at the March luncheon we will provide lunch on March 30 from Panera Bread, along with freshly baked desserts that three of us will prepare in the Ronald McDonald House kitchen. AOSCGWA will also sponsor one additional day in April.



Thank you to our March luncheon vendors!

B&B Friends, Ardeen Nickish
 Dreadnaught Designs, Heather Lantier
 Integrative Holistic Health Coaching, LLC, Beverly Tate
 Swarovski, Kathy Jones
 Nomades, Mandy Downey



President's Pen



Happy Spring! As I type this, I am watching the snow fall. On the second day of spring. I love snow. I wanted snow. I wanted it at Christmas when it is supposed to be snowy and cold. When snowmen are in season. When it does not matter if hot cocoa has a million calories because we still have months remaining of sweater weather. I feel like a kid in the backseat of the car on a long road trip toward summer. Are we there yet? My enthusiasm for snow has a shelf life and it is now expired. Come on spring!

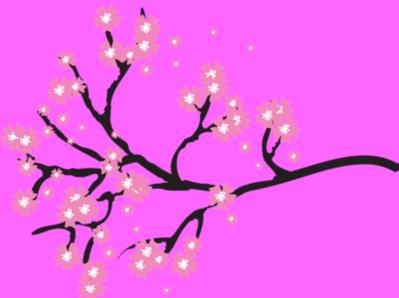
We have many activities on the horizon: Our April luncheon featuring Polish Pottery Bingo, the Spring Tour of Homes on Fort McNair, Flick Chicks, the Walking Group, Bible Study Mondays, April Zip Code lunches, Happy Hour, and JAFOWL. April is a busy month and I hope members take the opportunity to enjoy all of the activities our club offers.

Executive Board elections take place at our luncheon on April 19. Information on the slate is included in this newsletter. We have a few positions available on the Governing Board. If you are interested in serving the club in a committee position, please let me know. We have positions that do not require attendance at monthly board meetings, as well as voting board positions available. The entire board will meet over the summer and lay out plans for the next club year. Please share your ideas with me if you have suggestions on speakers, programs, special activities, or tours.

The other vote at our April luncheon is on membership criteria. There were discussions at the March luncheon and I have talked with many members since then. I encourage members to reach out if they have questions that were not answered at that time. Our club is an Army treasure with an amazing history. I would love to share our traditions as we represent all Army spouses. Please attend and vote in April. Voting will be open from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm. If a member can only stay to vote, they do not need to RSVP or pay for lunch. The voting guidelines were emailed to the membership as well as posted on our website. As a reminder, only current members are eligible to vote.

I would like to end by thanking our members for keeping it classy! I spent the last two days doing JAFOWL "stuff." Barb Patterson was kind enough to join me at Wegmans on registration day from 9:00 to 11:00 am so we could assist members with sign up; we left at 3:00 pm. It was a busy day! We were able to help a few ladies get registered and help a few others get on the wait list, and we had fun. Thanks to Lise Harvey for the coffee! During all the crazy activity I received calls, texts, and emails from members with questions and concerns, but everyone was nice and polite. I am happy that our members reached out to ask questions. I would much rather have members ask questions or express concerns so I can help, than complain amongst themselves. Nothing ever gets solved by complaining in small groups, and usually leads to more misinformation. Thank you, ladies, for trusting me to help you. Honestly, I do not expect anything less from our members; we are an amazing group.

Today, I started writing this article when it was light and snowing. It is now dark as I finish and another day full of JAFOWL activities is finished. Many of the members who we helped during sign up received emails announcing that they were moved from the wait list to the ticket list. Again, our members were nothing but appreciative and kind. Not everyone displayed the same grace regarding JAFOWL; however, I am very proud to say that our members and the Army did. So, thank you. Thank you for realizing that change can be a challenge, but not bad. Thank you for giving something new a chance and embracing it. We learned quite a bit this year and will take those lessons to improve the process next year. I believe it is always better to live with grace, kindness, and humor. Go Army! Beat Navy!



Fondly,

Kelly

Kelly Kreis
AOSCGWA President
2017-2018



Polish Pottery BINGO!



**PATTON HALL
FORT MYER**

AOSCGWA

April Luncheon

Thursday, April 19

10:30 am

Lunch buffet: chicken, fish, vegetable,
starch, roll, dessert, coffee, tea, and water.

RSVP by April 13 www.aoscgwa.org

Do not forget about the Executive Board Election and
the membership vote at the April Luncheon.

Voting is open from 10:30-12:00.



AOSCGWA 2017-2018 Luncheon Reservation Form

Name _____

Month of Luncheon: _____

Contact Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Guest Name: _____

Payment (If mailing please do not send cash): Check # _____

Please mail check and reservation form to: **AOSCGWA Reservations**
c/o Shelley Williams
Post Office Box 1124
Fort Myer, VA 22211

DO NOT MAIL THIS FORM IF YOU HAVE ALREADY MADE A RESERVATION ONLINE.



Submissions for Backchannels are due the third Monday of the month. Please contact me at backchannels.editor@gmail.com to submit articles, photos, recipes, etc.

Thank you!

Michelle Funkhouser
Backchannels Editor

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Join Us for the
**Joint Armed Forces
of Washington Luncheon**
featuring Ms. Ivanka Trump



Tuesday, April 24, 2018

**Social Hour 10:00
Seating 11:00**

**Waterford at Springfield
6715 Commerce Street
Springfield, VA 22150**

MENU

(Gluten-Free)

Fresh Garden Salad with Amaretto Balsamic and Raspberry Vinaigrette Dressing
Orange Ginger Glazed Chicken
Asian Vegetable Medley Jasmine Rice

(Gluten-Free/Vegetarian Option)

Fresh Garden Salad with Amaretto Balsamic and Raspberry Vinaigrette Dressing
Asian Stir-Fry Vegetables with Tofu Jasmine Rice

Dessert

Chocolate Flourless Cake
Sorbet available upon request

Attendance is open to members in good standing of AOSCGWA,
NOSDC, MOSDC, AFOSC, and CGSCDC.

Registration is March 20 at 9 am-March 27 at 5 pm and available online
only. Payment by credit card is due at registration. The registration site
does not support PayPal.

Each club will post registration links on their website.

A cash bar will be open during the Social Hour.

The “Armed Forces Medley”, also known as the “Armed Services Medley”, will be sung during JAFOWL. The words to the Army Song are listed below. Please note that when performed as part of a service song medley the Army Song will usually only include the Chorus and Refrain.

**“The Army Goes Rolling Along”
(“Armed Forces Medley”)**

**First to fight for the right
And to build the Nation’s might
And the Army goes rolling along.
Proud of all we have done,
Fighting till the battle’s won,
And the Army goes rolling along.**

**Then it’s Hi! Hi! Hey!
The Army’s on its way.
Count off the cadence loud and strong
(Two! Three!)
For where’er we go
You will always know
That the Army goes rolling along.**

Hello....

Is there someone that needs a little cheer, a get well wish, or a congratulations?

If you know of a member in need of well wishes, sympathy, or congratulations, please let our Corresponding Secretary know.

Email Jackie McKenna (jackiemckenna2004@gmail.com) with the member’s name, address, and the type of card she should send.

JAFOWL sold out in 55 minutes! If you were added to the waitlist and a slot opens up, you will be notified via email. PLEASE make sure Eventbright is set to go to your inbox and not your spam folder! You will have 24 hours from the time the email is sent to you to complete payment and confirm your reservation. If you do not complete your reservation during that time, the system will move to the next name on the waitlist. If you have ANY issues during this process, call me. I am here to help and it is usually a simple fix. Currently, the waitlist is full. Our club is not in charge of reservations this year; therefore, we do not have access to the waitlist. If seats become available or the waitlist reopens, I will let members know ASAP. As a reminder, there are no refunds or transfers; however, if you have a reservation and cannot participate, please let me know so the seat may be released for another member to purchase. Remember, this event is about camaraderie with our sister services, making new friends, and enjoying a special event. If you requested to sit with someone that did not purchase a ticket, the JAFOWL Reservations Committee will not be able to honor alternative seating requests. Please use this opportunity to reach out and get to know someone new! Thanks! Kelly Kreis



The Army Spouses' Club

SPRING

**Tour of Historic Homes
on Fort McNair, Washington DC**

APRIL 26, 2018

10:00 am-1:00 pm \$20

For more information visit www.aoscgwa.org.

2018-19 Proposed Executive Board Slate

Position: President

Candidate: Kelly Kreis

Kelly Kreis is an Army spouse of 24 years. She and her husband have lived in Tennessee, Georgia, Germany, California, Kansas, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Mississippi, and Virginia. Kelly was born at the old Walter Reed, so to her, this is home. Kelly's husband, Paul, is active duty Infantry. They have two boys, Nick (a senior in college) and Josh (a freshman in high school) and two yellow labs, Lucy and Ethel. Kelly has served on spouse club boards for most of her 24 years as an Army spouse and has held every position except for Treasurer. Kelly also serves on the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) President's Currently Serving Spouse Advisory Council.

Position: First Vice President

Candidate: Michelle Funkhouser

Michelle Funkhouser is a military brat, spouse, and mom. She and her husband, Anthony, have been married for 33 years and are the proud parents of three children, recently welcoming their first grandchild. Michelle has served on several spouses' club boards, as a Thrift Shop Chairperson, Boy and Girl Scout leader, religious education instructor, FRG leader and advisor, and as an advisor for multiple installation agencies. She currently serves as the AOSCGWA Backchannels Editor and has enjoyed being a part of this wonderful club.

Second Vice President

Candidate: CJ Summers

CJ Summers was an active duty Army officer for 10 years herself. She and her active duty Army husband, Mike, live in Gainesville, VA with their three boys, Logan, Cooper, and Jack. The Summers family has lived everywhere from Korea to Kansas to North Carolina to here. CJ loves all things patriotic, her country and the Army. She takes pride in the traditions and amazing history of the Army. She is also a Presidential Founder with Color Street, leading and training women to find their freedom. New to AOSCGWA in 2017-2018, CJ is honored to serve on the premier Spouses Club board.

Position: Corresponding Secretary

Candidate: Jackie McKenna

Jackie married in to the military family after already

establishing her own career. She has over 25 years of professional experience in public relations, corporate communications, and marketing for both for-profit and government contractor companies. In addition to serving as the AOSCGWA Corresponding Secretary for 2017-2018, Jackie also serves on the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) President's Currently Serving Spouse Advisory Council. Previously, she served for two years as the Editor-in-Chief for the Seoul Survivor, an annual publication of the American Forces' Spouses' Club (USAG Yongsan, Korea). Jackie and her husband, John, have been married for 14 years, and currently live in Springfield, VA with their Korean-adopted Maltese, JunHee. Her passions are editing, cooking, and advocating for military families.

Position: Recording Secretary

Candidate: LaDonna Cavanaugh

Proud and dedicated Army spouse of 29 years and particularly proud of her two sons, Peyton, an Army lieutenant; and Tanner, a junior in college. She has served with several organizations including the Boy Scouts of America, PTOs, HOAs, several Family Readiness Groups, the Armed Forces Hostess Association, and AOSCGWA. She enjoys volunteering, as she sees it as one of the easiest ways to get involved and be part of a group of like-minded individuals who care about the community. Volunteering has also "preserved her sanity" while raising two active boys and holding down the homefront during her husband, Brian's, many deployments. She enjoys running, reading, and adjusting to the Empty Nest phase of life.

Position: Treasurer

Candidate: Deb Kalisz Wehr

Deb Kalisz Wehr's family has spent the better part of their Army adventure on the road less traveled. They have enjoyed Mississippi, Japan, Boston, Hawaii, North Carolina, and California. With each PCS, Deb has found a wonderful place where she can work beside friends, pitching in to grow our Army community. Here in DC, AOSCGWA has become a big part of her adventure, keeping a careful eye on the everyday funding and expenses that keep AOSCGWA strong. Years ago, when she was working on her graduate studies, she never imagined stepping up to help manage one of the DC area's most respected military social clubs. She is honored to have the opportunity to do so again in 2018-2019.

Vote on motion to amend AOSCGWA membership criteria

A motion was submitted to the Governing Board requesting AOSCGWA open its membership to spouses of all ranks. The Governing Board had an honest and frank discussion during our March Board meeting and voted unanimously to bring the motion to our club's general membership. There will be a vote on this motion at our monthly luncheon on April 19. You must be a current member, and present to vote. You do not have to pay for the luncheon if you are only there to vote and do not intend to stay for lunch. Keep in mind April is Polish Pottery Bingo, so it is a great month to attend! Voting will be open from the start of the luncheon at 10:30 am until 12:00 pm. Votes will be tallied in the Koran Room immediately after the voting window closes by a committee selected by Anita Skelton, our Parliamentarian. We will announce the results during the luncheon and post the results on our website.

AOSCGWA Charitable Cause



**Volunteer to help
"Take Care of Our Own"**

**Apply to be a USO Volunteer on
Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall!
The USO center is located on McNair
Road within the Community Center.**

- ★ Free Volunteer Training on local area information, as well as support for events taking place in the building and around the base
- ★ Volunteers will interact with Active-Duty Military including the Honor Guard and Soldiers and Marines living in garrison on post
- ★ 2-hour or 4-hour shifts are available.
- ★ Volunteers must have post access.

To apply to be a USO Volunteer go to:

volunteers.uso.org

**Click "register" and search for
"Myer-Henderson Hall"**

Questions? Please contact me at:
pa.mancini@comcast.net

Our AOSCGWA Charitable Cause for the month of March got off to a great start as team members Kelly Kreis, Nickie Harmon, Kim Nykanen, Paula Ann Mancini, Diane Martinez, and Monica Boone (not pictured) prepared lunch for families at the Ronald McDonald House located at Fairfax Inova Hospital.



Zip Code Groups

Alexandria 22301-22315

LaDonna Cavanaugh 678-464-7470
cavanaugh@comcast.net

Annandale, Fairfax & Fairfax Station

Mary Pawlow 703-764-9656
mlspawlow@aol.com

Arlington 22201-22209

Paige Kellogg 703-248-8313
Paigekell@aol.com

Burke 22015

Jeanne Sander 703-426-2880
ebs17@verizon.net

McLean, Falls Church & Fort Myer

Lori Borgna Strong 706-799-9308
borgnalori@gmail.com

Chantilly, Clifton, Centerville & Herndon 20120-22182

Pat O'Neill 703-378-3624
pponeill6@aol.com

Prince William County & Beyond

Paula Ann Mancini 703-346-4468
pa.mancini@comcast.net

Springfield 22150-22153

Jennifer Stepetic 703-569-1596
stepetic@yahoo.com

Maryland-Howard County & Beyond

Marie Corbett 410-418-4934
mtcre@aol.com

Maryland-Montgomery County & Beyond

Deidra Stubbs 803-447-8700
dleestubbs@aol.com

Washington D.C.

Mary Dulany 202-541-0114
medulany@msn.com



Our Zip Code Groups are a benefit of membership in AOSCGWA and are the perfect opportunity to meet new friends at enjoyable events.

Contact the Zip Code Leader in your area and join your AOSCGWA neighbors for fun get-togethers!

If you have any questions please contact the AOSCGWA Zip Code Chair, Jennifer Stepetic, at stepetic@yahoo.com.

Special Activities

Bible Study: Every Monday at the Main Post Chapel from 10:00-11:30 AM. The POC is Nancy Jackson. Please contact Nancy at jacksonjn@verizon.net.

Bridge: The Bridge Group meets the third Tuesday of every month at the Army-Navy Country Club of Arlington. Must have a knowledge of how to play. Please contact Henriette Gordon at 703-237-8263 for further information.

The Walking Group: Upcoming walks for the rest of the club year are below. All walks start at 10:00 AM. Anyone who would like to be added to the contact list for the Walking Group should contact Mary Pawlow at mlspawlow@aol.com.

Tuesday, April 10 Four Mile Run in Arlington, lunch at Papatella
Tuesday, May 22 C&O Canal in Potomac, MD, lunch at Old Anglers Inn

Flick Chicks: Flick Chicks date to be determined. Check the Evite for the date, the movie title and time.

Happy Hour: Please join the Happy Hour group at 7 pm on April 26 at [The Liberty Tavern](#) in Arlington. Additional details will be included in the Evite for the event.

Line Dancing: The class for line dancing for balls is being rescheduled so more members are able to participate. The club is waiting to hear from the instructor for a new date.

Information for Flick Chicks, Happy Hour Group, and Line Dancing is sent via Evite. Please email the Special Activities coordinator at aoscgwaspecialactivities@gmail.com to be added to the Evite.

Trivia Group: The POC is Christine Miller. She may be reached at cmiller001@gmail.com for further information.



ARMY WIFE SEAL



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Spring Events Around Town

Spring is here, so get out and enjoy some lovely local gardens. The weather has held off the peak bloom of the cherry blossoms, currently the peak bloom is predicted for April 8 to 12. Track the latest information and updates at cherryblossomwatch.com, on Facebook (Cherry Blossom Watch page), and [Instagram](#).

[White House Garden Tour](#) April 14-15 The Spring White House Garden Tour will be offered April 14 from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm and April 15 from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm. Free, timed tickets will be distributed at a National Park Service tent located near the corner of Constitution Avenue and 15th Street NW beginning at 8:30 am on each tour day. Tickets are first-come first-served. Only one ticket per person, so everyone in your group (including small children) needs to be present in line to receive a ticket. The Jacqueline Kennedy Garden, Rose Garden, White House Kitchen Garden, and South Lawn of the White House are included on the tour.

[Virginia Historic Garden Tour](#) April 21-28 The Garden Club of Virginia presents the 85th Historic Garden Week. Each spring visitors are welcomed to tour beautiful homes and gardens across Virginia. Tour proceeds fund the restoration and preservation of more than 40 of Virginia's historic public gardens and landscapes, a research fellowship program, and a Garden Club of Virginia Centennial project with Virginia State Parks. Old Town Alexandria will kick off the Garden Club of Virginia's Historic Garden Week on Saturday, April 21, from 10:00 am-4:00 pm.

[Leesburg Flower and Garden Tour](#) April 21-22 The festival features plant vendors, a landscape design competition, craft and garden exhibits, and children's activities.

[A Garden Party with Chef Patrick O'Connell](#) May 10 6:00-8:00 pm. A one night only event at George Washington's Mount Vernon. Chef O'Connell, founder of the Inn at Little Washington and author of the book [A Magnificent Obsession](#), will share stories about his experience in the culinary field in Mount Vernon's Upper Garden.

[Around the World Embassy Tour](#) May 5 Participating embassies are open from 10:00 am-4:00 pm. Admission is free. Visit the website for a list of countries participating on the tour.

[Georgetown Garden Tour](#) May 12 10:00 am-5:00 pm. The tour features some of Georgetown's most captivating gardens. One of the gardens, on tour for the first time ever, belongs to the famous Kennedy house where President and Mrs. Kennedy lived just before the inauguration in 1961.



Scholarship Opportunity - Don't Miss Out!
APPLY NOW



AMERICAN
DISPOSAL SERVICES

Deadline for application and all required documents to your
High School Counseling Department:

April 7, 2018

American Disposal Services, Inc., a locally owned and family operated waste and recycling company, continuously promotes proper waste and recycling practices through education and outreach programs for all communities in Northern Virginia. The aim of the American Disposal Services Scholarship Award is to reward those students who have joined American Disposal Services' efforts in bettering their environment by making a significant impact on their school, community, and/or home. Three students located in Prince William County, Fairfax County and Loudoun County who demonstrate environmental stewardship at school, in the community, or in their home will each be awarded a \$2500 scholarship.

For further information contact the student's high school counseling department or email marketing@adsimail.com.



Volunteer today to help "take care of our own"

The [USO](#) on Joint Base Myer Henderson Hall (JBMHH) is looking for volunteers to staff their center, located within the Community Center (Bldg 405), adjacent to the Bowling Alley on McNair Road. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old and either have or be qualified to obtain installation access.

Once training is complete, volunteers sign up for specified four hour duty shifts of their own choice during USO Lounge hours of 8:00 am-8:00 pm (M-F); 12:00-8:00 pm (Sat-Sun) — 2 hour shifts available 4:00-8:00 pm on week nights. Additional support opportunities to periodic special events/activities on and off post would also be available. Volunteers are only required to support two volunteer shifts a month, although most find it easy to volunteer additional support.

USO Lounge duties during the day on week days primarily involve interaction with active duty military Honor Guards (from various Services) seeking support between Honors Burial Services at Old Post/ANC. During the evenings and weekends, focus shifts more to support for our Soldiers/Marines living in garrison on post (most from the Old Guard), as well as local military with families and retirees. If interested and/or for additional information, please contact Alex Stephen at astephen@usometro.org.

In Partnership with the
Association of the United States Army



is coming **BACK** to the
Washington D.C. area

Join Us
April 28, 2018
10am-5pm

AUSA Headquarters
2425 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22201

**Military ID holders are eligible to receive
one free dress. *proof of ID required***

**Parking is available on site. The
closest metro stop is
courthouse.**

Follow us on social media!



@Operation Deploy
Your Dress



@ODYD1



@ODYD1



Operation Deploy Your Dress (ODYD) was founded in late 2015 by four military spouses at Ft. Bliss, TX who organized a dress exchange among their units' spouses as a way to try to help defray the costs of purchasing formalwear for holiday balls.

ODYD is a 100% donation based, volunteer run, military spouse founded nonprofit. It collects and distributes gently used and new formal attire to military and dependent ID cardholders in an attempt to offset the cost of attending military balls and other formal events. ODYD "shops" are currently located at Fort Bliss, Fort Eustis, VA, Fort Irwin, CA and Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA.

ODYD is hosting its second annual pop up shop in our area. Please see the flyer for details on the time and location.

If you have any formalwear (to include men's formal attire) that you would like to donate to ODYD please message the main Operation Deploy Your Dress Facebook page.



AOSCGWA BOARD MEMBERS

<i>Honorary President</i>	<i>Hollyanne Milley</i>	
<i>Honorary Vice President</i>	<i>Maria McConville</i>	
<i>Advisor</i>	<i>Connie Semonite</i>	<u>conniesemonite@gmail.com</u>

EXECUTIVE BOARD

<i>President</i>	<i>Kelly Kreis</i>	<u>aoscgwapresident1@gmail.com</u>
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AOSCGWA

OUT & ABOUT



Annandale, Fairfax, Fairfax Station Zip Code at lunch at The Block in Annandale

Springfield Zip Code Group at Burton's in Alexandria



The Polish Pottery houses have arrived! They are available from Ways and Means for \$15.00. Be sure to visit the Ways and Means table for these and other fabulous merchandise at the next two luncheons and the Fort McNair Tour of Homes.

"We need the past like drivers need rearview mirrors. Get rid of them and eventually, something terrible will happen. Similarly, if you concentrate on them too much, you're sure to crash as well. Progress depends on knowing where you have been."

Anonymous



AOSCGWA
Army Officers' Spouses' Club of the Greater Washington Area
www.aoscgwa.org



AOSCGWA
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