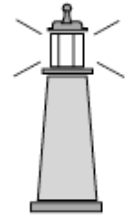


THE BEACON



A Letter from the President

Hello and Good-bye,

This is my last President's Letter. I have been wracking my brain on what to say to you all as a farewell letter. I want to start off by saying I have enjoyed being your president, and I would do it again. Definitely! This past year was very difficult for me, being in a new place so far from home, (Petaluma, California!) As I am sure it is difficult for all of you, as well. This is why I believe we have all gotten along so well. Here I sit at my computer to tell you how much I enjoyed this past year! And really, I am thinking to myself, I am sad that this year is over so quickly. We have really enjoyed all our new spots so much. Great news though! The new board will be voted in soon!

So here are a few of my favorite highlights from our past year!

- We started Bunco, which I just Love! Everyone plays differently, but we all have a good time. It makes the meetings more fun too, because we are spending more time together as friends instead of just workers for the Sitka Coast Guard Spouses and Women's Association. (Official Name.)
- Our website is up and running. Have you visited it lately?! It is the bomb!
- Movie Nite! Well, this is just one of the wonderful and exciting new things we have started this year! I believe this is a little on the rocky side for a start; not a lot of sign ups. But those who have shown up to some of the movie nights do enjoy themselves. I have it again this month on the 4th. I am thinking of a Cinco de Mayo theme. I will have 3 movies to choose from with hot Mexican actors and there will be margaritas, chips and salsa. If you want, bring your favorite Mexican munchie! Hope to see you here at my house (107 Somer Dr.) at 6:30 PM. Bring a friend if you'd like!

I became president because I was told there was no one that was interested in the position. I was kind of your last resort. I had been President of the Petaluma Coast Guard Spouses Association for 3 years and Vice President for 2 years, so I did have an idea of what to do.

As my last act as President, I had to give a speech at the Sitka Women of the Year Ceremony. I tried everything to get out of it. Then Susan said to me, "You are our president, we voted you in. You can do this, Lori. I will be right there next to you!" This is why we voted her Woman of the Year! (Not the only reason, just one of the many reasons.) Style and Grace! Thank you Susan! That meant a lot to me! So I close with my speech. I do need to explain this to you though. When I was just 25 years old I was married with 3 children, Tony was on the Chase, (378 out of San Pedro, now out of San Diego) and we were getting transferred to Petaluma, CA. The group of spouses honored me with this poem. I have kept it for many years. Some of you may have heard this, but most of you have not. When I did the cookbooks in Petaluma we put the poem in the cookbook. Now I read the poem as part of my speech. I was definitely nervous. But there was not a dry eye in the building. This poem touched every military wife there ever was, or will be. And gave a clue to what we do on an everyday basis in the life that we lead as a Military Wife. This poem is for all of us. Cherish it as I have done over the years!

The Military Wife

The good Lord was creating a model for military wives and was into his sixth day of overtime when an angel appeared. She said, "Lord, you seem to be having a lot of trouble with this one. What's wrong with the standard model?"

The Lord replied, "Have you seen the specs on this order? She has to be completely independent, possess the quality of both mother and father, be a perfect hostess for 4 or 40 with an hour's notice, run on black coffee, handle every emergency imaginable without a manual, be able to carry on cheerfully, even if she is pregnant and has the flu, and must have 6 pairs of hands."

The angel shook her head. "Six pairs of hands? No way!"

The Lord continued, "Don't worry, we will make other military wives to help her. And we will give her an unusually strong heart so it can swell with pride in her husband's achievements, sustain the pain of separation, beat soundly when it is overworked and tired, and be large enough to say, "I understand" even when she doesn't, and "I love you," regardless.

"Lord," said the angel, touching his arm gently, "Go to bed and get some rest. You can finish this tomorrow."

"I can't stop now," said the Lord. "I am so close to creating something unique. Already this model heals herself when she is sick, can put up six unexpected guests for the weekend, wave good-bye to her husband from a pier, runway, or a depot, and understand why it is important that he leaves."

The angel circled the model of the military wife, looked at it closely, and sighed. "It looks fine, but it's too soft."

"She may look soft," replies the Lord, "but she has the strength of a lion. You would not believe what she can endure."

Finally, the angel bent over and ran her finger across the cheek of the Lord's creation. "There's a leak," she announced. "Something is wrong with the construction. I'm not surprised that it has cracked. You are trying to put too much into this model."

The Lord appeared offended at the angel's lack of confidence. "What you see is not a leak," he said, "it's a tear."

"A tear? What is it there for?" asked the angel.

The Lord replied, "It's for joy, sadness, pain, disappointment, loneliness, pride, and dedication to all the values that she and her husband hold dear."

"You are a genius!" exclaimed the angel.

The Lord looked puzzled and replied, "I didn't put it there."

In closing, I would like to give a special acknowledgment to my supportive board. A special Thank You to:

- Kim Turner & Cindy Carlson, our Honorary Presidents-
- Amy Kearns, our Vice President-
- Holli Carter & Jennifer Caskey, our Treasurers-
- Kimberly Powers, our Secretary-
- Diana Cloud, our MWR Liaison - Air Station-
- Cindy Carlson, our MWR Liaison - Maple-
- Rose MacIntyre, our Ways & Means Chairperson-
- Diana Cloud & Susan Bourassa, our Hospitality Chairpersons-

Your President (for not much longer!) (Hehe)

Lori Field

Meet the Board

**Hospitality Chair:
Susan Bourassa**



Originally from Palmyra, Pennsylvania, Susan spent most of her teen years dedicated to pursuing dreams of Olympic gold. Although a trip to the Olympics

was not meant to be, Susan was recognized as one of the nation's top archers during her career. Her grand prize, however, was fellow Arizona State University teammate, Matthew Bourassa, whom she married the day after he graduated from USCG boot camp. This allowed her the opportunity to experience each stage of his career including 3 month deployments aboard a high endurance cutter, time as a flight mechanic, Officer Candidate School, and flight school. Susan began the motherhood chapter of her life having their son Daniel, now age 8, during her last semester at Elizabeth City State University. Two moves later, the couple was blessed with their second son Jeffrey, now age 3.

Susan has previously been a member of Spouses' organizations in Pensacola, FL and Cape Cod, MA where she participated in various community activities and held positions as Hospitality Chairperson and President. Susan also devotes her time to Cub Scout Pack 26 as a Special Events Chairperson. Additionally, Susan is a 3-5 Preschool Board member, participates in various BBSC events, and is an active member of Sitka Lutheran Church.

Meet the Board
Hospitality Chair: Diana Cloud

Diana is fairly new to the Coast Guard as she has only been married a couple of years. You can find Diana most days helping customers at Mac's/Russell's. She also enjoys helping with the Girl Scouts. Diana loves to stamp and makes beautiful cards. Her generous heart suits her well as the Hospitality Co-chair. She also serves as the liaison to the Air Station MWR.



**Congratulations to the New
2007-2008 Executive Board!**

**President
Cindy Carlson**

**Vice President
Amy Kearns**

**Treasurer
Jennifer Caskey**

**Secretary
Kimberly Powers**

**Air Station MWR Liaison
Diana Cloud**

**Maple MWR Liaison
Anisa Khandkar**

**Ways & Means
Kim Turner**

**Hospitality
Susan Bourassa & Diana Cloud**

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 4
Movie Night

May 8
General Meeting

May 11
Bunko

May 15
Funds Distribution

May 19
Farewell Party & Board Installation

May 28
Memorial Day Service

Movie Night

Everyone is invited.
Friday, May 4 at 6:30 pm.
Lori Field's house (107 Somer)

The May General Meeting

Everyone is invited to attend!
Tuesday, May 8 at 6:30 pm.
Serri McDaniel's house (325 Seward Street)
Please bring a dish to share. We will be making notecards after the meeting.

Bunko

Everyone is invited to attend!
Friday, May 11 at 6:15 pm.
Cindy Carlson's house (1912 Sawmill Creek Road)

Funds Distribution

Everyone is invited.
Tuesday, May 15 at 6:30 pm.
Kimberly Powers' house (1404 Edgumbe Drive)
Please RSVP by May 11.

IT'S A GREAT DAY FOR A PICNIC WITH FRIENDS!

Please come join us at HPR to bid farewell to CGSWA friends leaving the rock and to install the 2007/2008 Executive Board.

DATE: SATURDAY - MAY 19, 2007

TIME: 4:00 PM

WHERE: HALIBUT POINT RECREATION, SOUTH SHELTER

WHO: ALL USCGSWA MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

CGSWA will supply the food and drink, so you just bring the fun!

Please RSVP by May 14 to Kim Turner (747-5377 or jtkturner@gci.net) in order to have a count for how much food and beverage. Also, if you can provide some firewood, let me know about that too.

Memorial Day Service

May 28, 2007

9:30 am

National Cemetery



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

A Boys & Girls Club will soon be opening in Sitka. Please contact Lillian Feldpausch if you have any questions or are able to help.

Lillian Feldpausch
Clubhouse Manager

Sitka Boys & Girls Club
Sitka Tribe Of Alaska
601 Alice Loop Road
Sitka, Alaska 99835
(907) 747-4961

BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE

I would like to thank everyone who donated and/or bowled in the 2007 Bowling for Kids Sake for the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Sitka. The CGSWA raised \$735.00 for this wonderful organization. A special thanks to Lori Field for filling in as team captain for me. I hope everyone had a great time and I look forward to next year's event!!!

Thank You,
Angela Cox

SITKA WOMEN'S EXPO

Sample activities for women in Sitka:
craft, social, and physical activity groups

Tuesday, May 15

5:00 - 8:00 pm

Sheet'ka Kwan Naa Kahidi

Informational booths and fun activities
Dance demonstrations

Panel Discussion from 6:30 - 8:00

"Top 10 Wellness Tips

Every Woman Should Know"

with Nancy-Jo Bleier, Bridget Hitchcock,
Susan Hoyt, Kathy Kahler,
Roberta Kitka, and Trish White

For more info, contact:

Martha Pearson 966-8783

Susan Suarez 966-8459

www.sitkacoastguardspouses.org
contact@sitkacoastguardspouses.org

CLASSIFIEDS

Place a Personal or Business Ad in our Newsletter and Website!

Rates for Members:

Personal Ads - Free
Business Ads - \$12/year

Rates for Non-Members:

Personal Ads - \$5/month
Business Ads - \$24/year

JOB OPENINGS

TRICARE SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

The TSR position is open and applications will be accepted via website www.triwest.com.

Employment and interviews will start the last week of May.

BABYSITTER / CHILDCARE

I am looking for a babysitter for the following times. I have three 9 year old children, two girls and one boy. I would prefer someone who drives but will take a teenager. Also, if you are interested in just some of the days, I will do that. I will pay anywhere from \$8-\$11 per hour depending on the person's age and experience. Anyone interested or who knows someone can email me. The times I need are:

Friday, June 22
(9:00 am - 5:00 pm)
Monday, June 25 - Thursday, June 28
(8:30 am - 12:30 pm)
Monday, July 2 - Friday, July 6
(not including July 4th)
(9:00 am - 5:00 pm)
Monday, July 9 - Thursday, July 12
(8:30 am - 12:30 pm)
Friday, July 13
(9:00 am - 5:00 pm)

Laura Timmons
ltimmons3@gmail.com

SITKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sitka Historical Society seeks part-time museum interpreter/gift shop clerk for May 10-Sept 10 (Tourist season). Please apply in person at the Sitka Historical Museum (formerly Isabel Miller Museum) in Centennial Hall, or call Karen Meizner at 747-6455.

GOLDSMITH GALLERIES / SITKA JEWELERS

Goldsmith Galleries/Sitka Jewelers is looking for a full time salesperson. The work environment is fast paced and exciting. The pay is very competitive and includes bonuses and employee discounts. Anyone interested can contact Laura Dominquez at 747-5744.



Cindy Carlson

Independent Demonstrator

966-3638

738-3638

cindylouwho@gci.net

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Sunday 7:00 - 9:00 pm

\$55 includes all supplies and 4 lessons

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drop-ins are welcome.

Call for details.

Open Knitting

Tuesdays 9:00 - 11:00 am

Wednesday 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Sunday 1:00 - 4:00 pm

And most any other time by appointment.

*This open knitting is free
and anyone is welcome.*

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bring a current project,
or be inspired by other knitters.*



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Or your child just passed his/her
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Maybe your daughter lost her first tooth.

Or your son is having some friends over and
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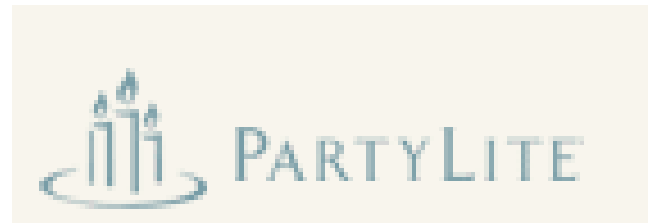
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