



EAST COAST DRILL INSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION
PARRIS ISLAND CHAPTER

"THE GRINDER"

September 30, 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

This has been the most chaotic year that I can remember. Our Nation and the Association has been turned upside down. Beginning with the cancellation of our 2020 Reunion, things continued to get more and more interesting. Parris Island closed the gates to all but essential personnel, seriously hampering our ability to continue to fulfill all our commitments. With the support of Sergeant Major Thomas, the RTR Sergeant Major and Mrs. Charlotte Gonzalez, MCCS Operations Officer, we managed to cover everything.

The climate at the Depot and across the country will have a direct input as to whether we are able to have a reunion in 2021. We have tentatively asked for 29 April through 2 May. We are going to be later this year announcing the date and opening for registrations. The Depot will not give us a final decision until after the first of the year. More information will be posted to the website as soon as we get confirmation.

Mary and I continue to be immensely proud of this Association and the support you give to the Active Duty Drill Instructor. Thank you all for the confidence you continue to show us.

I wish I could be more positive but right now we are at the mercy of a virus unlike any seen during my lifetime. Please stay safe and we will keep you informed. We will make it through this, and we will emerge stronger when it is over. God bless this Association and the United States of America.

FINANCES:

Thanks to Mary and our loyal membership our bank accounts remain in particularly good condition. We successfully completed the transition from Fort Sill National Bank to Navy Federal Credit Union. The major reason for the switch was the closure of the Fort Sill Branch aboard Parris Island

MEMBERSHIP:

Our membership numbers continue to hover around 450 members. We recently mailed 80 membership reminders. So far, we have gotten about half back. Many members wait until reunion time to renew, unfortunately the needs of the Association do not revolve around the reunion. We still must meet our obligations every quarter. Please check your card if it is expired please renew. There is no penalty. We continue to ask if you know a Drill Instructor, invite them to join. We have processed no new members since this pandemic hit.

DONATIONS:

We are preparing to make our annual donations to the Holiday Meal Program and the Battalion's Christmas celebrations. Those donations amount to \$1200.00 each. Last year we were able to donate \$500.00 through MCCS to assist needy families in the Beaufort area. We hope to be able to contribute at least that amount this year. Considering the state of the nation that is the least we can do.

We were also approached by an organization out of Battleground, Alabama to donate. Camp Liberty is a non-profit organization that performs multiple programs to assist communities and youth all over our country. They run leadership programs in the summer for youth. Drill Instructors from all branches come together for that time and teach confidence and leadership to these young people. With the Board of Directors approval, we donated \$500.00 to assist them in construction of a much-needed aid station. Our ability to make these donations is only possible through your generosity.

I know times are tough and money is tight. I just ask that if you have a little left over consider a donation to your Association. I can assure you that every dollar you donate goes to the betterment of the Association's programs.

FALLEN COMRADES:

We normally honor our fallen members at our reunion in April. I am sad to say that the list will be longer at our next reunion. Our losses have mounted with several life members attending their Final Formation. Most recently we mourn the loss of GySgt D.K. Comer, SgtMaj Ralph Sargent, SgtMaj Jeff Nadeau and most recently SgtMaj Wes Melton. Please join us in a prayer for the families. We will honor these members and all who have passed at our next reunion.

Semper Fidelis,


SgtMaj Kenneth D. Miller USMC (Ret)