

EAST COAST DRILL INSTRUCTORS' ASSOCIATION
PARRIS ISLAND CHAPTER

"THE GRINDER"

February 7, 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

First let Mary and I send our prayers and hopes that you are all well. I am purposely putting this newsletter out early to highlight the upcoming reunion. We are a go and I hope we have a big turnout. We are happy to announce that SgtMaj Troy Black, SgtMaj of the Marine Corps, and his wife Stacie are our guests of honor. This newsletter will be a little short since the intent is to prepare for the reunion. If you are planning to attend, please get your registrations in as early as you can since numbers are the driving force for a successful reunion. There will be an additional charge at the door for anyone registering at the door. We had a modest price increase this year; it is the first increase in over ten years.

Mary, Jacy and I wish you all safe travels as you come to the reunion. It is my honor to serve as your President. I look forward to seeing all of you in April.

MEMORIAL BRICKS:

To date we only have three bricks for installation. To have a brick installed at this reunion I must have the request by February 21st. Please send them to me at the North Carolina address so I can have them in on time. There is no wiggle room on these.

AUCTION:

We are very fortunate as an Association to have Mike Thompson, the Regimental Historian, generously donating many items to our E-Beach and Silent Auctions.

These are all one-of-a-kind items that he has gotten together for us. Bring your generous hearts and finances so you can take one or more of these items home. You will not find these items on E-Bay.

HOST HOTEL:

After much discussion we decided to go with the Quality Inn again, mainly due to the cost. We realize the hotel is a little dated but at \$68.00 plus tax it is a real bargain. Once they renovate the cost will surely go up. They are cheaper than staying on base. When calling the hotel at 843-524-2144 chose option 2 this is the front desk, and they are aware of the rates.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER:

Mary is constantly working on our membership roster. She spent many hours recently tracking down many of our life members, many who had passed on. Please check your membership card, membership is important all through the year. Some members only renew when they plan to attend a reunion. The Association must function throughout the year and dues go a long way to ensure we always meet our obligations.

DONATIONS:

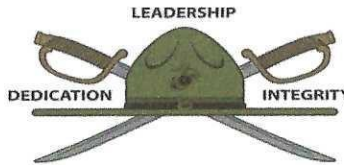
We are always grateful for any amount you can spare. I do not know anyone's finances but if you can give any amount, I assure you it will help. All deductions to the Association are tax deductible.

QUARTERMASTER:

We have placed the order to replenish what we sold at the October reunion. There will be a new and different Khaki jacket available.

Semper Fidelis,


SgtMaj Kenneth D. Miller USMC (Ret)



EAST COAST DRILL INSTRUCTORS' ASSOCIATION
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June 18, 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Hope this newsletter finds everyone well and enduring the summer heat safely. As an Association we continue to meet all our obligations on time. A couple things we are supporting are the Freedom Fest at MCRD Parris Island and the Operation Christmas with MCCS. It is wonderful to be the President of an organization that is so dedicated to give back. As we continue to grow, I envision our support growing. Mary and I took a little time after the reunion to catch our breath. Two reunions in 6 months were a test but we all passed. Both reunions were smaller than normal but that is understandable with COVID still around and soaring gas prices. I hope by next April things will be closer to normal.

We just got back from Parris Island last week where we attended the change of command. Brigadier General Julie Nethercott was replaced by Brigadier General Walker Field. The day was very emotional as General Nethercott was very instrumental in getting the reunions back. We owe her a debt of gratitude. On behalf of our members, we wished her well as she moves to South Com in Miami. I am sure she will do well. General Fields, I am sure will be just as supportive. We are very fortunate to have the level of support we receive from the Depot.

REUNION RECAP:

As usual Mary and I arrived at the Depot on Monday to put the final touches on the planning. We met with the Depot to iron out any kinks, there were very few. Tuesday, we met with the Reunion Committee to lay out the sequence of events. Thursday kicked off the registration at the Brig and Brew. It is a much smaller venue, but we made it work. MCCA put out some excellent food and there was plenty of it. Dan at Traditions works very well to save us money anywhere he can. We were very fortunate to have the SgtMaj of the Marine Corps Troy Black and his wife Stacy as our co-guests for the reunion. Due to official commitments they had to leave Saturday morning.

Friday the busiest day began with breakfast at H&S Battalion. The staff really put out a great spread. Once again, we had many no shows at breakfast. We must pay for what we guarantee. Hopefully we can tighten that up next year. After breakfast, we moved to Headquarters for Colors. The Band did not disappoint, their performance was flawless. On to graduation to watch our newest brothers and sisters march in review. I am convinced our Marines today will equate themselves in combat just as we did in our day. The Memorial Service as always was very somber with our Chaplain SgtMaj Jim Moore conducting the service. SgtMaj Moore does so much to represent our Association, we are very fortunate to have him. The picnic followed. The weather was not as cooperative as usual. The food was provided by the DAV in Beaufort. This is a relationship I hope to continue. The food was plentiful and very good. The picnic ended early, and we moved to Traditions for the Cadence Calling and Story Telling. As usual a very lively event. The stories get bigger and better every year. Finally, a close to a very busy day. I need to add, Doug Hilton was able to get most of the beer, soda and water donated. I might add that Doug was never a Drill Instructor, we are very fortunate to have his friendship.

Saturday began with our members meeting. Check out the website for our newest trustees and board members. We appreciate the support we get. Mary and I were reelected, and it is a honor to continue to serve. We had a motion to make every future graduate of DI School a member of the Association for one year. There would be no dues for that year and subsequent years would have to be paid for. It is not automatic, they must apply. The first class graduating will be this month. The meeting adjourned and we prepared for the banquet. The band as usual was

outstanding. Colonel Ward Commanding Officer of the Recruit Training Regiment was our guest speaker. His comments were very inspiring.

Sunday, everyone checked out and headed home.

AUCTIONS:

We have gained another super friend of the Association. Mike Thompson, Regimental Historian donated many of the items auctioned off. He personally framed most of the items. He also took over the auction at Elliot's Beach. We made more money on the silent and live auction than we have in a while. The thanks go to Mike.

QUARTERMASTER:

Sales were a little sluggish. If anyone has suggestions, we are happy to entertain them. The challenge coins did not go over as well as we had planned. The gear is available on the website. We continue to try and stock the items the members want; however, storage and transport are a problem. We hope to resolve that matter soon.

MEMORIAL BRICKS:

If you don't have a brick in the walkway, you can place your order now for next year. They cost us a lot more, the fewer bricks we order.

FINANCIAL:

Mary continues to oversee our finances. She is tighter with the Association's finances than she is with ours. All our required filings with the IRS and the State of South Carolina were filed on time.

MEMBERSHIP:

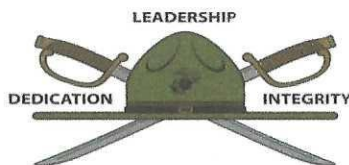
We have done a little better this year with new memberships. Please continue to spread the word so we can continue to thrive.

DONATIONS:

We survive by the generosity of our members. Donations are tax deductible. No donation is too small, every little bit helps.

Semper Fidelis,


SgtMaj Kenneth D. Miller USMC (Ret)
President



EAST COAST DRILL INSTRUCTORS' ASSOCIATION
PARRIS ISLAND CHAPTER

"THE GRINDER"

September 21, 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Mary and I hope everyone is having an uneventful 2022. Everything in the Association is going very well. We continue to meet all our obligations and operate smoothly. This has been the quietest time I can remember. I continue to stay in touch with Board and Trustees to solicit their input. We have a very dedicated Leadership team. I would like to thank them for their guidance and support, without them this Association would not function well at all.

We have picked dates for the 2023 Reunion. Save the weekend 27-30 April 2023 for our annual Reunion. We are just starting to plan but stay on the website for frequent updates. Hopefully gas will be cheaper this year and we can have more attendees. I hope to keep costs as low as we can and still insure a great reunion.

As we navigate these trying times in our country, we can still be proud of our Association and our members. I am proud to represent you every time I go aboard the Depot. If you ever have any suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I always welcome new ideas.

If anyone got an email from me or Mary asking if you shop on Amazon, it was not us. We will never send an email asking for anything for us. Thanks to several of you who brought it to our attention so we could take immediate action. I did lose all my email contacts on our personal site. I had the group contact for our board and trustees on that email. I will get it pieced back together as soon as I can.

FINANCES:

Thanks to Mary and our generous membership we are financially stable. We did take a little hit at last year's reunion due to the decline in attendees. I know we will bounce back with the continued support of our members. All our tax and South Carolina solicitation applications were filed on time and put on the website.

MEMBERSHIP:

We had a period where we signed several new members. We had a motion to allow each DI School graduate to have free membership for one year. It was made available last class and not one student filled out an application. I have made the offer to the current graduates. I get many questions about why we do not send out reminders. We actually do. About every 6 months, Mary sends out reminder cards to any member whose membership had lapsed. There is no penalty, send in your dues and a new membership card will be issued.

MEMORIAL BRICKS:

Sales of memorial bricks have fallen off the last couple of years. If you would like a brick in the walkway at the monument, get your order in as quick as you can. I must cut it off about a month and a half before the reunion to insure we get the bricks installed prior to the reunion.

QUARTERMASTER GEAR:

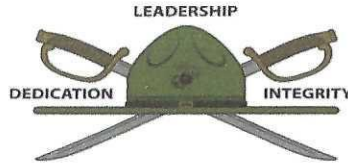
I have ordered new polo style shirts in the Battalion colors. I ordered limited stock to see how sales go. They should be on the website soon. I still have some of the items already on the website. These items make excellent Christmas or birthday presents. We also have plenty of our Association challenge coins. They are well done.

DONATIONS:

We rely largely on the generosity of our members to support the many things we do in supporting the active-duty Drill Instructor and their families. I know everyone's situation is different and some may not be able to give. If your situation allows you to donate, rest assured it will go a long way in support of our mission. We have several members who have set up automatic donations.

Semper Fidelis,


Kenneth D. Miller USMC (Ret)



EAST COAST DRILL INSTRUCTORS' ASSOCIATION
PARRIS ISLAND CHAPTER

"THE GRINDER"

December 22, 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Mary, Jacy, and I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year. As the weather is turning colder stay safe. As we are surrounded by family and friends during this season, lets reflect on the real reason for the season. We serve an amazing God.

Mary and I were fortunate to represent the Association at a Christmas reception held by the Commanding General Marine Corps Recruit Depot and Eastern Recruiting Region, Brigadier General Field, and his wife. They opened their home for a tour and then to the Lyceum for some amazing food and drink. Most of the leadership in RTR were in attendance. It makes us extremely proud to represent our members. I am always humbled to be the president of this prestigious organization. As we move into 2023 let's continue to show our support for the profession, we all hold so dear.

I recently had a member drop their membership because of how future Drill Instructors are trained. Our purpose is not to agree or disagree with current training. That is an age-old argument that our training as we remember it was always best. I choose to reflect on our real purpose which is a Fraternal Military Organization formed to represent and support all Drill Instructors past and present and their families. We also stand ready to help any Marine needing assistance.

We have a reunion once a year to reflect with old friends and to meet new ones. I always look forward to the new faces. Thank you all for your support and confidence.

REUNION:

Planning is continuing for our 2023 Reunion. Due to some scheduling changes, we have had to move our dates to 4-7 May 2023. I am glad to announce that even though prices are going up everywhere, we can keep our prices stable at least for this year. We have moved the picnic from Elliot's Beach to the Indoor All Weather Training Facility. It will eliminate having to be concerned with the weather. The local DAV will once again cater the event.

I have contacted the Quality Inn Towne Center to accommodate our members. They have informed us they have updated. The hotel may not be the nicest in the area, but it is the most reasonable. They are offering a rate of around \$70.00 plus tax per night, which is cheaper than on base. We plan to still run a shuttle from the hotel to the Banquet.

MEMORIAL BRICKS:

Time is getting close for Memorial Bricks. If you want a brick in place this reunion, get your request in soon. I will publish the deadline on the website in January. The bricks make a great tribute to our time served aboard the Depot.

QUARTERMASTER GEAR:

We have new items available. There are golf shirts available in Battalion colors. We have limited amounts to see how they move. When you buy you not only support your Association, but you also display your pride having been a United States Marine Corps Drill Instructor. Postage has killed us lately. We have had to go to \$10.00. We still lose a little depending on where we ship. We will continue to keep costs as low as we can.

MEMBERSHIPS:

We continue to struggle with keeping memberships up to date. We recently mailed over 60 reminders. So far response has been sporadic. If you have any questions as to your status, just give us a call. The idea of offering membership to all DI School graduates was passed on to DI School. So far, we have received no new membership requests from the graduates.

GOOD INFORMATION:

I was sent a link for information from the Veterans Administration. Go to the **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs** and look at Decembers Newsletter. The letter gives information on Disability compensation.

DONATIONS:

One of the hardest topics for me is asking for donations. We have lost many of our biggest donors over the last few years. I do not know everyone's situation and I certainly understand today's challenges. I just ask that if you can, donate to your Association. I assure you that every dollar goes to support your Association. We are now recognizing the Senior Drill Instructor and Drill Instructor of the Quarter from each Battalion. The overall winner is also recognized. The Drill Instructor of the year is recognized. We also sponsor three awards from Drill Instructor School four times a year. Mary has done a great job managing our finances. If you are a regular donor, thank you if not see if you can spare a small donation. Donations are tax deductible.

Semper Fidelis,



SgtMaj Kenneth D. Miller USMC (Ret)
President