



EAST COAST DRILL INSTRUCTORS' ASSOCIATION
PARRIS ISLAND CHAPTER

"THE GRINDER"

June 27, 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Hope this newsletter finds everyone well. Mary and I have had a busy time since the reunion. I had back surgery the week after the reunion and have had to be very careful for the last five weeks. Mary on the other hand has stepped up and taken on all the responsibilities of the household. She is an amazing lady.

The Association continues to operate on the positive side financially and we attribute that to the membership. While we must stay vigilant, we continue to meet all obligations.

We just got back from Parris Island where we attended the deactivation of the 4th Recruit Training Battalion. It was a bittersweet experience. As the Major General who spoke put it, one thing for sure is change is inevitable. I can bet many of us can reflect on changes in the past that we were sure would be the downfall of the Corps. Yet here we are still doing whatever we can to win the nations' battles. I know many will disagree but as I said at the Member's meeting, we are a fraternal organization whose purpose is to preserve the legacy of the iconic Marine Corps Drill Instructor, not change the way they are trained.

DI School graduated on 23 June and the newest of our brothers and sisters will hit the grinder. Join me in saying a prayer that they are successful in their tour.

I would be remiss if I did not thank you all for the confidence you have in Mary and I and the love you all show our daughter Jacy. We have been your President and Secretary/Treasurer for many years now and when we gather it shows on

Mary's face, the love she has for all of you. Here's to another successful year doing the business of the Association.

REUNION RECAP:

This year's reunion was once again smaller than some we had. Thursday afternoon and evening at the Brig and Brew was very lively as usual. Many new members were in attendance. I wish we could have a bigger venue, but this is what we have for now. Traditions did an outstanding job with the food as usual.

Friday began as usual with breakfast at H&S Battalion. They do a great job of getting us in and out. Then off to colors where the band never disappoints. Watching that Holiday Flag rise and waive majestically always brings chills. Graduation is always exciting as we watch our newest brothers and sisters graduate and join the ranks. The Memorial service is always a very somber event as we honor all those who have passed since we last met. SgtMaj Jim Moore always has a fitting passage to honor the fallen.

The picnic went as planned with the Trench Rats and Local DAV doing an outstanding job. We could not hold the auction at the Indoor All Weather Training Facility, so we all moved to Traditions early for the auction before the Cadence Calling/Story Telling. The evening closed with everyone having a full day.

Saturday morning began with the members' meeting at DI School. We had snacks but due to unforeseen circumstances there was no coffee. We will try to ensure that does not happen again. The welcome by DI School and Colonel Ward always brings out some lively interchanges. The meeting minutes will be available on the website.

The banquet was one of the best I ever attended. The band kicked it up a notch and dazzled everyone with their performance. SgtMaj Mike Brown gave a great speech and covered many concerns.

Sunday, we had planned a farewell breakfast at Traditions; however, an early morning power failure put a halt to that. We plan to try and make that part of the registration process next year.

AUCTIONS:

Once again Mike Thompson, historian, put together one of the best live and silent auctions we have had in a long time. We raised several thousand dollars to support our mission. Mike deserves a boatload of thanks for putting all this together.

QUARTERMASTER:

Sales continue to be sluggish. I am going to have to put some things on sale next reunion to move them. The battalion color shirts went well. The challenge coins will now be collectors' items with the closing of the 4th Battalion. You can order online. We have had to raise prices to keep up with costs. We try to keep prices affordable.

MEMORIAL BRICKS:

We had enough brick orders this year to prevent paying the fuel surcharge. There is still plenty of space in the walkway. You can place your order anytime for placement before our next reunion.

MEMBERSHIP:

We have really seen an increase in memberships from our sisters. Many thanks to all who sign up and renew. Mary will be sending out reminders soon for members whose membership has expired. Membership dues go a long way in supporting our mission.

FINANCIAL:

We continue to meet all obligations; however, we took a sizable hit last year due to smaller reunion attendance. Everything continues to go up, but we have managed to keep our costs to our members down. There will be an increase in 2024. We will keep it as low as possible.

DONATIONS:

Finally, the hardest part for me is to solicit donations. Everyone's circumstances are different. If you can afford a donation of any size, it will be greatly appreciated and put to good use. You all are the life of this Association.

Semper Fidelis,

SgtMaj Kenneth D. Miller USMC (Ret)
President