



EAST COAST DRILL INSTRUCTORS' ASSOCIATION
PARRIS ISLAND CHAPTER

"THE GRINDER"

September 26, 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Hope this newsletter finds everyone well. Things here at the Miller household are going well. I have recovered from back surgery; however now I must have a new hip next month. I am praying for a smooth operation and quick healing. This past year all my years of doing Marine things and working for the Postal Service have finally caught up. Through all of this we have kept up with the business of the Association. We continue to have a great working relationship with the Depot and the Regiment. There are several very important announcements in this newsletter. We are looking forward to another successful reunion. Stay safe and I hope to see you all at the reunion.

FINANCES:

We continue to operate in the black with enough left in case of an emergency. We have filed with the IRS and the state of South Carolina. We owe our solid finances to the continued generosity of our members.

MEMBERSHIP:

New memberships continue to be a challenge. We always have an increase in memberships close to a reunion; however sadly after the reunion many fail to renew, or they only renew when they are coming to a reunion. Membership dues go a long way towards financing the many programs we have in place. We would like to expand many of our programs in the coming years but that will depend on

keeping memberships current. Mary will be sending out reminder cards in the next month or so to jog some memories. For the many who do renew on time thank you very much.

QUARTERMASTER GEAR:

I will be placing an order soon to replenish items we sold a lot of during the reunion. The 1st and 3rd Battalion colored shirts were a big seller. I will also be ordering jackets to replace what was sold. I have some orders pending. If you are one of those, please be patient, I have not forgotten you. Some items will not be replaced since we sell very few. We will attempt to put some of these items on sale next year. There was a recommendation that we offer a button up shirt with our logo above the pocket and a T-Shirt with a pocket and our logo above the pocket. I have approached our vendor and will have more information soon. Remember some of our items make excellent gifts for birthdays or Christmas. We have a new process to order from the website. If you experience difficulty let me know so we can work it out.

MEMORIAL BRICKS:

I have several orders I am holding until we order in the spring. If you want a brick, get your order in as soon as you can. You can find the form on the website. Bricks are \$100.00 which goes to engraving as well as upkeep of the walkway.

REUNION 2024:

The board provided input and we had a ZOOM meeting on September 19, 2023, to discuss dates for the reunion. April 11-14, 2024, was decided on. Mark your calendars and start looking for more information on the website. Maybe observing some training was recommended and is being worked on. We are going to have to go up in costs this year. It has been several years since we had an increase, but to put on a quality event it is a reality. We are currently looking for a guest of honor. If you would like to make a recommendation let me or someone on the board know.

M1A RIFLE RAFFLE:

Rick Branch, just as he promised at our members meeting has donated a Springfield Arms M1A. Our goal is to sell 1000 tickets at \$10.00 each until the drawing at the banquet on Saturday April 13, 2024. We fell a little short on our last raffle for a weapon but with the membership's help we should have no problem. The rifle is being safely stored in a local Gun Shop. After the reunion the rifle will be shipped to the new owner via a Gun Dealer in their town. The winner does not need to be present to win. We have close to 400 active members we should be able to make this happen.

DONATIONS:

My least favorite part of every newsletter. We can always put donations to good use. As I have said many times, I do not know anyone's situation; however, no amount is too small. If you can afford to donate, please do. Remember donations to the Association are tax deductible.

Semper Fidelis,


Kenneth D. Miller USMC (Ret)