



EAST COAST DRILL INSTRUCTORS' ASSOCIATION
PARRIS ISLAND CHAPTER

"THE GRINDER"

June 27, 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Mary, Jacy and I hope this newsletter finds everyone well. Everything here at the Miller household is going well. As we enter summer, I hope you all take time to enjoy family and friends. Mary and I continue to serve at the pleasure of the membership. Thank you for your continued support.

Things aboard the depot continue to operate well and our current Drill Instructors continue to turn out a quality product. While the Marines today may be a little different, they still represent our country well in battle. Change is inevitable. Methods of training must evolve to meet the needs of the battlefield and the changing attitude of the nation. I recently had another member write that he would no longer be attending our reunion due to the way Marines are trained today. I hate that because our Association is not involved in the training methods today. We had our time, and we did our job well, but it is a new time. We gather yearly for a time of fellowship and to reminisce about days gone by. Our charter states that we are a fraternal military organization dedicated to preserving the legacy of the iconic Marine Corps Drill Instructor. Membership is a choice open to anyone who is or has served as a Drill Instructor or any officer entitled to wear the Drill Instructor ribbon. I hope that every member will continue to support our efforts to recognize the active-duty Drill Instructor and their families.

Your Association continues to operate in a positive direction. There is a new Commanding General aboard Parris Island as of the 14th of June. Brigadier General Williamson took over from Brigadier General Field. We wish them both the best of luck.

Mary, Jacy and I just returned from a trip to Parris Island. While there we accomplished quite a bit. We were able to meet with Mr. Buck, SgtMaj Garcia and were fortunate to get to meet with General Williamson. We also met with SgtMaj Watts at RTR. We purchased enough gift cards to meet our program needs for quite a while. We also met with Navy Federal and arranged to have our new Vice President, SgtMaj John Allen, added to our account.

REUNION RECAP:

We tried some new things at this reunion. Starting with registration on Thursday, we decided not to sell quartermaster due to the limited space in the Brig and Brew. I think it contributed to a better less crowded atmosphere. Friday morning was our normal routine starting with breakfast at H&S Battalion mess hall. At \$4.50 for breakfast, it is a bargain. Colors followed then off to graduation where our newest brothers and sisters joined our ranks. The Memorial Service was held in the Recruit Chapel which allowed us to honor those who passed in a more somber atmosphere without the distraction of the graduates and their families. We had a TRAM tour set up for after the service; however, there was some confusion, and it did not go as planned. We will try again next year.

Another major change was moving the picnic to Traditions. The move allowed us to open quartermaster sales in the Barrow room. There were a few glitches, mostly because we started too early. The food was good and there was plenty. Mike Thompson ran an amazing auction, and we did a lot. The only drawback was time. Many members lost interest and left early which took away from the Cadence Calling and Story Telling. We will adjust times next year to keep everyone's attention.

The member's meeting went well on Saturday. We had a few board members step down and gained some new members. SgtMaj John Allen is the new Vice President. Many thanks to Bud Apple for his years of service. SgtMaj Pete

Ross, SgtMaj John Browne and CWO5 Randy Himes stepped down and they were replaced by Sgt Maj Dawson. I thank those members who stepped down and look forward to working with the current board.

Saturday evening was great. The band was phenomenal as usual. Sgt Maj Garcia gave many good comments about the state of the Depot and the Corps.

Sunday morning, we had planned to have breakfast at Traditions. Logistically it did not work out, but H&S Battalion stepped in and allowed us to have breakfast in their mess hall. The breakfast was not very well attended. We will look at this closely for next year.

A couple of closing comments about the reunion. The host hotel again generated some negative comments. We will look to find a better venue next year, but the price will increase. We have some members in the local area looking into this. More to follow.

MEMORIAL BRICKS:

Brick orders were put into place before the reunion. Sales will continue all year and the new order will be in place before the next reunion.

MEMBERSHIP:

We continue to get new members; however, renewals continue to be an issue. If you have a question about your membership, just give me a call.

FINANCIAL:

Our finances continue to be good thanks to fund-raising efforts. The rifle Rick Branch donated raised about \$8,500.00. We sold all the tickets except 102. Brenda Moore donated another quilt which raised over \$660.00. And a special thanks to Mike Thompson, whose efforts at the auction raised over \$2000.00.

DONATIONS:

Finally, thank you to those members who donate on a regular basis. If you are able, we can put all donations to good use for the betterment of your Association.

Semper Fidelis,

SgtMaj Kenneth D. Miller USMC (Ret)
President