



MARINE CORPS DISBURSING ASSOCIATION

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usmcdisbursers.com

April 2020



PRESIDENT

Sure hope all is well with you and yours during these trying times as we move further into 2020. I need you to mark your 2021 calendars for May 16-20. Yes, those are the dates reserved for our next reunion. By a very close vote, the membership selected The Biggest Little City in the World, Reno, Nevada for the site of what will undoubtedly be another fun-filled event. Additionally, I'm happy to announce that we have successfully completed another iteration of our annual recognition program for active duty Marines. Please read on...

Semper Fi, Greg Bucholtz, President
gmbucholtz@everestkc.net

FROM THE ADJUTANT...

2021 MCDA MEETING/REUNION

You are all invited to attend the 2021 Marine Corps Disbursing Association biennial meeting and reunion in Reno, Nevada, May 16-20, 2021. You do not have to be a supporting member of the Association to join us in Reno or to participate in any of the events. I encourage anyone that's on the fence about attending a reunion to speak to someone that has. It's basically a vacation and a great opportunity to renew old acquaintances and make new friends.

Your trusty Adjutant, along with Hugh McKinney, conducted a site visit to Reno during early March for a recon of potential hotel venues and tours. After meeting with the sales managers from five hotels/resorts, along with a walk-through of their facilities, a front-runner has emerged. I was in final negotiations with the Grand Sierra Resort Casino before COVID-19 temporarily shut down their

operations. I fully expect that a deal will be reached once negotiations are resumed.

Located about 3-miles from downtown, this resort bolsters an impressive array of amenities. It's basically a mini-town. The resort comprises of multiple bars and restaurants throughout; a nightclub; souvenir shops; a casino floor that has a high-speed ventilation system to where you wouldn't even notice people are smoking (smoking is only allowed in the casino area of the resort); a full-size bowling alley; a huge outdoor heated swimming pool with an adults-only infinity pool, hot tubs and fire pits; a movie theater; an indoor ice rink for Clayton Stokley to show off his skills; a golf driving range with 8-island greens positioned in a bay (very cool), club rental available; an axe throwing area; a Go-Kart track; mini-putt putt golf and other stuff.... I realize that most of the folks won't do these things, but it's quite impressive and worth mentioning. Feel free to peruse their website at grandsierraresort.com.

The negotiated daily room rate prior to our pause was \$109.00 out-the-door (Includes Resort Fee and other applicable fees/taxes) for single or double occupancy. More information to follow once negotiations resume. Should the Grand Sierra Resort Casino not work out, a solid back-up resort is simultaneously being negotiated with; along with the highly sought-out Motel 6 Reno.

Regarding potential tours - I met with a reputable tour company that was given to me by the Reno Convention and Visitors Authority. There's actually more decent tours than we have days for... Here's a few of the group tour ideas that we discussed:

1) Tour to Lake Tahoe with a ride on the M.S. Dixie Paddlewheeler around the Lake. Boat ride is 2-hrs and includes lunch on-board.

2) Tour to Virginia City (old mining town with swinging door saloon's to quench Bennie Helton's thirst); includes a steam engine train ride and lunch in town.

3) Tour of Naval Air Station Fallon - Home of the TopGun Fighter Training School.

4) Tour to Carson City and its Nevada State Museum and former US Mint.

There's also a really good National Automobile Museum located downtown. Takes about 2-hrs to go through and worth seeing.

More information to follow once the tours are solidified. As a reunion attendee, there's no requirement to attend the events, choose the ones you wish.

MEMBERSHIP

If you are not currently a member, we would like you to consider joining us. A current membership listing and application form can be found on our website, usmcdisbursers.com. The cost is only \$30.00 for a two-year membership and that comes with a high-speed MCDA membership card, your name being added to the online membership listing and directory, as well as a voice on where our reunions will be located, etc,... Being a member does not obligate you to any association duties.

MARINES HONORED

Continuing our program to recognize our active duty Marines for their professionalism in the finance field, each Disbursing and Finance Office identified one SNCO and one NCO that performed their duties in a superlative manner and provided significantly to the overall success of the office mission throughout the 2019 calendar year. Also included was one SNCO from HQMC RFF-KCI. The Association presented each selectee with a Certificate of Commendation, a personalized

plaque for their display, an association Bottle Opener, and a two-year membership to the Association. We are proud to recognize the following selected Marines:

HQMC RFF-KCI

Staff Sergeant Christopher K. Eads

Regional Disbursing Office–West

Master Sergeant Renard Bradley

Sergeant Christopher Javner

Regional Disbursing Office–East

Gunnery Sergeant Paul M. Grady

Corporal Michael A. McCormick

Regional Disbursing Office–Pacific

Master Sergeant Mauricio Ramirez

Sergeant Weston E. Morrow

Finance Office, National Capital Region

Staff Sergeant Blake Strother

Corporal John Drew IV

Finance Office, MCB Hawaii

Staff Sergeant Dexter A. Daniels

Sergeant Abraham Palacios

Finance Office, MCRD San Diego

Master Sergeant Luis A. TapiaDominguez

Sergeant Johanna Hernandez

Finance Office, MCRD Parris Island

Staff Sergeant Ernest J. Martinez

Corporal Joshua E. Holder

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE

Just a reminder, disbursing Marine veterans, their spouse, children and grandchildren are eligible to apply for one of our Education Assistance Program scholarships. The scholarship application must be submitted by **April 30, 2020** (Postmarked NLT 30 April). The eligibility requirements and application form can be found on our website, usmcdisbursers.com. If applicants need more submission time due to COVID-19, please email Bennie Helton at benniedhelton@yahoo.com by April 30th.