



# MARINE CORPS DISBURSING ASSOCIATION

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[usmcdisbursers.com](http://usmcdisbursers.com)

Spring 2024 newsletter

Welcome to the spring installment of our semi-annual newsletter. We hope you like the refreshed layout; it is 2024 after all!

## President

We are fast approaching the 2025 biennial meeting and reunion in Savannah, Georgia from 18 to 22 May 2025. All are invited to attend. You do not have to be a supporting member of the association to join us in Savannah and participate in the events. I look forward to seeing you there.

The reunion committee has put a lot of work into this event and a lot more needs to be done! Special thanks to Judy and Neil Sizemore for stepping up and taking the lead on the reunion planning. They have been invaluable in the planning process.

Lastly, we have faced several obstacles and challenges since November 2023. We are working through these challenges but unfortunately, as an Association, we have fallen short on some of our responsibilities to the membership. I ask for your patience and understanding as we retake the hill. I apologize for any inconvenience experienced.

Please read on...

*Semper Fi,  
Bennie*

## From The Veep!

We are looking for a few good (new) members! Please do what you can to encourage your fellow disbursers to join our ranks.

Also, I am requesting that you confirm your contact information so that we can keep in touch. We have received a number of returned emails as well as snail mail. One more thing, let us know if you would like to receive communication from us strictly digital, snail mail only, or both. We are looking at ways to improve communication and manage rising costs. Remember, we are a non-profit organization, and your membership dues sustain our operating expenses.

*Ooh Rah,  
Charles*

## News from the Adj

Current membership: 195  
Combat percentage: 93.3%  
2024 attrition: 77 members  
    40 to renew by Aug  
    33 to renew between Aug & Dec

2023 Taxes have been filed with the IRS.

*Semper Fi,  
Gary*

## 2024 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Congratulations to the following 2023 MCDA scholarship awardees:

**Carmina Arroyo**, daughter of MGySgt Teresa Arroyoarroyo. She will be attending The University of Texas in San Antonio, TX.

**Kathryn Bouslough**, granddaughter of LtCol Gregory Harbac. She will be attending the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, ND.

**Benjamin Chmielewski**, son of SSgt Paul Chmielewski. He will be attending Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant, MI.

**Reagan Donnelly**, granddaughter of CWO-4 John Donnelly. She will be attending the University of North Carolina in Asheville, NC.

**Riley Donnelly**, granddaughter of CWO-4 John Donnelly. She will be attending Mars Hill University in Mars Hill, NC.

**Madison McCarty**, granddaughter of CWO-4 Michael McCarty. She will be attending the West Georgia Technical College in Newman, GA.

**Brooklyn Soloy**, granddaughter of CWO-4 Larry Soloy. She will be attending Missouri State University in Springfield, MO.

## EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIPS

The Shelley Stokley Memorial Scholarship Fund offers scholarships to any disbursing Marine veteran, their spouse, children and grandchildren.

Applications will be accepted from November 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup> (Postmarked). The eligibility requirements and application form can be found on our website, [usmcdisbursers.com](http://usmcdisbursers.com). The association has awarded more than \$59,000 in educational assistance since 2009.

### **ACTIVE DUTY MARINES HONORED**

Continuing our program to recognize our active duty Marines for their professionalism in the finance field. The following SNCOs and NCOs were identified by the Disbursing and Finance Offices for performing their duties in a superlative manner and significantly contributing to the overall success of the office mission throughout the 2023 calendar year. The Association will present each selectee with a Certificate of Commendation, a Personalized Plaque for their display, and an association Bottle Opener. We are proud to recognize the following selected Marines:

#### **Regional Disbursing Office—West**

Gunnery Sergeant John Rodriguez  
Sergeant James Miller Jr.

#### **Regional Disbursing Office—East**

Staff Sergeant Devin Hansen  
Sergeant Aileen Gonzalez

#### **Regional Disbursing Office—Pacific**

Gunnery Sergeant Zane Lewis  
Sergeant Karen Recendiz

#### **Finance Office, MCB Hawaii**

Staff Sergeant Alex Washington  
Sergeant Tevarius Wesley

#### **Finance Office, MCRD San Diego**

Corporal Rediet Hadley

#### **Finance Office, MCRD Parris Island**

Staff Sergeant Kyle Houser  
Corporal Carmen Puletsoriano

#### **Financial Management School**

Staff Sergeant Stephanie Moore

### **2025 SAVANNAH REUNION**

The reunion dates are May 18-22, 2025.

We will be staying at the DeSoto Savannah hotel located in the historic district. The daily room rate is \$199.00 plus tax for a single or double occupancy. The room rate will be available for 3-days pre/post event dates for those who plan on an extended stay. This rate does not include breakfast but there is a restaurant in the hotel and several within walking distance.

A restaurant, bar, and coffee shop are located in the hotel lobby.

On-site parking is valet only at \$35 per day with in/out privileges. City parking is available within walking distance at a rate of \$18 per day but it does not include in/out privileges.

The hotel does not have an airport shuttle. A taxi or Uber costs approximately \$35 from the airport to the hotel. Rates vary with time of day and traffic.

On Sunday evening we will have reunion registration from 1400 – 1630 followed by a social from 1700 – 1900 in the Pulaski meeting room. Our biennial meeting and memorial dinner will be on 21 May. The meeting time is scheduled for 1000 in the Harborview (hospitality) room and the memorial dinner is tentatively scheduled for 1700-2000 in the Harborview (hospitality) room.

Tours, events, meal plans, and other items are still being planned and negotiated. More information will be provided when available.

Reservations can be made using the Direct Booking Link: [Marine Corps Disbursing Association](https://be.synxis.com/?Hotel=76327&Chain=26905&arrive=2025-05-18&depart=2025-05-22&adult=1&child=0&group=2505MARINE) Or by calling our Central Reservations line: 912.232.9000 – referencing group block: 2505MARINE.

If you are not receiving electronic newsletters, type the following link into your browser for reservations.

**<https://be.synxis.com/?Hotel=76327&Chain=26905&arrive=2025-05-18&depart=2025-05-22&adult=1&child=0&group=2505MARINE>**

Lastly, we received two free room upgrades in our contract with the DeSoto. One for a Parlor Suite and one for Executive King Balcony. Both at the discounted group room rate. We will raffle these rooms between now and 30 November at \$4 per chance or 3 chances for \$10.00. To participate, use the PayPal donation link on our website. [Donate \(paypal.com\)](https://www.paypal.com). On the link there is an option to “write a note (optional)”. In this field, type “2025 Reunion Room Upgrade”. A random draw will occur on 6 December to determine the two winners for the room upgrade. First winner is the Exec King, second is the Suite. Winners will be notified by email and the hotel will be provided with the names to upgrade current reservations.

This is in addition to the free night we usually receive and auction off. We will still receive some free nights to auction off based on room nights actualized during the reunion.

Feel free to reach out with any questions. [usmcdisbursers@hotmail.com](mailto:usmcdisbursers@hotmail.com)