



THE WALKING DEAD SIT-REP

First Battalion Ninth Marines Association, Inc.

April 27, 2024

SUMMARY OF RECENT INITIATIVES AND UPDATES

SAN DIEGO MINI REUNION

Date: May 4th

Location: San Diego, CA

Details: An opportunity for camaraderie and to learn more about our initiatives. For more information and to RSVP, visit our events page.

OUTREACH EFFORTS

Objective: To enhance engagement with our members through personal connections. Our approach includes well-being checks, reunion awareness, and contact updates. We've initiated mail-outs for reunion invitations, a new venture aimed at ensuring every member, including those preferring non-digital communication, is well-informed.

REUNION REGISTRATION

Current Rate: \$50

Call to Action: Members are encouraged to spread the word about the reunion.

UPCOMING ELECTIONS

Initiative: Introduction of support mechanisms for candidates, including observational opportunities with the Association's operations and a platform for candidate statements. This aims to ensure informed membership and a seamless leadership transition.

REUNION SPONSORS

Acknowledgement: Our heartfelt thanks to our sponsors. Their support is crucial to our efforts. For sponsorship inquiries or donations, contact info@19walkingdead.org.

1/9 PLEDGES

Appreciation: Extending our gratitude to all donors for their recurring contributions. Interested in pledging? Contact us at info@19walkingdead.org.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL COORDINATION

Introduction: Announcement of Local Coordinator roles,

with Brian Welsh and James Clark stepping in as our first local coordinators for the Philadelphia and Miami areas, respectively. This move aims to strengthen our community support and operational efficiency at the local level.

These initiatives highlight our continuous commitment to fostering a supportive and engaged community among our members. Your ongoing support and participation are invaluable to us. For any further information or to get involved, please don't hesitate to reach out.

SIG-EVENT CALENDAR

5/4/2024	San Diego Mini Reunion Location TBD
5/17/2024	May Live Members Discussion Virtual
6/15/2024	Q2 National Mini Reunion Various Locations
6/21/2024	June Live Members Discussion Virtual
7/19/2024	July Live Members Discussion Virtual
8/16/2024	August Live Members Discussion Virtual
8/21 - 8/25	2024 National Reunion San Diego, CA
9/20/2024	Sept Live Members Discussion Virtual
10/18/2024	October Live Members Discussion Virtual
11/9-10/2024	Q4 National Mini Reunion Various Locations
11/15/2024	Nov Live Members Discussion Virtual
12/20/2024	Dec Live Members Discussion Virtual

MAY 4 SAN DIEGO MINI REUNION

Are you going to be in the San Diego area on May 4th? Join us for a mini reunion. Go to <https://www.19walkingdead.org/events> for more information and to RSVP.

OUTREACH EFFORTS

In our efforts to foster a strong, interconnected community, the Association has initiated a series of outreach efforts aimed at enhancing engagement with our members. Our approach is multifaceted, focusing primarily on personal connections. We are working our way through the member roster to reach out to each one individually, with three key objectives in mind:

WELL-BEING CHECK

Our initial goal is to ensure that each member is doing well and to identify any areas where they may require assistance.

REUNION AWARENESS

We aim to inform every member about our upcoming reunion, ensuring they have all the necessary details to participate.

CONTACT UPDATE

It is crucial to maintain up-to-date contact information, so we're taking this opportunity to verify and update our records where necessary.

In addition to these calls, the membership committee has embarked on a new venture by sending out reunion invitations through the mail. This initiative, a first for our Association, was established as part of the 2023-2024 Strategic Plan. It underscores our commitment to engaging with members on a more personal level and ensuring that everyone is well-informed, regardless of their preferred communication method.

Recognizing that a significant portion of our members, especially those from the Vietnam Era, have expressed a preference for non-digital communication, we're dedicated to accommodating their needs. To ensure no member is left behind, we kindly ask for your assistance in updating our records. Should you be aware of any member who prefers traditional mail or has outdated contact information, please forward their details to us at info@19walkingdead.org.

Your support is invaluable as we strive to ensure that each member of our community feels connected and valued.

We'd also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Doc Hopson for his invaluable assistance. His efforts in reaching out to our members have significantly enhanced our ability to connect and engage with our community.

REUNION REGISTRATION

The deadline for early registration pricing for the reunion has come and gone. The current registration rate is now \$50. Please help us spread the word about the reunion to your fellow members.

REGISTERED ATTENDEES

Andres Alonso	1967-1967
John Boterf	1968-1969
Chris Buck	1967-1968
Richard Caskey	1969-1970
Jerry Cobia	1983-1987
Scott Cole	1986-1990
Rod Fink	1967-1968
Craig French	1969-1970
Freddy Garcia	1967
Peter Giacchetta	1968-1969
William Hewson	1969
Hubert Hopson	1966-1967
Dave James	1984-1986
Michael Keenan	1969-1970
Jim Krohn	1966-1967
Robert Limardo	1967-1968
George Malone	1968-69, 1976-77, 1984-85
Sylvester McKintosh	1966-1967
Ed Mertens	1990-1994
Roger Moreau	1969-1970
Bob Munson	1968-1969
Matt Schavel	1994
Gregory Schrull	1987-1990
John Shoemaker	1968-1969
Harry Stangel	1965-1966
James Stogner	1966-1967
Bernie Taylor	1966-1967
Albert Thompson	1965
Brian Tuohy	1967
Matt Valenzuela	2007-2011
Jon Vandercook	1967
Kenneth (Don) Vermillion	1966-1967
James Vierstra	1986-1990
Stephen Weldon	1967

UPCOMING ELECTIONS

In our continuous effort to foster dynamic leadership and transparent governance within our Association, we are thrilled to introduce additional support mechanisms for the upcoming elections. As highlighted in the March 2024 issue of Proud Warrior, candidates aspiring to serve as Officers or Directors now have the unique opportunity to observe and shadow Association's operations. This initiative affords potential candidates the chance to attend Board Meetings, offering a first-hand experience of our working dynamics and strategic direction.

Candidates will also be afforded the platform to publish a statement in our newsletter or Proud Warrior. This move is designed to accomplish the following objectives:

Educating Candidates: Allowing candidates to understand the commitment and dedication required before they step into their roles after getting elected at the 2024 Business Meeting.

Operational Familiarization: Providing candidates with an intimate understanding of the Association's operations and future directions, ensuring they are well-prepared to contribute effectively from day one.

Informed Membership: Equipping our members with detailed background information on each candidate, thereby facilitating a more informed and judicious election decision.

Enhanced Candidate Visibility: Offering a stage for candidates to present their visions and ideas to the membership, fostering a culture of transparency and open communication.

Seamless Leadership Transition: By introducing potentially elected candidates to the Association's inner workings earlier, we aim to ensure a smoother transition in leadership roles, ultimately benefiting our Association's advancement.

For members interested in declaring their candidacy and taking advantage of this opportunity, please visit <https://www.19walkingdead.org/association-candidacy-declaration-2024> to submit your information. It's worth noting that while this initiative is highly encouraged, it remains entirely voluntary. It represents our dedication to not only strengthening the leadership within our Association but also to ensuring our members are well-represented and confidently making decisions that will shape our future.

Together, we look forward to a spirited election and the continued prosperity of our Association under knowledgeable and passionate leadership.

REUNION SPONSORS

We'd like to thank our reunion sponsors:

Robert Syler
Stephen Green
R&R Construction
Ron Hanstein
Gene St. Hilaire
Jason Woodin, Coastal Postal
Kyle McGeary, Disorder Skateboards
Michael McDonald

For those ready to take action or in need of the donation letter, please reach out to us at info@19walkingdead.org. Your effort and support could make all the difference.

Your participation and generosity are vital components of our united effort to celebrate and honor the legacy and camaraderie of the 1/9 family. Thank you for standing together with us in this endeavor.

<https://www.19walkingdead.org/donate2024>

1/9 PLEDGES

We'd like to thank our donors to our pledge campaign:

RECURRING DONORS

Frank Sellin
Matt Valenzuela
Edward Valenzuela
Hubert Hopson
Godfrey Brown

DONORS

Jim Krohn
John Hoffman
Michael Goyette
Wesley Fortman
Robert Webster
Russell Watt
David Peralta
Ed Mertens
Wallace Campbell
Sean Gray

If you're ready to make a pledge or interested in increasing your contribution with a recurring monthly donation, please contact us at info@19walkingdead.org. Every donation, no matter the size, makes a significant impact. Together, we can achieve our goals and ensure that our association continues to thrive.



Thank you for your continuing support and dedication to the 1/9 family. Your contributions truly make all the difference.

<https://www.19walkingdead.org/1-9pledge>

REGIONAL AND LOCAL COORDINATION

In a significant step towards enhancing our strategic outreach and support at the grassroots level, we are thrilled to announce the Local Coordinator role within our organization's structure. This new position is designed to fortify the bridge between our members and the broader community, emphasizing our commitment to veterans and their families.

The Local Coordinator is tasked with a pivotal role: to spearhead the organization's initiatives, ensure effective communication with members, and uphold our mission in their designated areas. This addition to our ranks underscores our strategic vision of fostering a tighter-knit community, a vision that can only be realized with the right blend of passion, leadership, and local insight.

Stepping up to the plate as our inaugural Local Coordinators are Association members, Brian Welsh and James Clark.

Brian Welsh, member since 2021, served with 1st Battalion 9th Marines from 2005-2009 and deployed during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was in Alpha Company, Weapons Platoon. Brian currently lives in the Southern New Jersey area and will be taking over the Philadelphia Local Area in the Central/East Regional Area.

James Clark, member since 2023, served with 1st Battalion 9th Marines from 2006-2010 and deployed during Operation Iraqi Freedom as well as with the battalion on the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit. He was in Weapons Company, CAAT Platoon. James currently lives in the southern Florida area and will be establishing the Miami Local Area in the South/East Regional Area.

Both Brian and James will be instrumental in helping the Association establish SOPs for effectively running local operations. We encourage anyone else interested in volunteering in their local area to please reach out and get more information. You can contact Matt Valenzuela directly at mvalenzuela@19walkingdead.org.