



Texas Chapter & Unit 61 Newsletter

Building a better life for Disabled American Veterans and their families.

1211 N. Peach Street, Seguin, TX. 78155, PH: 830-379-3299

April 2009

Commander's Corner

Hello Comrades;

April is on its way out and we finally received some much needed rain. I'm proud to say that I once again have water in my pond. A couple more rains like that would sure be nice.

On the DAV front, big news: The City of Seguin voted to lease us the Vaughan Street Firehouse a couple weeks ago and we have the green light to occupy once the lease contract is signed. There are some details still to be taken care of, but the move should happen shortly. That means we'll be having cry out for an "All Hands Working Party" to help in the relocation of our "stuff." More on that when the time comes.

May 2nd and 3rd will be our Forget Me Not drive for the Auxiliary. We need volunteers to show up and help make this a successful event. We will be incurring new expenses with the move to a new location and we are getting financially tight. Come on out and give us a hand by volunteering for a shift. You tell us the time you can volunteer and we'll get you fit in to a slot.

Memorial Day is coming fast upon us as well. The Service will be held on Monday the 25th this year. Details to follow as the American Legion Post 245 has the lead in planning the event this year. Remember, Lest We be Forgotten.

A lot of members have been putting in some good volunteer hours this month. Kudos to those of you who have put in the volunteer hours. There is room for more volunteers. If you would like to come in and help, just come on by. Besides Chapter Service Officer Work and Honor Guard team, we can always use folks to come in work the phones, help clean up a bit, or maybe a touch of yard work. We all need to pitch in to make this a functioning body.

Have a great spring and stop by for a cup of Joe.

Marlin Howze
Commander
DAV TX Ch61

Auxiliary Commander's Corner

Another year and another successful District conference! We had a great time and got business done. A new slate of District officers was elected and our very own Jean Garriott was elected as the Junior Vice Commander for DAVA District V. Big congratulations to her!!

Our upcoming May events include the Forget-Me-Not campaign on May 2 and 3 and our election of officers at our May meeting (May 12).

The Auxiliary has adopted a new project and we can use some help. We have found out that there is a need for play things for the children of the Wounded Warriors at BAMC

and the Center for the Intrepid. While their parents are being treated or are in rehab these kids have to stay in the waiting area and need things to keep them busy. We are going to set up a box at the chapter house for donations. We are looking for things like coloring books, crayons, children's books, puzzles, games, stuffed animals (new or gently used) or whatever else children might like to play with. We will gladly accept any and all donations. This is to be an ongoing project so we have no time limit for donations.

Terri Herrle
Auxiliary Commander
TX Unit 61

Highlights of Meeting Minutes

Rene Arce of Nixon will begin recruiting members from that area; others are needed to work any other small towns in the area. See Al Aranda, Membership Committee Chair for further information.

New Members

The Membership Committee reported by Chairman; Al Aranda shows we have 2 new members at our Chapter. They are Antonio Camareno and Gary Erickson. Be sure to wish them good luck as new members.

We are all happy to welcome you to our Chapter!

Upcoming Events!

From Our Bothers and Sisters at the Geronimo VFW: Time again for our Sunday afternoon dance, but not this is not just a dance, but the long-awaited polka band will be at the Geronimo VFW this Sunday, April 16, from 3-6:30 pm. The Leroy Rebak Orchestra (with Chris) will be playing some great polka, waltz, & country dance music. It is our only "scheduled" polka band this year, so be sure to come out and come early. We had people in the hall last week at 1:30 pm. You're getting that tip if you want to get a table.

Now to regress, those of you who were at the Post last week heard how wonderful the new Tom Teboe band is. He filled the house and everyone wants him back. Those of you who missed it sure missed a fun afternoon. Tom is one of those few singers that should go far in the business and he's a great looking, hunky fireman! I'm trying to get him back as much as possible.

Thank you all for coming to our dances; you are appreciated. Now, send this e-mail out to your e-mail list. Tell them we are less than 5 miles N of Seguin on State 123. Call us at 830-303-9903 or Post at 830-379-9260 for more information. No reservations for Sunday and no smoking during dances. PS Here's an updated schedule, but will be changing by May.

The annual "Forget Me Not" sales are scheduled for the Auxiliary May 2nd & 3rd and for the DAV on October 3rd & 4th. Volunteers are needed to assist with sales. If you are interested in volunteering to help, please contact Commander Marlin Howze at the Chapter house 830-303-2914 or by e-mail at TX61cdr@davfrat.org.

Committees

The building fund committee is preparing to host a Bar-B-Que at the front of WalMart in Seguin. Plans include a raffle of a smoker-grill. Dates have not been confirmed as of yet and we will need as many volunteers as possible. Please contact Corinne Brock for further details at 830-549-4033. If you would like to volunteer to be on one of these committees, please contact the appropriate Chairman or call our offices at 830-379-3299 or e-mail at TX61cdr@davfrat.org.

Our Staff of Volunteers

For help with any claim or correspondence contact our staff of Volunteers. Volunteers are: Chapter Service Officers (CSOs): Doug

Herrle (Chairman), Marlin Howze, Phil Sierer, Corinne Brock & Margarita Bilbrey.

Committee Chairs: Membership & Entertainment - Al Aranda, Building - John DeLeon, Fundraising - Corinne Brock, Hospital - Jesse Ayala, Honor Guard Captain - Juan DeLeon.

Other News

Yesterday, 21 April, 2009 at 2PM, Chapter 61 representatives and City Staff sat down to preview the Lease agreement for the Vaughan Street Firehouse. As you may have heard the Fire House was approved for our use by the City of Seguin 2 weeks ago.

At the meeting, I, Senior Vice Commander Tomas Castellon, Chaplain Jesse Ayala, Treasurer Bill Owen, and Immediate Past Senior Vice Commander Phil Sierer represented the Chapter. Representing the City was Assistant City Manager Rick Cortez and City Councilman Tomas Castellon (wearing two hats).

We went over the 4 page lease agreement line by line. While there are a number of small details that are pretty standard with any lease, in this memo I will discuss the 3 major topics we considered sticking points.

1. The lease is a 10 year lease with an option to extend at the end of that lease. The lease is for \$1 a year. Originally, there was a 180 day termination clause, but we asked that be changed to a 1 year (365 day) termination clause that can be executed by either party. We felt this gave us some of the protections that we were looking for to protect our investment in making the place fit for occupancy. The Asst. City Manager assured us that all possible uses of the building had been considered before deciding to lease the building to Chapter 61 and that they saw no reason why they would consider asking us to vacate.

However, he could not speak to what a new administration might decide (understandable).

2. Chapter 61 will have to obtain a Letter of Occupancy (LO) from the City. The Fire House was abandoned for about 6 years and use discontinued because new Fire Houses were built to meet current standards and codes. We will have to bring this building to code in order to obtain the LO. This means that we will have to bring the building up to ADA standards, upgrade electrics, maintain the interior and exterior, put up approved signage (City Approved) to identify our presence, and bring the building up to fire prevention standards. Most all these items can be conducted with sweat equity (that means we're going to have to do some work). The Chapter is going to have to pull together to make this happen. If you have a skill, we will need it. If you are unable to work, maybe you can donate materials like a door, exit sign, fire extinguisher, plain money, etc.
3. The Chapter must maintain a \$1 million dollar insurance policy to cover liability and property. This is standard and non-negotiable due to similar leases throughout the City. This is probably the major sticking point as I don't know what a \$1M policy will cost, but we're looking into the issue.

Those are the 3 main points of interest to this lease. We are pretty excited about this and see it as a great opportunity to expand our services and have a greater ability to raise funds. This will give us a significant location from which to operate adding parking, separate interview rooms for Claim

Service Work, give the DAVA a home of their own and provide a large meeting area.

We will have until July 1st to get the building ready for occupancy, which is when the lease will be signed. I hope I can count on the members to step up and help out with this move; we are going to need it. We can make this a home to be proud of if we work together.

Feel free to hit me or the other officers up for any other info you might want.

This Newsletter is edited and published by **DAV Chapter 61**,
Located at 1211 N. Peach Street, Seguin, TX. 78155, or call 830-379-3299

Service Hours: 9am to 1pm Tuesday & Wednesday

Monthly Business Meeting: 2nd Tuesday of the Month

For the most up to date news, please visit our web site at

<http://www.davmembersportal.org/chapters/tx/61>.

You may Bookmark the site and refer often to see what's happening.

Chapter Officers

Commander: Marlin Howze (Email: tx61cdr@davfrat.org)

Senior Vice-Commander: Tomas Castellon

Junior Vice-Commander: Juan Deleon

Treasurer: Bill Owen

Chaplin: Jesse Ayala

Adjutant: Ben Oren

The Auxiliary Unit Officers

Terri Herrle: Commander

Senior Vice Commander: Lynette Sierer

Junior Vice Commander: Vicki Ayala

Adjutant / Treasurer: Christa Howze

Chaplin: Jean Garriott