



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

May 2009

Commander's Corner

We're midway through May and a lot of things are happening at the Chapter House. First and foremost is the acquisition of our new facility courtesy of the City of Seguin. A lot of people were responsible for making this happen and I believe that we have a base of operations that will allow us to improve our service to area veterans. The New Chapter House will be located at 425 Vaughn St in Seguin. Turn north at the Court and Vaughn intersection (the Varsity restaurant is on the corner), go a couple of blocks and look to the right. The place needs some major work before we can move in, but I'm targeting July 1st as our move-in date. We'll need a lot of help in the next month and a half so if you can lend a hand or if you would rather donate funds or materials, either will be a great help. I'll be there Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 AM till I get tired, come and join me.

Veterans Park is another big item that is in the crosshairs. The Guadalupe County Veterans Council (AL, VFW, AGIF, and DAV) are working with the city and other civic groups to renovate and rededicate Veteran's Park at Jefferson and Erkle in Seguin. We hope to have Phase I complete by this Veteran's Day in November. If you have a particular interest in that park come and let us know. Also, if you have any

historical knowledge of the park we would appreciate that as well. Things like names of the people who built it, major events that happened there; stuff like that.

A big thank you goes to the Unit 61 Auxiliary for the \$1148 donation they gave to us on the 12th. This money is slated for the building fund and operational expenses. The money couldn't have come at a better time. So, thank an Auxiliary member for there support.

Memorial Day is the 25th and is planned for San Geronimo Cemetery behind the Alamo Group on Walnut Branch off of SH 123. The event starts at 11AM and will last about 45 minutes. Come to the service and remember our brothers and sisters. "Lest we be forgotten." For volunteers, we'll begin setup about 8AM in the morning setting up chairs, pavilions, etc.

Remember, you get out of an organization what you put into it. If you can spare the time come in and help around the Chapter. Work with the Chapter Service Officers, do a little maintenance, join the Chapter's Honor Guard, or head up a Committee on something you have a passion for. With the move to a greater facility will come the need for greater member support.

Congratulations to our newly elected line officers. Commander-Marlin Howze, Senior Vice Commander-Juan DeLeon, Junior Vice

Commander-John Cuellar, Chaplain-Jesse Ayala, Treasurer-Bill Owen, Adjutant-Ben Orens.

Summer is upon us and that means the heat. Be mindful of those days when the temps get up there; stay hydrated and don't over-do the workload. Enjoy.

V/R,

Marlin L Howze
Commander
TX Chapter 61

Auxiliary Commander's Corner

I just want to remind members that we still have raffle tickets for sale. They are \$1.00 each and the prizes include a plasma TV and a laptop computer. We are also still taking donations for the children of the wounded warriors.

Our new officers are: Terri Herrle-Cmdr; Lynette Sierer-SVC; Jean Garriott-JVC and Christa Howze-Adj/Treasurer.

Remember our Department Convention next month.

Terri Herrle
Auxiliary Commander
TX Unit 61

Highlights of Meeting Minutes

No new members were reported. The building fund still sits at \$1150.00, but our Chapter's general funds have increased \$288.00 in donations. Our total general fund sits at 2185.89, plus, the DAVA just donated 50% of the proceeds from their "For-get Me Not" sales in the amount of \$1148.21, leaving us a grand total for our general fund at 3334.10. THANK YOU AUXILARY!

Upcoming Events!

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.

Our Staff of Volunteers

For help with any claim or correspondence contact our staff of Volunteers. Volunteers are Marlin Howze; CSO & Burial Detail and Commander, Doug Herrle; CSO, Al Aranda; CSO, Phil Sierer, CSO & Burial Detail, Juan DeLeon; Vet Asst. & Burial Detail, Ray Salas, Bill Owen, Jesse Ayala, James Dickerson, Tomas Castellon; Burial Detail, and office help, Corinne Brock & Margarita Bilbrey.

Over the past month, our Chapter Service Officers worked 114 hours. Transportations hours given totaled 41 hours giving us a grand total of 165 donated hours.

Other News

This is a report of the news on the firehouse; up to date as far as the info known. We have the signed lease in our possession. The Station is officially ours. However there are some caveats that go along with the package. Most of them you already know, but here is a list the things we need to get done below.

The main objective is to obtain a Letter of Occupancy. In order to get this, we have to fix these items:

1. Obtain a \$1 million dollar liability insurance policy. I have a couple of bids. Allstate came in at \$997/year for \$1,000,000 Liability and \$300,000 building. State Farm gave us a quote of \$4000/yr w/ \$1,000,000 Liability and \$1,000,000 building. We will probably lower the building coverage w/State Farm to see if their quote gets a little more competitive. I dropped the Allstate quote off at the City Manager's office. He will get the City Attorney to look

and see if the coverage is acceptable. We voted on this during our May meeting and chose Alstate, the lower of the two bids.

2. Comply with ADA standard; build ramps from parking lot to entrances around the building, widen one of the office doors inside to at least a 32" door (we'll probably go 36"), put in a water fountain suitable for handicapped persons, install ADA door handles on all doors, and make bathroom handicap accessible.
3. Comply with electrical code: fix electrics in bay area, replace light bulbs, and fix any electrical sockets in need of repair.
4. Comply with fire code: install lighted fire exscape exit signs and emergency lighting throughout halls and exits where mandated, replace fire extinguishers with enough to meet code, and fix exterior security lighting.
5. Comply with plumbing code; install backflow devises on all hose bibs and fix sinks in bathroom.
6. Other; get building and plumbing permits, and obtain an asbestos survey.
- 7.

I have already gotten a permit to cut down the 2 rotten sycamores south of the station. The City has said they will cut down the 2 trees for us.

Sounds like a lot, but most of it will go pretty fast. We already have commitments for paint and doors. We have several concrete persons onboard who can probably

get the ramps built. The rest we can probably scrounge up from other places including the Chapter House. More commitments are coming in everyday it seems. We have labor commitments from members, TLU, and the Sheriffs office.

This coming week I will see when we get the keys to the building, but they will probably want the insurance in place to give us the keys.

That's about all for now. Things are moving quickly, I hope everyone is ready to role up the shirt sleeves and make a big effort to get this new Chapter House up and running. Keep your eyes open for the above needed items and start looking to local sources of donations to help.

Those of you who would like to have a look at our new Chapter House, it is located at 425 N. Vaughn. Give me a buzz if you have any questions. See y'all later this week.

Marlin L Howze
Commander
TX Chapter 61

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: Juan Deleon

Junior Vice-Commander: John Cuellar

Treasurer: Bill Owen

Chaplin: Jesse Ayala

Adjutant: Ben Orens

The Auxiliary Unit Officers

Terri Herrle: Commander

Senior Vice Commander: Lynette Sierer

Junior Vice Commander: Jean Garriott

Adjutant / Treasurer: Christa Howze