



Texas Chapter & Unit 61 Newsletter

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

425 Vaughn Street, Seguin, TX. 78155, PH: 830-379-3299

February 2010

Commander's Corner

Hello Comrades;

As we welcome the New Year, we say hello to new opportunities for Chapter 61 to continue our good works in the Veteran Community. Firmly settled in to our new facility at 425 Vaughn St in Seguin, we have seen an explosion of Veterans requiring our assistance. New parking and more offices equates to a more efficient ability process VA claims by our hard working Service Officers. We had 165 hours in January alone where Chapter Service Officers helped area veterans complete their VA processing for claims, education, and family assistance.

Meanwhile, our Rifle Honor Team, under the able hands of our Senior Vice Commander, Juan DeLeon, presided over 65 hours of burial honors for fallen brothers and sisters. We picked up 4 new members. I have already been in conference with the other local Veteran Service Organizations to begin planning and completing Phase II of the Veteran Park renovation and we have already set the calendar for this year's Veteran Events including Memorial Day, POW/MIA Day, and Veteran's Day.

All in all, a very good start for Chapter 61. We have had some support though. February 6th, TLU had their "Day of the Dogs" where there freshmen classes go out into the community and render service. Under the direction of Comrade Larry Bilbrey, they

did a major job of cleaning up both inside and the grounds outside. Once again, Comrade James Dickerson stepped up to the plate and repaired our bay furnace so that we now have heat, at least in the main area for business and PTSD group meetings.

February 13th we sold the old Chapter House on Peach St and will begin much needed repairs around the new facility with the proceeds gained from that sale. First on the list are replacement steel doors on all exterior entrances for security reasons. We were broken into 3 times in the month of January and we had some minor (but critical) computer and phone equipment stolen. The culprits (transients) were captured and we did get one of our space heaters back. Another beginning project will be the installation of a new A/C and heating unit for the interior spaces.

Starting next month we begin the nominations for Chapter Officers. If you want to serve then now is a good time to step up and grab a seat. Several Officer positions will be open and we need new blood to come in and take the reins. Don't be afraid, just do it.

Marlin Howze
Commander
DAV TX Ch61

Upcoming Events

Forget-Me-Not Drive: 6-7 Mar, Seguin Wal-Mart, 10AM. **District V planning mtg:** 6 Mar, Seguin Nat'l Guard Corpus Christi, 10 AM. **District V Annual Business Meeting and CSO training:** 26-28 Mar, Corpus Christi Bayfront Hotel, Corpus Christi, TX, CSO begins 9 am on the 26th.

That's our official functions to the end of March as we know them right now. More info can be found at our website: <http://www.davmembersportal.org/chapters/tx/61>.

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, & Margarita Bilbrey.

Committee Chairs: Membership & Entertainment - Al Aranda, Building - John DeLeon, Hospital – Richard Cusson, Honor Guard Captain – Juan DeLeon.

Minutes Summary

Our last meeting was on 3/09/2010 at 7PM. IAW our C&B, we had a quorum. Treasurer reported closing balance of \$2358.81. Minutes from January meeting were read and accepted.

New Members to the Chapter and DAV included: Dennis Roy, Richard DeLeon, Michael Hollifield, Buford Frost, and James Christi. Welcome to the Chapter Gentlemen, we look forward to working with you in the future. There were no new Transferees to the Chapter.

Service Officer's report showed that in January, the Honor Team performed 65 hours of burial services. Chapter Service Officers were available 192 hours, worked

103.5 hours of service work helping 69 veterans. Great job folks, hopefully we can get more volunteers for the Honor Team and Service Officers, our need is great.

Chaplain's report had Doug Herrle hospitalized with pulmonary difficulties, new Comrade Dennis Roy had been hospitalized with heart difficulties, and, sadly, the passing of Comrade Fred Mosely. Keep these friends and their families in your prayers during their time of difficulties.

Visitor. County Commissioner Judy Cope was present and gave an update on the pending resolution drafted Chapter 61 and other local VSOs including the County Veteran's Representative, regarding the poor efficiency and error prone Houston Regional VA Administrative offices. The County Commissioner's Court formalized the resolution and presented it to Congressman Henry Cuellar who forwarded the resolution to Senator Bob Filner, Chairman of the VA Committee. A response was received that the matter was being looked into. Commissioner Cope stated that this wasn't good enough and responded to Congressman Cuellar that Guadalupe County and its veterans wanted to know what corrective actions were being accomplished. She will keep us posted on future developments with regards to this investigation.

Under **Unfinished Business**, we discussed the need to raise the flagpole donated by the Woodmen of the World. Comrade Tomas Castellon undertook the position of Committee Chairman for this job and has a crew signed up to help. We hope to have it up by next meeting.

The Veteran's Park Project continues along with its development in the form of Phase II operations. We are looking to accomplish installation of drip irrigation for the rose

garden, staining of the new fence, finish flagpole hardware installation, and looking into taking bids on a perimeter fence.

The old Chapter House soon be sold and we will have operating capital to begin much needed repairs on the new Chapter House. Motions were entertained, seconded and accepted to get started on the AC/Heat system, and new metal exterior doors for security. We had been broken into 3 times last month. Police reports filed and suspects were apprehended. A heater was returned.

District V Annual Business meeting will be held March 26-28 at the Corpus Christi Bayfront Hotel in Corpus Christi. Rooms are \$75/night. Delegate and CSO lists have been submitted. District V has not received our \$300 seed money check yet and we will probably have to cancel and reissue a check. Next Tuesday we will take a Chapter picture for the ad to be placed in the District Program Guide. We have 2 resolutions going before the District Committees; honorariums for the City of Seguin and

Guadalupe County for the support they give to the area veterans.

Under **New Business**, we discussed things that needed to be accomplished with regard to completing repairs to the new Chapter House.

Under **Good of the Order**, Comrade James Dickerson presented a possible VA benefit to Purple Heart Awardees in the form of free computers. He was informed of this by a friend and would look into the situation to see if it is true and what the procedure is to apply for a computer. We would have an impromptu birthday celebration for Dog and Terri Herrle following the meeting. There had been problems with getting appointments with the Seguin VA Outreach Clinic. The attending PA has been fired and that is causing a backlog. We will keep up on the situation.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 PM. Next meeting will be March 8 at 7PM.

This Newsletter is edited and published by **DAV Chapter 61**, PO Box 325,
Seguin, TX 78156
We are located at 425 Vaughn 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: Richard Cusson
Adjutant: Margarita Bilbrey
Sergeant-at-Arms: Al Aranda

The Auxiliary Unit Officers

Commander: Terri Herrle
Senior Vice Commander: Lynette Sierer
Adjutant / Treasurer: Christa Howze
Chaplin: Jean Garriott