



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

January 2011

From the Unit Commander

We had a real nice Christmas dinner with a really good turnout. We had a number of special guests including our Auxiliary State Commander Joyce Brannen, District V Commander Angie Ruiz and many other past State officers. Our very special guests were 3 veterans from our adopted nursing home (Hacienda Oaks). We even had Santa Clause pay us a visit to surprise the children in attendance. I want to thank everyone who brought the side dishes to go along with the ham and deep fried turkey. The food was great.

We also presented Terri Herrle (past Unit Commander) with a plaque for her many years of service to the DAV Auxiliary. We would like to welcome 3 new members to our Unit. They are Vanessa Lewis, Rosario Cases, and Linda Leary. We are excited to have them join us.

The District V Spring meeting is almost here. It will be held in Victoria on March 5 and will be a one day event. We will elect our delegates at our February meeting and the Unit will pay the registration fee.

Some of our upcoming events include a Forget Me Not drive in April and a luau to be held at the Chapter house in May. We will need volunteers for both events. And always remember to be good to each other.

Jeanne Garriott
DAVA Unit 61 Commander

From the Editor

Well into the New Year and the Chapter is hitting the floor running. We have a number of "light events" coming up for which I hope we can get a lot of support.

CSO Training will be held February 19th at American Legion Post 2 in San Antonio. If you have an interest in becoming a Chapter Service Officer, this is a good opportunity to get in on some quality volunteerism and help fellow veterans and the Chapter at the same time. The list is filling, so get your name to one of the Officers or to me. I will be mailing it off soon.

Also, in February, we open the floor to officer nominations. We need people with new fresh ideas to step up and guide us down the never ending road that enables us to achieve our goals. Don't be bashful, nominate someone or yourself, make a difference in this community.

The District V annual Meeting will be on Mar 5th; details to follow, but it will be held at the VFW Post 4146 in Victoria. Delegates are being nominated, so if you want to go, let CDR DeLeon or one of the other Officers know.

Fire and Iron, the local Firefighters motorcycle club, will be doing a benefit fund raiser for the DAV between late Apr and early May at Dirty's Bar on Highway 46. They are currently building a 12' heavy duty field/utility trailer for auction and would like to know if anyone would like to donate a box suitable for being fitted to the tongue of the trailer. We have arranged for Kay's Jewelers of the San Marcos Outlet Mall to donate a piece of jewelry for this event as well. They continue looking for large value raffle items, maybe a new shotgun or other item of value. Items for auction are welcome as well. If you have an "in" with a local vendor, pull some strings. 75% of the proceeds from this fundraiser go to Chapter 61, so it benefits us to help them.

By the way, Kay's Jewelers have been vary good to us. If you plan on buying something in the order of jewelry, may I suggest you go and check them out first. Carl, the Manager, is a great guy and a veteran himself. Thank him for his efforts and maybe patronize his business.

Cdr DeLeon is still recovering and doing pretty well, but he has a bit of a road before him. Keep him and his family in your prayers. If you or members you know are in distress please let or one of our Officers know (especially the Chaplain).

Have a great month and be safe.

Marlin Howze
Editor

From the Chaplain

Take First Things First

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness;

and all these things shall be added unto you."

Matthew 6:33

Charlie Brown comes up to bat. He is determined, as always, to do well. Someday, just maybe, his team will win a game. And someday, just maybe, he might be a baseball hero.

Strike THREE! Charlie Brown has struck out again. He returns to the sidelines and slumps down on the bench. "Rats! I'll never be a big-league player. I just don't have it! All my life I've dreamed of playing in the big leagues, but I know I'll never make it." Lucy turns to console him in her inimitable way. "Charlie Brown, you're thinking too far ahead. What you need to do is set some more immediate goals for yourself."

Charlie looks up, appearing to brighten at the prospect of something positive that might come from all the negatives he is experiencing. "Immediate goals?" "Yes," Lucy advises, "start with the next inning. When you go out to pitch, see if you can walk out to the mound without falling down."

Too often, we allow ourselves to stumble over our daily chores because our minds are in the clouds, dreaming about the person we will become someday. It's okay to dream about tomorrow, but *live* in the today!

Excerpt from God's Little Devotional Book for Leaders

As your Chaplain, I am available to all members of Chapter #61 and their immediate family for discussion of any spiritual matter or counseling. Please feel free to contact me at richardcusson@hotmail.com or by calling me at (830) 491-8009.

May God's peace and blessing be with all of you.

Chaplain Richard Cusson

Upcoming Events

CSO Training: American Legion Post 2 in San Antonio, Feb. 19, 2011. Time to follow.

Dist. V Annual Meeting: VFW Post 4146, 2001 Love/VFW Dr., Victoria, Mar. 5, 2011 starting at 9am.

Fire & Iron Benefit: Apr-May, Dirty's Bar

That's our known official functions to the end of February and a bit beyond 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, and Dennis Lorance,

Committee Chairs: Membership – Phil Sierer, Building - John DeLeon, Hospital – Richard Cusson, Honor Guard Captain – Juan DeLeon.

DAV MEETING MINUTES Jan 11, 2011

Quorum: Yes

Brief Joint Session with DAVA – March 5th is annual spring conference one day event in Victoria, TX.

Need to get dates set up with Wal-mart for the Forget-Me-Knots. Suggest April 1st and 2nd.

This fundraiser is for the chapter. The chapter and auxiliary members agreed that these days are acceptable.

There are new guidelines for members to be able to join the auxiliary. Step-family members are now eligible for membership

as well as extended family members of any person that has served in the military. March 5th meeting we will need to get the delegates out and get the service officers for February 19th.

DAVA Retires

Visitors: Richard Silva is an 18 yr old that would like to join the Marines and father Rick Silva. Came in to visit and check things out.

Vote on New Members: Motion from Larry Bilbrey and 2nd by Gary Elley, to accept transfers Jessica Buerger, Leallan Buerger, and Albert Leary

New Members:

Robert Lewis, and Andrew Cases. Motion Mike Fore 2nd by Larry Bilbrey all in favor, motion pass

Reading of minutes: Motion to approve Gary Elley Seconded Larry Bilbrey
Carried: minutes accepted

Treasurer Report: From Dec 1 To Dec 31.
Beginning : \$10,140.87
Closing Balance \$10,141.09
Motion to approve: Marlin Howze, 2nd
Mike Fore

Bills or Communications:

None. Handled as per C&B.

Sickness or Distress (Chaplain):

Commander Juan DeLeon, Comrade Doug Herrle, Comrade Dennis Roy, Larry Bilbrey,

Unfinished Business:

Breakfast postponed and it is cold and will have to be here early 5am -6am and do not see any assistance at this moment. Terrie and Mike are going to wait and make a

decision on this. Once a month on a Saturday will be the breakfast. Inform the gazette and kwed on the dates and times.

New Business:

Luau. Mike Fore discuss a fundraiser in May that will be a Hawaiian Luau. Mike passed out a handout to be included with the minutes.

Mike would like to get a banner to put across the road to point to the DAV and let the community know we are here.

Discussion on the floor on committees and gathering information and get going. Tentative date is May 14th with 21st as secondary date.

Brick Sales. We will be receiving another check from the sale of the bricks. Motion

Larry Bilbrey to give half of next donation to DAVA Marlin Howze 2nd and all in favor. Motion carried.

Heater. Larry Bilbrey brought up the issue of the heater. Approximately \$1600.00. Motion by Dennis Garriott to purchase the heater and have it installed. 2nd by Larry Bilbrey. All in favor, motion carried.

New Copier. Discussion of a new copier- a donation of \$1000 for the purchase of a new copier. Marlin will get exact figure of the commercial copier and discuss with Former Chief Police Collazo.

Motion to close: Marlin Howze, Second Larry Bilbrey. Adjourn at 8:01pm.

Next meeting: February 8, 2011

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

PTSD Group: Every Tuesday, 1:30-2:30pm

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: Juan DeLeon (Email: tx61cdr@davfrat.org)

Senior Vice-Commander: Phil Sierer

Junior Vice-Commander: Dennis Garriott

Treasurer: Larry Bilbrey

Chaplin: Richard Cusson

Adjutant: Margarita Bilbrey

Sergeant-at-Arms: Gary Elley

The Auxiliary Unit Officers

Commander: Jeanne Garriott

Senior Vice Commander: Lynette Sierer

Junior Vice Commander: Christa Howze

Adjutant / Treasurer: Terri Herrle

Chaplin: Liegh Harrelson