



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

Sep 2011

Editor's Note

Well – the Chapter and Unit have had a very busy last couple of months. I apologize for missing last month's edition due to the amount of busy-ness we've had around the Chapter House.

The biggest thing going on of course has been the developments surrounding a grant that was provided to the Chapter by Blue Bonnet Trails Community Services (BBT), LLC. Looking for worthy organizations to invest in, BBT was directed to our Chapter as a worthy beneficiary of a substantial grant. Leo DeLa Garza and Jarod Meyers of BBT visited our location, observed the work we are doing and liked what they saw. Their intent was to expand what we are already doing by taking on a new program, Bring Everyone Into The Zone (BEITZ), part of a Veteran Drop-in Center. The proposal was that they would upgrade our facility for an agreement to operate at a higher degree of involvement and open for longer hours. This would include a week long training class in Peer-To-Peer course facilitation. We agreed, and were able to get 27 volunteers to start up the new program. This was the largest single group they had ever trained and represented a significant boost in the network they were trying to establish. Bravo Zulu (Well Done) to the volunteers that undertook this intense week of training.

Training finished, and upgrade to the building is mostly finished as the grant was fully spent. The visible effects of this partnership are represented by the brand new parking lot, air conditioning to our large meeting area, new lighting, electric upgrades, new computers, phone systems and more.

What remains now is to get the program running with volunteers to staff and fund this new venture. Comrades Gary Elley and Terri Herrle are Chair/Co-Chair for this new program which includes volunteers not only from Chapter and Unit 61, but the Geronimo VFW and Seguin American Legion as well. Truly, an example of veterans helping veterans.

Your officers and members have worked tirelessly over the last 2 months to make this sweeping change. I am very proud to be a member of this Chapter and a comrade to all those who work in helping our veterans.

In other news, the Honor Guard continues to serve the community and representing the Chapter with distinction. If anyone is interested in being a member, contact Past Commander Juan DeLeon.

Chapter Service Officers are also busy taking care of our community veterans with their claims and other issues. If you are interested in

becoming a Chapter Service Officer see Past Dept Cdr Doug Herrle or Commader Phil.

I am including Minutes and the Chaplain's sermons from month with this month's submission.

Marlin Howze
Editor

From the Chaplain (August)

Those that have done nothing in life are not qualified to be judge of those that have done little.

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way that you judge others, you will be judged by God."
Matthew 7: 1-2

President Theodore Roosevelt once said, "It is not the critic who counts, not the person who points out where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the person who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly ; who errs and comes up short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasm, the devotion, and spends himself or herself in a worthy cause; who at best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement; and at the worst, at least fails while daring greatly; so that his or her place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

It actually takes very little effort to voice criticism. Judging others requires no degree, no expertise, no background, and no qualifications. It requires no investment of time, resources or self. In other words it costs nothing. And because of that, criticism is usually worth just that: nothing.

On the other hand, a life well lived is one that has few apologies to make. It is highly invested with self, energy, resources and time. It is rich in friends, associates and good deeds. It is built by effort and morality. And because of that, it is beyond value.

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

From The Chaplain (September)

Enthusiasm is contagious. It's difficult to remain neutral or indifferent in the presence of a positive thinker.

"Finally brothers and sisters, whatever is true...honest...right...pure...lovely... of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things."

Philippians 4: 8

A young man once placed this ad in a New York City paper:

'Inexperience is the most valuable thing a man can bring to a new job. A man of inexperience you see, is forced to rely upon imagination and verve, instead of timeworn routine and formula. If you're in the kind of business which is penalized by routine and formula thinking, then I'd like to work for you. Inexperience is my forte. I'm 25 – years old and have the ability to become enthusiastic and emotionally involved in my work.'

He was immediately hired by a chain of photo studios.

Be enthusiastic today about every area of your life – your family, your friends, your coworkers, your comrades, your work, your hobbies, your church and your relationship with God, but especially your dreams and your potential to achieve them. People gravitate towards a person who radiates hope and joy, bringing with them unique opportunities, sound advice and valuable resources.

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

(Chairman), Marlin Howze, Phil Sierer, and Dennis Lorance,

Committee Chairs: Membership – Dennis Garriott, Building – Leon Garcia, Hospital – Richard Cusson, Honor Guard Captain – Juan DeLeon.

Upcoming Events

POW/MIA: Sep. 16, 2011. Geronimo VFW. This is a Guadalupe County Veteran's Council Event.

District V Pre-planning meeting. For Dist V meeting in Mar. Oct 1st. 9am-4pm.

Forget-Me-Not Drive: 7-8 Oct. Wal-Mart Parking Lot. 9am-4pm.

Veteran Comfort Zone Grand Opening: Oct 15. 10am.

That's our known official functions to the end of July 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

DAV CHAPTER 61 MEETING MINUTES

(Condensed)

August 8 13, 2011, 7PM

OPENING PRAYER/FLAG HONORS

Quorum: Yes

JOINT SESSION:

- 1) A special Thanks to LEON for cleaning the bay and having it prepared for the meeting. There was building maintenance.
- 2) Juan DeLeon announced and showed the award given to Doug Herrle presented for his wonderful support of veterans and their families.
- 3) Sept 11 7pm- 8:30pm Central Park- Patriots Day Event
- 4) Sept 16th-POW Ceremony held at Geronimo VFW at 6:30pm
- 5) Oct 7-8 for Forget-me-Knots 9am – 4pm
- 6) October instead of dinner and dance, we will be doing a raffle. The cost will be of tickets, and we will need to sell, sell, sell- looking for donations of raffle items. Raffle prized will be given during the Christmas Party
- 7) Seguin Gazette- we donate money in order for a school to receive newspaper, we suggest the money go to support the newspaper go to Jefferson Elementary \$250. Auxiliary offered to pay half. Garriott made motion, John Cuellar 2nd – All in Favor, motion carried.
- 8) Marlin welcomes the Fire & Iron Motorcycle Group. The group has adopted us to assist in funding our chapter. There was a fundraiser with raffle items. Chase Humphrey, president of Fire & Iron presents 2 checks \$562 for the Auxiliary \$874.50 for the Chapter. Thanks Fire and Iron!!!
- 9) Tentative date for grand opening for the Drop-In Center- Sept 24.

- 10) August 22-26, Bluebonnet is going to hold a session. 8-5 mon-thurs Friday will be over by 1pm. Will be at the GVEC building in the Community room. We need 20 people at least, so everyone interested please show up!!!!Sign up ! Get involved!

CHAPTER SESSION

- 1) Minutes of last meeting. Motion to waive reading: Doug Herrle, 2nd James Dickerson, carried.
- 2) Treasurer report, Not available, treasurer ill.
- 3) SAA Introduce visitors. Jeff Logere, new disabled soldier, possible new member.
- 4) New Member(s): Reinhold Odom
- 5) Sickness or Distress. Comrade Sam Flores passed away. Comrade Johnny Crisp in & out of hospital – hip problem, Comrade Doug Herrle in and out of hospital- chest pains. Larry Bilbrey will be having a 4th surgery on his ankle- date not set yet.
- 6) Committees
 - a. Legislation - Medication for tri-care prime will not be increased!
 - b. Service Officer_
 - i. Hours unavailable.
 - ii. Honor Guard has been doing many hours- meals will be discontinued unless you pay out of pocket. When finances improve, we will resume the meals.
- 7) Unfinished Business
 - a. Most covered while auxiliary was present.
 - b. Bluebonnet Trails- training on August 22nd, Under construction the parking lot and the a/c units for the bay area. There will be 3 computers for a computer station for the veteran drop-in center, as

- well as a projector and screen, and PA system so everyone can hear everyone. The barn in the back may be torn down and the city waived all the fees and pitch in \$5,000 for the engineering cost for the parking lot.
- c. Need to become more aggressive with our fundraising efforts- utility costs are on the rise and funds are getting low.
 - d. Veterans have received large amounts of back pay (50,000 and more) and they give the chapter house at most \$200 after all the work done to assist in the claims. The chapter is here to assist voluntarily. It is sad we assist and they get what they want and leave. Please think of your local chapter house and assist in our monthly running of the building.
- 8) New Business
- a. Leon has requested a 12 foot ladder for changing filters on the a/c \$266. Miguel Telles will donate the ladder to the chapter house. Miguel will get with Leon and purchase the ladder.
 - b. Insurance- we were late on paying the building Insurance – we need approval for them to draw from our account \$644.88
Motion by Doug Herrle, 2nd Frank Rociardo all in favor, yes
 - c. Next item: Dawg Days TLU august 27th, paint the gray wall white or off white- it will take at least two coats – have paint with primer in it Dennis motion to purchase the paint, Mike Fore 2nd, everyone present in favor.
- 9) Good of the Order
- a. Marlin has tickets for a dance at the VFW in New Braunfels-
- August 20- Voice of Democracy program.
- b. Gary Elley sent letter to see about the VA van. The van has been requested for funeral detail. Elley wrote the commissioner and the DAV is authorized to use the van accept for days it will be used to transport veterans for medical appointments. –check on point of contact.
 - c. We need a new flag!! Gary Elley will contact Woodman’s of the World. They donated the flagpole and said they would replace the flag free.
 - a. Need new flags for the chapter house!!!The complete set up is about \$600.00 for each.
- 10) Motion to adjourn Marlin Howze, 2nd by Juan Cuellar, all in favor. Adjourn!!!!
- 11) We are adjourned to meet again at 7PM on Aug 8.

DAV CHAPTER 61 MEETING MINUTES

(Condensed)

September 13, 2011, 7PM

OPENING PRAYER/FLAG HONORS

Quorum: Yes

JOINT SESSION:

- 1) Commander thanked the Chapter and Unit for the work in establishing the new "Veterans Comfort Zone"
- 2) DAVA will have raffle tickets ready at next meeting for sale.
- 3) Forget me Knots- October 7-8th 10am - 4pm
- 4) This Friday Joint Remembrance POW/MIA starts at 6:30pm. At the VFW in Geronimo.
- 5) Need volunteers in full DAV uniform for presentation of the Colors
- 6) Fire in Bastrop - lots of veterans and DAV members have lost their homes. The DAVA has come up with \$200 for the Bastrop Relief Drive. A VFW and a Bastrop Church up there has a drop off point. Need basics- bottled water, soap, toothbrushes, DAVA- Terri will be going on Thursday and purchase the items requested. Discuss the DAV van being used to deliver the items. James Dickerson made a motion to \$200 and was amended to \$300 and 2nd by Marlin Howze. All in favor.. none opposed. Motion passes. This makes a \$500 contribution by Chapter and Unit.
- 7) October 1st Pre-Planning meeting for the District V meeting in March. 9-4
- 8) October 15th -Grand opening 10am for the "Veterans Comfort Zone". Help will be needed around 8am-8:30am
- 9) November 12th in Luling- Chapter Honor Guard is requested for a Prayer Gathering for veterans- Ms. Cox, start at 6pm in the evening. Juan DeLeon will

pass out more information after the next meeting.

CHAPTER SESSION

This Chapter meeting is now open for any business properly coming before it.

- 1) Vote on Transfer of Members (approved)
 - a. N/A
- 2) New Members: Reginald Lewis, Enrique Arzola, Martin Frazier, Bob Carter, Sharon Reininger, Paul Lusby. Welcome aboard.
- 3) Reading of the minutes of last Chapter Meeting. Motion to waive reading of the minutes by Doug Herrle, 2nd by Marlin Howze, Carried.
- 4) Treasurer's Report Period from 8/1/11 to 8/30/11. Beginning Balance \$7327.48. Closing Balance \$2529.50. A note from Commander on balance: Executive body had to spend \$1900 to finish out grant money by deadline. This money will be reimbursed by BBT shortly. Also, City of Seguin has authorized a reimbursement on Engineering fees for Parking Lot for \$5000, hopefully coming soon.
- 5) Sickness or Distress.
 - a. Larry Bilbrey recovering from foot surgery.
 - b. Leonard Humes (Past Dept. Cdr) is in hospital following a fall, our prayers go out for him. Discussion of sending flowers. Marlin Howze made a motion for \$40 with the auxiliary matching \$40 and Larry Bilbrey 2nd. All were in favor.
- 6) Reports of Committees
 - a. Membership- we are making goal.

- b. Legislation- Governor Perry made comments on the Social Security- telling kids to keep paying into social security and it may not even be there for us let alone any for them. Need to get the word out VOTE.
 - c. Service Officer – 192 hours available for veterans- saw 49 veterans, had 70.3 hours actual time spent with veterans- Feb 18, 2012 will be the training for Service Officer. Honor Guards for the funeral- had 2 recently and the donations are not great but we are there for the veterans.
- 7) Unfinished business
- a. Commander pointed out to all present to pay attention. We have a paved parking lot and new paint in the bay area, 4 new computers, new PA system, new lights, new A/C in the bay area.
 - b. Bluebonnet Trails is in conversation with Home Depot for landscaping the chapter house
- 8) New Business
- a. Need 3 people to volunteer to be on the Audit committee- Bill Owen, James Dickerson, JJ Chapa
 - b. November 11- Veterans Day- The GI-Forum is heading up the Veteran's Day and there will be a parade. This is a Guadalupe County Veteran's Council Event.
 - c. November 17th- DAVA Mobile Van will be here
- d. March 2-3, 2012- District V meeting.
 - e. American Legion Alamo Post #2, 3518 Fredericksburg Rd., San Antonio, TX 78201.
 - f. A Member looked out for storage units- found trailers for storage at cost of \$1800. This is an item for future discussion.
 - g. Will need to seal the parking lot in a few months down the road to keep the parking lot from breaking down. Cost could be about \$3500. (does this cost include the striping of the parking lot)
- 9) Good of the Order
- a. October 21st – 23rd at the New Braunfels VFW- STATE COMMANDER RIDE- bike rally, band, food, vendors- \$20 for the weekend. Come on out and join the fun. Gary Elley discussed selling the wooden plaques at the rally.
 - b. GeronimoVFW having the annual chili cook off on Oct 8-9
- 10) Moment of Silence for our fallen Comrades (Commander)
- 11) Closing Ceremony (Commander), Salute the flag (SAA), Closing Prayer (Chaplain)
- Larry Bilbrey made motion to adjourn meeting, Doug Herrle 2nd all present voted in favor.
- We are adjourned to meet again at 7:00PM on 10/11/2011.

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: Phil Sierer

Senior Vice-Commander: Dennis Garriott

Junior Vice-Commander: Mike Fore

Treasurer: Larry Bilbrey

Chaplin: Richard Cusson

Adjutant: Margarita Bilbrey

Sergeant-at-Arms: Gary Elley

The Auxiliary Unit Officers

Commander: Terri Herrle

Senior Vice Commander: Lynette Sierer

Junior Vice Commander: Jeanne Garriott

Adjutant / Treasurer: Christa Howze

Chaplin: Liegh Harrelson

State Executive Committeewoman: Jean Garriott

Alternate SEC is Leigh Harrelson