



Texas Chapter & Unit 61 Newsletter



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April 2012

Commander's Comments

Greetings to all! With spring upon us and summer fast approaching, we have several important events coming up. As you are well aware, it takes a lot of participation from our membership to make our fundraisers successful so I hope you will join us in these activities. Always remember that our support of our veterans through our Chapter, Auxiliary and the Veterans Comfort Zone is largely dependent upon the success of our fundraisers. Please mark these events on your calendar and join us in making lives better for veterans and their families.

April 20th: Geronimo VFW Homeless Veterans Benefit – 50's Sock Hop

Dance, lots of food, contests and door prizes. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased in advance from Bill Owens or at the door. Net proceeds will benefit the VFW Homeless Veterans Program.

May 1st: State Congressman Ruben Hinojosa, 15th District of Texas

Will meet with us at our Chapter House at 2:30 PM after the PTSD support group concludes. Due to the recent redistricting, he is now our representative. He will also be at TLU at 12:30 PM. This could be our opportunity to learn more about him and his views on veterans' issues.

May 8th: Monthly meeting of Chapter

Meeting time is 7:00 PM. Final nominations will be received and election of officers for the next year will be elected. Also, additional discussions on the several of these upcoming events will continue

May 17th through 20th: Armed Forces Day

Sponsored by the local American Legion this will be a community event including a quality carnival, food and

beverage booths. Members of our Armed Forces and their families will be honored guests. Our Chapter and Auxiliary have committed to a food booth serving chicken and beef tacos and pinto beans. A sign-up sheet for shifts manning this booth will be available at the Chapter House within a couple of weeks. As this is a 4-day event and a very favorable community response is expected, we will need plenty of help so please sign up for for at least one shift.

May 26th. Fire and Iron 87's Memorial Day Motorcycle Run and Fundraiser at Dirty's BBQ on Hwy 46 and Elm Grove Road

This is the 2nd year for this annual event with net proceeds to benefit our Chapter. The Chapter and Auxiliary voted to donate \$150 each toward the purchase of a *Go Pro Camera* (Camera that attaches to motorcycle handlebars) to donate as an auction item. This year's theme is camping, hunting and fishing. It is most important that we support this event as our Chapter has been selected to benefit from this event. At our April 10th meeting, officers from Fire and Iron gave us posters to distribute advertising the event and also stated that they need more auction items. Auxiliary Commander Terri Herrle is receiving auction items at the Chapter House. You can bring them in on Tuesday or Wednesday between 9 AM and 1 PM, or to our next meeting on May 8th. In addition to the motorcycle rally, there will be activities throughout the day and plenty of food. The auction will begin once all cyclists have returned from the rally (anticipated early afternoon). Our assistance will also be needed throughout the day assisting with this event. Once we

receive a list of volunteer services needed, we will post a sign-up sheet at the Chapter House. As with all our events, but especially with this one, we need to proudly support it. Not only will the event benefit our Chapter, but this also gives us an outstanding opportunity to acknowledge and support our brave firefighters, heroes who are willing to put their lives on the line every day to keep us safe. Contact for this event is Chapter Adjutant Marlin Howze.

May 28th: Memorial Day Observance at San Geronimo Cemetery

This event is under the direction of the Seguin American Legion with participation by all local veterans' organizations. Our Honor Guard will fire the 21-gun salute, play Taps and present the flags. A representative from each veteran's organization will say a few words. Auxiliary members will provide cookies for the short reception after the ceremony. Organizations also providing bottled water.

June 22nd through June 24th: DAV/DAVA State Convention, DoubleTree Hotel, Austin, Texas

Call to convention has been received. Please keep these dates open. More information will be available at our May meeting. In addition to other important matters, state officers for the next year will be elected and installed at the convention. This is an excellent opportunity for you to learn about our DAV at the state level and how it affects us at the local level and matters at the national level.

Phil Sierer
Commander

I want to thank everyone, members of our Chapter and our Auxiliary Unit, who volunteered to participate in the March 17 and 18 Forget-Me-Not Fundraiser at the Seguin Wal-Mart. It was a very successful two days. Our next Forget-Me-Not fundraiser will be in the fall. We will once again have a sign-up sheet at the Chapter House so everyone will have the chance to participate.

The first nominations for Chapter officers were made at our March 13th meeting. Nominations will be made again at our April 10th meeting.

Memorial Day observance will be on May 28th. More information on this will be available as we draw closer to this date.

On March 2nd and 3rd, the District V DAV/DAVA Spring Meeting was held in San Antonio. Marlin Howze was elected 2nd Junior Vice Commander, and Richard Cusson was elected Chaplain for the District V DAV. Lynette Sierer was elected Commander of the District V DAVA and Terri Herrle will serve as Adjutant. I also want to thank the members of our DAVA who came forward and took the lead on planning, preparing and serving Friday's lunch. We received many complements on the food.

On May 26th, the Fire and Iron Motorcycle Rally and fundraiser will be held. Once again, our Chapter will benefit from the proceeds of this event. Our Chapter has been asked to donate items for the raffle and to assist with the rally by manning checkpoints along the motorcycle rally route. As this group has adopted our Chapter as their charity, we want to support them as much as possible. This event will be discussed again at our next meeting. In the meantime, if you have questions, please contact Marlin Howze, our Chapter representative for this important event.

Mark your calendars for June 22nd through June 24th. These are the dates for the Department of Texas DAV and DAVA state convention to be held at the Double Tree Hotel in Austin (same place as last year).

Gary Elley is selling tickets for the March 31st BBQ dinner to benefit Jayme Robinson who is in urgent need of a liver transplant. Tickets are \$8.00 each. The event begins at 5:00 PM at the Grain Bin Café and Store, 121 Dennis Drive and Hwy. 123. You can get your plates to go or stay to enjoy the live music and to participate in the silent auction and washer tournament. The medical bills associated with this transplant are massive and I know that your support will be deeply appreciated by Jayme and her family. For more information, please contact Gary.

In closing I want to also thank all of you who volunteer your time and talent to make our Veterans Comfort Zone a success. This is Vets helping Vets.

Phil Sierer
Commander

From the Unit Commander

It is with great sadness that I tell you of the passing of Delores Barnett's husband, Jerry. Delores and Jerry have been steadfast supporters (as well as life members of the DAV/DAVA) for many years. Rest in peace, Jerry.

Armed Forces Day is coming up on May 19. The American Legion will be holding a celebration on May 17-20. They are inviting Wounded Warriors

and their families. There will be a carnival and food booths. The DAV/DAVA will have a food booth and will sell fajita tacos and beans (the same as we will be selling for Freedom Fiesta on June 30). As usual, we need volunteers. Let us know if you can help out.

Also mark your calendar for May 28. This day is our annual Memorial Day program at San Geronimo cemetery in conjunction with the other veteran's organizations. As in years past each of the Auxiliaries will be providing cookies and water for refreshments. I will have more information on both events later.

Live, Love, Laugh

Terri

Facing Failure

Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written. . ." (Mark 14:27)

As you follow Jesus you will face moments of great distress. At times it will seem that events conspire to cause you to stumble in your relationship with Him. You do not initiate them, but they arise from opposition or the intensity of your circumstances. Nevertheless, failure is the end result. The disciples faced such fierce opposition to their Lord that they all failed Him on the night Jesus was crucified.

Peter boasted that he was incapable of forsaking Jesus (Mark 14:29–31). Yet Jesus assured the disciples even before their failure that it was inevitable. The Scriptures had prophesied it. God always knew the disciples would fail His Son; He wasn't caught by surprise. He had made provision for their shortcomings, knowing He would eventually develop them into apostles who would fearlessly preach the gospel, perform miracles, and teach others. Later, when the risen Christ encountered Peter on the seashore, He did not ask Peter for a confession of his sin, but a confession of his love (John 21:15–17).

You may fear that your failure has caught God by surprise. Perhaps you promised, like Peter, to stand with the Lord, but you failed. God was just as aware that you would fail Him as He was with the original disciples. He has made provision to respond every time you stumble. Don't think that somehow your failures are bigger or more complex than any God has dealt with. If you are facing challenges that seem overwhelming, don't be discouraged. God has already foreseen them and prepared for them (1 Cor. 10:13).

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

- ❖ **Apr 20:** VFW Post 8456 Sock Hop. 6PM. \$10/ticket.
- ❖ **May 1st,** 2:30PM: Visit by Congressman Ruben Hinohosa.
- ❖ **May 8th:** Monthly Mtg w/ final nominations and election of new Officers. Bring your voice.
- ❖ **May 17-20:** Armed Forces Day at American Legion Post 245.
- ❖ **May 26:** Local Fire & Iron Annual fundraiser for DAV Chapter 61. At Dirty's Bar B Que on H-46.
- ❖ **Jun 30th:** Freedom Fiesta. Chapter 61 to participate, need volunteers.
- ❖ **Jun 22-24:** Department Convention, Double Tree North Hotel, Austin, TX.
- ❖ **Aug 4-7:** National Convention, Las Vegas.

That's our known official functions to the end of the month 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 Chapter services please contact our staff of Volunteers. Volunteers are:

Chapter Service Officers (CSOs):

Doug Herrle (Chairman),
Marlin Howze,
Phil Sierer
Dennis Lorange
Sharon Reininger
Charles Glass

Committee Chairs:

Membership – Mike Fore
Building – Leon Garcia
Hospital –Richard Cusson
Honor Guard Captain – Juan De Leon

Veteran Comfort Zone (VCZ)

Gary Elley
Terri Herrle

DAV Meeting Minutes

Guadalupe County, TX Chapter 61

TIME: 7PM

Chapter House, 425 Vaughan St., Seguin TX 78155

DATE: 04/10/2012

CALL TO ORDER:

Prayer by Richard Cusson, Chaplain

Flag Honors: Y

Joint Session

- ❖ Fire and Iron event 26 May to raise funds for Chapter 61. Their annual event. The Chapter will provide a GoPro Camera for the main auction. \$300 was the agreed amount of donation limit for this event, ½ of which will be provided by the Auxiliary. Adjutant Howze acquire item. They

also need raffle items and support like they got last year. Sr Vice Commander Fore will act as liaison with Fire & Iron .

- ❖ Leon presented the new Chapter 61 Podium. Outstanding job. Portable mike is incorporated into the podium. Very nice.
- ❖ The Chapter and Auxiliary pulled in \$3400 on the last Forget-Me-Not drive. That's \$1700 each to the Chapter and Auxiliary. Great job to those who participated. With the number of Veterans the Chapter is seeing and taking care of, these little drives are essential to keeping us in the paper and ink used to in our service work. Keep up the good work.
- ❖ April 20th, VFW 8456 is putting on a "Sock Hop" at there post. Tickets are \$10/ea and include a burger and fries/w chips. See Bill Owen for tickets. They throw great events, go and you will surely have a good time. The event is to raise funds for the Homeless Veteran programs at the VA.
- ❖ Armed Forces Day May 17-20. Legion Post 245 in Seguin is hosting an Armed Forces Day event with a carnival, vendors, food, info etc. Saturday the 19th, they will try to bring wounded soldiers from SAMMC and Wounded Warrior Center to the event. All area Veteran Service Organizations are invited to participate. Info booth is free, a food booth is \$100 for all 4 days. A motion for the Chapter to participate with a food booth and an info booth and authorizing the \$100 expenditure was made by George, 2nd by Larry, carried. Chapter will participate. Volunteers please.
- ❖ Freedom Fiesta 30 June. Chapter & Unit will be selling beef/chicken fajitas' at his annual event. 100 lbs of meat 50/50 beef/chckn. Also will sell beans. Put it on your calendars, we need volunteers for this event.
- ❖ May 1st visit by Congressman Ruben Hinohosa. Will visit Chapter at 2:30 pm following the PTSD group therapy session.
- ❖ Memorial Day May 28th hosted by American Legion Post 245. Joint VSO event. DAV to provide Honor Guard for rifle detail. Joint color guard. Starts at 11 am at San Geronimo Cemetery.
- ❖ Jun 22-24 is Dept Conv. Double Tree North in Austin off I-35 between 290 and 183.
- ❖ Aug 4-7 is National Convention in Las Vegas. Let us know if you plan on attending.
- ❖ Last month we spoke of Seguin Ford making \$100 donations to Chapter 61 for any members who buy a car from them. Well, now North Star Ford is matching that figure. So, you have some Ford options.
- ❖ (Auxiliary retires)

Roll call of officers by Marlin Howze, Adjutant

Commander:	Present X	Absent
Sr. Vice Commander:	Present X	Absent
Jr. Vice Commander	Present X	Absent
Treasurer:	Present X	Absent
Chaplain:	Present X	Absent
Adjutant:	Present X	Absent

Total officers & members present: 21 (Roster attached)

Chapter had a quorum: Yes x No ___

Seven (7) Members shall constitute a quorum. 2 members present shall be elected officers.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Names of transfer members: Douglas Shewalter, Richard Salinas.

Names of visitors: None

Names of New Members: 2 new (names not available at time of report and not present at meeting)

Names of new members who were initiated: Laura Jones, William Bitner, Reno Riley, Jesus Ponce.
(New members and those who have not been previously initiated must be initiated at the meeting and their names recorded in minutes.)

READING OF THE MINUTES: Adopted ___x___ Adopted as amended_____

(The commander asks if there are corrections to minutes. Hearing none he/she would declare the minutes are approved as read. If there are corrections, the minutes would be adopted as amended by unit vote.)

Minutes are posted on Chapter Website and mailed via Newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT: From Feb 1, 2012 To Mar 29, 2012

Beginning balance \$10,039.70 (adjusted)

Closing balance \$9696.17

Motion to Accept George, 2nd Larry Motion Carries: Y

BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS: (list attached)

- ❖ DAV Nat'l 2012 Legislative Handbook. Given to Legislative Chairman.
- ❖ DAV Nat'l letter showing a 2010-2011 Finance Report error. Error was that Chapter 61 listed over \$5k in reported expenses (due to grant from BlueBonnet trails). Expenses over \$5k must be itemized Commander and Adjutant corrected this issue with an itemized report feature.
- ❖ National Membership Standings Report (given to Membership Chairman).
- ❖ Dept Call to Convention. Presented to body at meeting. Adjutant to take action.
- ❖ Nat'l Call to Convention. Presented to body at meeting. Adjutant to take action.
- ❖ Letter from Nat'l Mbrship. Transfer of member. Member approved Sr Vice to take action.
- ❖ Member Frank R. brought up VA Town Hall meeting to be held at VFW 4815 concerning care for minorities. Frank R. to attend.

SICKNESS & DISTRESS:

- ❖ Comrade Charles Brieden passed away last week.
- ❖ Comrade Harry D. recovering gall bladder cancer surgery.
- ❖ Comrades Mike F. to receive an Upper GI Study, 24 Apr.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

- ❖ Membership: 7 new members.
 - Randy French
 - Ray Schneider
 - Michael Robinson
 - Gene Zunker
 - Gilbert Martinez
 - Welcome aboard to these individuals.
- ❖ CSO:
 - SOs: Total Hours Available- 240, Total hours with Vets – 115.5, Total vets seen-77.
 - Chaplain Hours: 17
 - Honor Guard Hours: 0 (no funerals)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- ❖ See Covered in Joint session
- ❖ VOA raffle continues.
- ❖ The Podium is finished. Great job by Leon and his wife.

- ❖ Calculator Bought.
- ❖ Delegate fees from District meeting paid.
- ❖ Insurance premium tabled till next meeting. Commander to speak with them about a discrepancy over items.
- ❖ State Convention Book. Ned to send payment and advertisement off to Dept.
- ❖ New Honor Flags were purchased and on display in back of bay. Nice.
- ❖ Nominations. Remain same from last month. Adjourned to next meeting. Mot-Larry, 2nd-Leon, Carries

NEW BUSINESS:

- ❖ Delegates for Dept of TX Convention. Phil, Richard C., Marlin, Frank R., Leon, Charles G., JJ Chapter to pay Delegate Fees Mot-Larry, 2nd JJ
- ❖ Department Convention Ad booklet. Buy ½ page ad for Jun 22-24 Department Convention. Motion by Doug H., 2nd by Leon G., carried.
- ❖ Nat'l Convention. Tabled to next meeting.
- ❖ New Cross on front door courtesy friend of Basil K. This is a non veteran who makes these for a living and donated to our Chapter. Beautiful laser carved Cross with the Soldier's Cross embedded. 4 ft high.

Moment of Silence. Remembrance of fallen comrades.

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: Chaplain announced that a new Bible Study Course will begin at 1:30pm on April 11th. "How do I deal with tough problems." See Chaplain Cusson for details.

Motion for Adjournment:

Motion by George, 2nd by Larry.

Carried: Yes No

CLOSING CEREMONY: Salute Closing Prayer by Chaplain

Next meeting will be 7 PM, on Apr. 10th, 2012

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

VCZ: Tue-Wed, 9am-3pm

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: Mike Fore

Junior Vice-Commander: Gary Elley

Treasurer: JJ Chapa

Chaplin: Richard Cusson

Adjutant: Marlin Howze

Sergeant-at-Arms: Leon Garcia

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