



Texas Chapter & Unit 61 Newsletter



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Commander's Comments

January 2012

First, I would like to express my best wishes to our members and their families for a happy, healthy and successful 2012. I also want to thank everyone for making 2011 a year of accomplishments for our Chapter and Auxiliary, not the least of which was the opening of the Veterans Comfort Zone.

As many of you will recall, our Veterans Comfort Zone (VCZ) officially opened on October 31st. We are still getting the word out about the VCZ, located in our chapter house. It is open to all veterans, active military and their families, to assist them with such challenges as food, housing and employment referrals, and spiritual support. Beginning on Wednesday, January 25th, at 1 PM, our chaplain, Richard Cussons will begin weekly Bible studies at the VCZ. Our first sessions will be based upon the book, *A Purpose Driven Life*. The Bible studies are open to everyone and free of charge so please come if you are interested.

Beginning the week of January 30th, hours for the VCZ will be Tuesday and Wednesdays, 9 AM to 3 PM. We encourage you to stop by sometime for a cup of coffee and some conversation with your fellow veterans.

On November 11th, our Veterans Day Observance, sponsored by local and area

veterans organizations, began with a parade originating at the Courthouse, running through downtown, and culminating at Veterans Park where the program was held. A representative from each organization presented short speeches and keynote speaker, Chante Shepherd, a member of the AF reserve, shared her thoughts on the importance of women in the military. Patriotic music was provided by the 5th graders from Jefferson Elementary School. The parade and program were well received by our community and, if possible, the short parade will become part of our annual celebration. Lead organization this year was the G.I. Forum. I want to thank them as well as the members of all our veterans groups for helping to make this 2011 Veterans Day observance a success.

Later that afternoon, Lynette, Andy and I accompanied Charles to La Hacienda Nursing Home for the Veterans Day observance there. Charles blessed the new U.S. and Texas flags presented to the home by the McQueeney VFW and Auxiliary. Then, each veteran living at the home was recognized and presented with a certificate of appreciation for military service and a ball cap recognizing his branch of service. The program ended with an ice cream social featuring red, white and blue sundaes.

Many of us attended the DeLeon family annual Veterans Day bar-b-que in New Braunfels. This is an event sponsored by Joe De Leon (Juan's cousin) and his family

and is free to all veterans and their families. This get-together has become an important part of our Veterans Day observance and seems to grow each year. We are most appreciative to Joe and his family for their commitment and hard work in providing this special event for veterans. We look forward to it each year.

On the evening of November 12th, several of us attended *A Night to Remember* at the Family Worship Center in Luling. Our honor guard was invited to present and retire the colors for this evening to honor veterans. The program of spirited gospel music was presented by *Freedom*, a gospel trio, whose music inspired us all. Jean Garriott played *Taps* as a special tribute to her husband, Dennis, Chapter 61 Senior Vice Commander, who died earlier that month. We hope this program continues as a permanent part of our Veterans Day celebration as well.

I would also like to remind you about the support group for veterans with PTSD held every Tuesday at 1 PM at the chapter house.

Our numbers continue to grow and we encourage every veteran with PTSD to attend. This support group is facilitated by the Austin Vet Center. A support group for the spouses of veterans with PTSD is held once a month on the 4th Saturday at 11 AM at the Austin Vet Center located at 2015 S. IH-35, Suite 101, Austin, Texas 78741(Southcliff Bldg, North Entrance). Both these groups are worthwhile and offer much-needed support, understanding and healing.

Our joint DAV/DAVA Christmas party was held at our chapter house on the evening of December 13th. It was a very successful

event for our members, their families and special guests. We were filled to capacity with approximately 120 people in attendance.

We had our raffle drawing that night and netted \$1,153 that equally benefited the Chapter, the Unit and the VCZ. We had an outstanding response from our community through the donation of items for the raffle. Many of our donors have committed to donate again for our next raffle. I want to extend a special thanks to the Sutton Brothers for frying our turkeys, and to all our auxiliary members who not only provided the side dishes and desserts, but also served everyone. Thank you again, ladies, as we would not be able to offer these most successful events without you!

Leon Garcia and Red Salas attended on the first deer hunt offered by the Veterans Outdoor Alliance (VOA) in conjunction with the Christian Outdoor Alliance (COA), held near Kerrville. The goal of these organizations is to provide disabled veterans with opportunities to enjoy the outdoors through hunts and socialization with other disabled veterans. Members of these groups negotiate with landowners to provide places for veterans to hunt and with local merchants to provide food and housing for the hunts. Mr. Babbs, a local Del Rio rancher graciously offered his ranch for a second hunt that was successfully attended by Lee Allen Beurger, also a member of Chapter 61. The third deer hunt sponsored by these organizations will be held the last weekend in January at the Mobley Ranch near Bryan. Both Richard Cussins and I are looking forward to the experience. I will advise you of our success in our next newsletter. There are plans for a hog hunt next fall. The VOA and COA hope to sponsor a raffle to raise money to cover the

expenses for the disabled vets attending this hunt. We will keep you posted on the progress of the raffle and the hog hunt as details come to us. Joel Hart, founder of the Veterans Outdoor Alliance, estimates that raffle tickets will be available this summer at \$5.00 each. We certainly want to thank Joel and the members of the VOA and the COA for their commitment and dedication in making this program available to disabled veterans.

Jan 2012

Editor's Note

Happy New Year. The year is off to a great start and the Chapter is already moving headlong into the New Year with Projects and Schedules. As we move into the new year, it is time to once again look at our commitments to the DAV and this Chapter. Our new location has enabled us to expand our capabilities for helping our brothers and sisters in arms as well as their families. This is great stuff, but with all this great stuff comes greater requirements. This location has higher utility fees, our expanded rolls in

veteran community service brings higher office material requirements, word of our fantastic Honor Guard spreads meaning more service requests.

All these things mean a deeper level of commitment from those players and others stepping up to the plate and becoming involved. Asking for those already involved to become more involved is always tricky. A better solution is for more members to become involved. I watched at the last meeting as many new members stepped up to the plate and volunteered for the CSO training. That's terrific and the right solution for keeping us online as the premiere local veteran service organization. I think we have a very solid group of members in our ranks, members who want to help others and get the job done. I thank all of you who for helping Chapter 61 achieve its mission goals.

Marlin Howze
Editor/Adjutant

Are You a "Whoever?"

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

When God sent His Son to earth, He opened the door of salvation to whoever would believe. That means anyone can become a child of His and have everlasting life! Isn't it good that He didn't just come to save certain kinds of people? Aren't you glad He doesn't have a bunch of rules and conditions for salvation?

Before Jesus came, people had to observe many laws in order to be holy enough to go into God's temple. They were constantly performing sacrifices to pay for their sins just so they could be around the presence of God. Even then, their sins were only covered up. They were still there. But when Jesus came, He was the final sacrifice. His blood doesn't just cover our sins; it washes them away! Now, instead of going to the temple to be near God, the Bible says we are the temple, and He chooses to live inside of us!

Today, thank God for His mercy and for extending the gift of salvation to whoever believes in Him. If you've never asked Jesus to be the Lord of your life, there's no better way to start the New Year! Choose Him and choose life and start the year off right!

God Bless,

Richard Cusson, DAV Ch61 Chaplain

Upcoming Events

- ❖ February 14th: Monthly meeting of Chapter 61 and Unit 61
- ❖ February 18th: Chapter Service Officer Training in San Antonio
- ❖ March 2 and 3: District V Spring Conference in San Antonio

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

Veteran Comfort Zone (VCZ)

Gary Elley
Terri Herrle

Committee Chairs:

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

DAV Meeting Minutes

Guadalupe County, TX Chapter 61
TIME: 7PM
425 Vaughan St., Seguin TX 78155

DATE: 01/10/2012

CALL TO ORDER:

Prayer by Richard Cusson, Chaplain
Flag Honors: Y

Joint Session

- ❖ Joel Hart of the Veterans Outdoor Alliance (VOA) spoke on success of first disabled veteran hunt and the article in newspaper. Thanks and round of applause for program.
- ❖ Terri thanks all helpers for the successful Christmas Dinner. Fun by all. Made \$1153 on Raffle, split 3 ways between Chapter, Unit and Veterans Comfort Zone (VCZ). Thanks to Basil Karm for getting over \$1500 in donated items for auction.
- ❖ Forget-Me-Nots need to be scheduled. Chapters will be in spring, Units in the fall. Need dates from Chapter so can schedule w/ Wal-Mart. Need volunteers.
- ❖ Don Daniels of the Texas Theater will be presenting a documentary on young men entering boot camp and then following them into duty. Event will be at the Texas Theater on Austin St. Jan. 27th, \$5 for tickets. Proceeds of the event will be donated to VCZ.
- ❖ CSO Training will be Feb 18th at Legion Post 2 on Fredericksburg Rd in San Antonio. Starts at 8. If you desire to attend see one of the officers to get your name on the list.
- ❖ Jan 14th, 11AM, the District V Pre-planning meeting will be held here at our Chapter House.
- ❖ Larry and Margarita have had to step down as Treasurer and Adjutant (respectively) due to heavy work and family commitments. We thank them for their hard work and service. Margarita continues as the District V Adjutant. JJ Chapa is the new treasurer and Marlin Howze the new Adjutant.
- ❖ End Joint Session (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: 28 (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 voted on: James Mosier (from Chapter 17)

Names of visitors: James Mosier, Seaniq Hart

Names of New Members: William A Bitner, Harry Drake

Names of new members who were initiated: Ran out of time, next meeting.

(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.)

Motion to Accept Frank, 2nd Margarita, Motion Carries: Y

TREASURER'S REPORT: From Dec1, 2011 To Dec 30, 2011

Beginning balance	\$4,530.97	Income	\$5975.62
Disbursements	\$479,81	Closing balance	\$9435.16

Motion to Accept Leon, 2nd Steven, Motion Carries: Y

BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

- ❖ Department Bulliten
- ❖ District V Delegate Letter (names were polled for delegates)
- ❖ Utilities

SICKNESS & DISTRESS:

No reports

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

No reports

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Covered in Joint session

NEW BUSINESS:

- ❖ Paul wants to give back to the Chapter via his handicrafts. Maybe work some booths at trade fairs along with someone else with similar interests. Will get together w/ Cdr for details.
- ❖ Already mentioned, but remember the Feb.14th pre-District mtg and the Feb 18th CSO training sessions. Took names of interested.
- ❖ New Fund Raiser. Cdr has BBQ pit. Needs repair and to be moved to Chapter. Trailer mounted and needs a fire box. Need a welder.
- ❖ Bible Study for VCZ. Starts the 25th of this month at 1:30 PM. Sign up sheets are posted. Starts off with a "Purpose Driven Life." Chaplain Cusson to facilitate.
- ❖ Flags for Honor Guard. Honor Guard Captain De Leon requests funds to purchase separate flags for Guard services. Motion by Phil for \$300 to the Guard for flags, 2nd by Margarita. C: Y. Additional monies to be funded through donations received by the Guard for services.

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: None

Motion for Adjournment:

Motion by Margarita, Seconded by Marlin

Carried: Yes No

CLOSING CEREMONY: Salute Closing Prayer by Chaplain

Next meeting will be 7 PM, on Feb. 14th, 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