

June 2013



Guadalupe County Chapter 61

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Commander's Corner

Once again we continue to grow with 5 new members and 1 transfer. This means everyone is doing a great job in promoting our Chapter and the work we do to help disabled veterans.

Doug, Marlin and I attended the Department Conference in Austin from June 7th through 9th. Everything went well until a resolution was presented to have District meetings just prior to the Department Conference. This would eliminate the Spring Conferences. At this time, Districts do not have any power or money. We discovered that Districts and the business conducted at this level are not recognized at the State or National levels. The only reason to have a District conference is to elect a Commander and one other person to serve on Department committees. As discussion concerning this resolution continued, it became apparent that the resolution would not be favorably accepted; State Judge Advocate Dennis Nixon moved that a committee be appointed to re-write the resolution for consideration at the 2014 Department Conference.

GREAT NEWS! Gary found someone who will finish construction of our BBQ pit. This means we can have BBQ anytime for any event. Currently we are borrowing pits or relying on others to BBQ for us. THANKS, GARY!!

THE CHAPTER HOUSE WILL BE CLOSED THE WEEK OF JULY 4TH. PTSD Support Groups, Bible Study and Service Officer Assistance will resume on Tuesday, July 9th & Wednesday, July 10th. The end of this month and the week of July 4th we will be very busy and we sure can use your help:

Sunday, June 30th: Honor Guard will be doing its thing at the Luling Watermelon Thump

Tuesday, July 2nd: Decorate trailer for July 4th Parade. If you would like to help decorate, the party begins at 10 AM at the Chapter House. Seriously, we will need all the help we can get as this is the first of 3 very busy days.

Wednesday, July 3rd: Freedom Fiesta. We will once again be selling chicken and beef fajita tacos. We will begin cooking and setting up our booth (more decorating!) at 2 PM. We will begin selling tacos at 6 PM and continue until the event ends at midnight. The event has been divided into 2-hour shifts. A sign-up sheet is posted at the Chapter House. If you don't make it to sign up, just come on down to the booth and we'll put you to work. We will especially need help taking down the booth at midnight. Per event rules, we cannot close out booth before midnight. Yes, it will be hot, the hours will be long and you may not want to see another fajita taco for a long, long time, but we have lots of fun working together and visiting with the folks who come by our booth. This is a profitable fundraiser for us so please help make it a success! We still have openings on the sign up list, help fill them in.

Thursday, July 4th: Guadalupe County July 4th Parade. We will meet at the Chapter House at 7:30 AM to load up our float (the trailer we decorated on July 2nd) so we can lineup at 8:30 AM in the parking lot of Palmer's Mortuary. All members- Chapter and Unit, children and grandchildren are invited to ride on the float. Please wear your DAV/DAVA shirts, hats and/or vests or any patriotic shirts and hats.

Our float will be decorated in red, white and blue. It's supposed to be hot and sunny so don't forget your sunblock and water. We will have some water on the float but bringing your own will ensure that you stay hydrated.

After the parade we will return to the Chapter House for a good old fashioned July 4th BBQ, featuring brisket and turkey. Please bring a side-dish to share. Ice tea and coffee will be provided.

Hope to see you at these events. We work and we have fun. Our community knows who we are, our mission and that we make important contributions to our veterans and to our community.

Phil Sierer, Commander

New Members

Isabel Wiatrek, Seguin
Bradley Hernandez, San Marcos
Robert Saucedo, Giddings William
Kelsh, Cibolo
Curtis Carson, San Antonio

Transferred Members

Freddie Hite, Lockhart

Welcome Aboard to Our New Members



Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary

Unit 61, Seguin, Texas

DAVA COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Summer is officially here regardless of what our calendar says. It seems that once again we missed out on spring and went right into summer. As shocking as this is to our systems, it's probably best as it prepares us for our very own special Texas season known as "August-September".

We have begun another year in the DAV/DAVA calendar and the following people were elected to serve Unit 61 as officers:

Commander:	Lynette Sierer
Sr. Vice Commander:	Leigh Harrelson
Jr. Vice Commander:	Joyce Farr
Appointed to Serve:	
Adjutant/Treasurer:	Terri Herrle
Chaplain:	Jean Garriott

We look forward to an active and productive year supporting members of Chapter 61, working to make lives better for disabled veterans and their families, and helping make Seguin a safe and beautiful community for our families.

Thursday, July 4th: Parade. All Unit and Chapter members, families-children and grandchildren- are invited to ride on our float. Please wear your DAVA shirts & hats or patriotic shirts/hats if you have them. It will be very hot, the parade is long and there is no shade on the float so remember to bring your sunscreen. You may want to bring some water with you. There is limited space on the float but we will carry coolers on the truck.

After the parade we will return to the Chapter House to cool off and enjoy a good old fashioned July 4th BBQ featuring brisket and turkey. We ask that everyone bring a side-dish to share. Desserts will be welcome, too. Ice tea and coffee will be provided.

I want all of you to know how proud I am of our Unit and all the good we do to benefit our veterans and our community. Not all Chapters have auxiliaries. This past year in District V, 2 auxiliaries surrendered their charters. We are very fortunate for the continuing support we have from our Chapter. We work well together and they support us in our independent projects. Ours is a "win-win" situation, with common goals and missions.

We are constantly seeking opportunities for community service. If you have any ideas, please let me know or bring it up at our next monthly meeting. One of our current projects is "Caps & Wraps". We are crocheting or knitting lap blankets/afghans and knitting caps for cancer patients.

My contact information is as follows:

Cell: 210-863-4257, Res: 830-914-2203, E-mail: oldrebel@satx.rr.com

DAVA COOKBOOKS NOW ON SALE

This is a fundraiser to benefit our DAVA Departmental (State) treasury. Each book costs \$15 and contains more than 300 recipes contributed by DAVA members, families and friends. We have a small supply of them at our Chapter House office. Once we sell these, we can get more until we sell all of them. Exact amount in cash, \$15, or a check made out to DAVA Unit 61 will be appreciated.

Our unit meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 PM at the Chapter House. This is the same time and place that our Chapter meets.

The Chapter 61 Staff.

Chapter Officers:

Commander	Phil Sierer
SV Commander	Gary Elley
JV Commander	Jimmie Dickerson
Treasurer	JJ Chapa
Chaplain	Richard Cusson
Adjutant	Marlin Howze
SAA	Leon Garcia
Honor Guard	Juan DeLeon
Service Officer	Doug Herrle

Unit Officers:

Commander	Lynette Sierer
SV Commander	Leigh Harrelson
JV Commander	Joyce Farr
Treasurer/Adj	Terri Herrle
Chaplain	Jeanne Garriott
SEC	Terri Herrle
Alt SEC	Jeanne Garriott

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 Groups:

Every Tuesday, 12 am-1pm and 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 2ND: MEMBERS TO DECORATE JULY 4TH PARADE FLOAT

JUNE 30TH: HONOR GUARD TO PERFORM AT LULING WATERMELON THUMP.

JULY 3RD: FREEDOM FIESTA

JUL 4TH: 4TH OF JULY PARADE

NOV 1ST: GOLDEN CORRAL IS SCHEDULED.

FEB 1ST 2014: CSO TRAINING FOR DIST V WILL BE HELD AT CHAPTER 61'S HOUSE.

MAR 3RD: DIST V MEETING WILL BE HOSTED BY CHAPTER 61. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE GERONIMO VFW HALL.

From the Chaplain

Binnacle List

- ❖ Comrade Williams, a Life Member, passed away this last Monday.
- ❖ Comrade DeLeon is at home recovering from surgery.

They are in our Prayers

Yours in Faith,
Chaplain Richard Cusson

DAV Meeting Minutes

Guadalupe County, TX Chapter 61

DATE: 06/11/2013

TIME: 7PM

Chapter House, 425 Vaughan St., Seguin TX 78155

CALL TO ORDER:

Prayer by Chaplain Richard Cusson

Flag Honors: Y

Joint Session

- ❖ The Memorial Day observance went well. Thanks to all who participated in making the event another success. And thanks to those who attended.
- ❖ July 2nd. Chapter members will decorate the Float for the 4th of July Parade in Seguin. We will begin around 10 am.
- ❖ July 3rd. Freedom Fiesta Fundraiser. We're selling fajitas. There is a sign up sheet in the office. This is a big opportunity for us to raise some money for the Chapter and its programs. We will need help to break down the concession at midnight.
- ❖ July 4th. Seguin Parade & Follow-up BBQ. Line-up is at 8:30am behind Palmer Mortuary.
- ❖ The Chapter will be closed the week of the 4th of July because of all the events going on at that time. We will reopen on the 8th.
- ❖ Feb 1, 2014. CSO Training is scheduled here at the Chapter House. A change to the past methodology is that the number of students attending class have not continued on to work as CSO's. The cost of printing and the teaching load on the NSO's have made them have to cut back. If you intend on working in the CSO field, you will still be taught.
- ❖ Mar 3, 2014. The annual Dist V meeting will be held at the Geronimo VFW Post 8456. Thanks to our brothers and sisters at the Post for allowing the meeting to happen there.
- ❖ An equipment company in McQueeney has volunteered to repair our BBQ pit for us, all we need to do is get it to them. We will put tires on the pit and transport it to the company.
- ❖ At the Dept of Texas meeting at this last weekend, Fully Developed Claims (FDC) were discussed. The idea is to expedite decisions from the VA on submitted claims. To do this they are allowing for a FDC claim in which all forms, supporting documents and related medical evidence is all submitted up front at the same time. We have seen some remarkable decision times using this method versus the conventional piecemeal submission method. See your CSO for info.
- ❖ A kudo for one of our own. At the recent Aux. Dept of Tx Convention, Dist V presented Cdr Lynette Sierer with an Outstanding District Aux Cdr Award. Good job Lynette. She does outstanding work for us as well.
- ❖ During the Committee assignments at the Constitution and Bylaws meeting, a resolution was submitted that would change the way District meeting would be handled. The idea was to remove the need for mandatory Dist meetings because of the advent of modern electronic means that could save the affected Chapters a lot of money. The proposal was that Districts would meet at convention taking care of their business. The resolution was written poorly and tabled for a special committee to look over.
- ❖ A new Bible Study class has begun. This lesson is on Revelations. All are invited with the topic facilitator being our own Chaplain Richard Cusson. There is a cost for materials of \$5.
- ❖ The Fire & Iron Station 87 Run and Raffle was cancelled due to rain. It is being rescheduled for a new date in July. We'll put the word out when we get it from them.
- ❖ (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
SAA:	Present	Absent X (Excused)

Total officers & members present: 19 (Sign in sheet attached)

Chapter had a quorum: Yes

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

Guests: None

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Names of New Members: Isabel Wiatrek, Seguin. Bradley Hernandez, San Marcos. Robert Saucedo, Giddings. William Kelsh, Cibolo. Curtis Carson, San Antonio.

(New members and those who have not been previously initiated must be initiated at their 1st meeting and their names recorded in minutes.)

Received Oath: Santiago Rodriguez. Pin given.

Names of Transferred In Members: Freddie Hite, Lockhart.

Welcome to all our new members.

READING OF THE MINUTES: Stand as posted-**Motion-Richard Cusson, Second-Jaime Cervantez, Carried.**

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

Minutes are posted on Chapter Website and bulletin board, and emailed via Newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT: From May 01 to 30, 2013.

Beginning: \$18,270.15. Ending: \$17,720.42. Full report and statements read aloud and are attached.

Motion to accept: Frank Rosario, 2nd: Wayne Leon Garcia, motion carries.

BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS: (list attached)

- ❖ Call to National Convention, 8-14 Aug, Orlando. Nat'l Letter on membership and legislation. Donation Receipt from Nat'l Drug & Safety and the Guadalupe County Sheriff.

SICKNESS & DISTRESS:

- ❖ Comrade Williams, a Life Member, passed away this last Monday.
- ❖ Comrade DeLeon is at home recovering from surgery.
- ❖ Keep these members and their families in your prayers.

LEGISLATION

- ❖ See Attached. Veteran related Bills approved 3, pending 15, dead 2. Some of the bills included dealt with HB214/HJR21 dealing with 100% widows whose spouses passed before current law is dead in the house. Bills dealing with increasing the \$ amount of appraised value for veterans less than 100% is dead. Other bills were read and a list is included with this report.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

- ❖ Membership: 5 new members and 1 transfers. Chapter 61's recruiting efforts continue to be phenomenal, keep up the good work by those responsible.
- ❖ CSO:
 - SOs: Total Hours 81, Hrs available 270, Veterans seen 54. Hrs for 5 Srvc Ofcrs. See attached report for details.
 - Chaplain Hours: May: 15 hrs, June: (up to 8 June) 8 hrs.
 - Honor Guard Hours: 2 funerals. 48 tot hrs for Brandenburg. 56 tot hrs for Limon. 104 tot hrs.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- ❖ See Joint for other Old Business.
- ❖ Still have not found a suitable storage container/bldg for the Chapter. Still looking.

- ❖ Still in the works, Chapter 61 and TLU are working to hold a 5K run benefitting the DAV. This is being targeted for Nov.
- ❖ Golden Corral is scheduled for Nov 1st.
- ❖ Nov will also see the Chapter hosting a Defensive Driver Course. Not for dismissing tickets, but good for reducing insurance rates.
- ❖ VFW Post 7110 is having their annual Sanctioned BBQ Cookoff on September 7th at their Post. If you know of people that would like to participate (or if the Chapter wants to field a team and pay the entry fee) applications and details are available through Adjutant Howze. They are also selling raffle tickets for a grill, \$5 ea. See Adj Howze for those as well.

NEW BUSINESS:

- ❖ See Joint Session for other New Business.
- ❖ DAV Outreach opportunities presented by Comrade Truax. List attached.
- ❖ Volunteers needed for a Chapter House clean up this next Monday (17th). (Thanks to Bill Alexander for coming out to help Comrades Garcia and Howze. Took a while, but the place looks good again.

GOOD of the ORDER

- ❖ We have too many books on hand. If you know people that need some, come and get them. Includes the videos as well. Comrade Truax stated that the Red Cross thanked us for our book donation.

Moment of Silence. Remembrance of fallen comrades.

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

We have free books (paperbacks) in the back. Take a look and feel free to help yourself.

Motion for Adjournment:

Motion by Richard Cusson, 2nd by Leon Gacia, carried.

CLOSING CEREMONY: __x__ Salute __x__ Closing Prayer by Chaplain

Next meeting will be 7 PM, on June 9th, 2013.