

May 2013



Guadalupe County Chapter 61

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Commander's Corner

I am happy to report that both our Chapter and Unit continue to be active in fulfilling our mission to make lives better for disabled veterans and their families. Through these efforts we also support our community through collaborations with other service organizations, and with contributions of time, talent and treasure.

One of these collaborations is with *Fire & Iron*, a local organization of firefighters who have adopted our Chapter to support through proceeds from their annual fundraiser. The 3rd annual **Fire & Iron Motorcycle Rally** will be this **Saturday, May 25th at Double G's** here in Seguin. The rally will begin at 10 AM and is expected to last until about 4 PM. If you want to participate in the rally but don't have a motorcycle, you are welcome to participate in your car or truck. This event has something for everyone - food & beverages, a DJ providing music and a raffle for 3 firearms. Raffle tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased at the event. It is estimated that the raffle drawing will be between 3:30 – 4 PM, after all rally participants have returned. I hope to see y'all there as it is a great opportunity to show our appreciation for their generous support. Please check with Marlin as there may be opportunities to volunteer at the event.

On **Monday, May 27th** we are hosting the annual **Memorial Day Observance at San Geronimo Cemetery beginning at 11 AM**. As is the custom, other veteran's organizations from Guadalupe County will be participating in the event. Guadalupe County Young Marines will place flags on the graves of veterans and assist at the event as needed. **We will meet at the Chapter House at 8 AM to load and transport tables and chairs to the cemetery**. This solemn observance will take only an hour or so out of our day to remember and honor our fallen comrades, as is the true reason for this holiday. After this we can enjoy the holiday on a lighter note with activities such as family get-togethers. While doing this please take a moment to think about the families observing this day without their loved ones honored this day.

June 7 thru 9 is the dates of our **Department Convention at the Double Tree Hotel in Austin**, the same location as last year. Delegates representing our Chapter will vote on any business items affecting our Chapter.

July 3rd we will have a booth at the **Freedom Fiesta** selling chicken and beef fajita tacos. This will be our 3rd year participating in this community event and is one of our best fundraisers as well as community exposure. The booth is manned by members of both our organizations and we have a lot of fun working together and visiting with others at the event. We will have a sign-up sheet at the June meeting and posted at the Chapter House. Each shift is 2 hours long.

The next day we will participate in the **July 4th parade**. Members of our Chapter and Unit are invited to ride on our "float". More details later.

Thanks again to all of you for your commitment and participation. This is what makes our Chapter successful in our endeavors to help disabled veterans and their families.

Phil Sierer
Commander

New Members

Bobby J. Gray-LaVernia
David R. Hampton-Marion
Curtis Milford-Emory
Royal w. Munro-Floresville
Larry Nicholson-Kingsbury
Victor Gutierrez-New Braunfels
Wayne Lukaszewki-Seguin

Welcome Aboard



Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary

Unit 61, Seguin, Texas

DAVA COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

I hope you don't get tired of hearing this and I'm going to say it again, "Thank you! Thank you!! Thank you!!! Ours is one of the busiest and most successful units in District V of Texas. I am always proud to submit our annual report of annual activities as it outlines all we've accomplished throughout the year to fulfill our mission to make lives better for disabled veterans and their families. Our membership numbers are impressive on paper, but many of these individuals are unable to participate due to age, illness or location yet they choose to continue supporting our unit through their dues. It is the small band of active members who make things happen, committed to our mission. You are always here to do whatever is needed to ensure the success of our projects.

Our support extends to other service organizations in our community and the surrounding area. When we support them through our donations of time, talent and treasure, we are helping to keep Seguin a safe and desirable community with strong family values including patriotism and pride in our country. Our Unit 61 has become recognized as an invested, committed member of our community through our collaboration with other organizations and for our gifts... Again,

THANK YOU! THANK YOU !! THANK YOU !!!

Please refer to Phil's Commander's Comments and Marlin's report on upcoming events. Hope to see y'all there.

We need your ideas on how to extend our outreach to more veterans and their families in our area. One group currently being missed is the younger veterans recently returned from fighting the war against worldwide terrorism. We are also seeking ideas for activities to benefit our community. This month we hosted a class teaching women self protection techniques. This class was hosted by the Veterans Comfort Zone (operated under the direction of Unit 61) and presented by a Guadalupe County Sheriff's Deputy. This event was very well attended and we are exploring the possibility of another class on this in the near future. **Please let us know of any suggestions you have.** Some ideas already received include a cooking class for kids, a family movie night, a class on appropriate business attire and how to prepare for an interview, and a monthly craft/sewing get-together. We want to provide these activities free of charge or for a minimal fee. Whenever possible, we want to coordinate with other service organizations to implement these activities.

At our meeting this month, the following members were elected (or appointed) to serve for a 1 year term

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.

(June 1, 2013 thru May 30, 2014):

Commander: Lynette Sierer
Sr. Vice Commander: Leigh Harrelson
1st Jr. Vice Commander: Joyce Farr
Adjutant/Treasurer: Teresa (Terri) Herrle
Legislative Chairman: Jean Garriott

Membership Chairman: Leigh Harrelson
Elected State Executive Committee Mbr: Terri Herrle
Alternate State Exec. Committee Mbr: Jean Garriott
Chaplain: Jean Garriott

My heartfelt appreciation to all of you for agreeing to accept these responsibilities. We look forward to another busy year fulfilling our mission,

Terri Herrle
Commander

From the Chaplain

Binnacle List

Douglas Herrle, Christa Howze

They are in our Prayers

Yours in Faith,
Chaplain Richard Cusson

As Memorial Day approaches, we are reminded of the sacrifices of those who have given their lives that we may enjoy freedom. For those who have passed they are at ease with the Lord. For those of us who live on without them, we must learn to continue with life and not lose hope from our grief of their passing. Hope is offered through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 25: FIRE & IRON MEMORIAL FUND RAISER FOR CHAPTER 61

MAY 27: GUADALUPE COUNTY VETERAN MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE

JUN 7-9: STATE CONVENTION

JULY 3RD: FREEDOM FIESTA

JUL 4: 4TH OF JULY PARADE

DAV Meeting Minutes

Guadalupe County, TX Chapter 61

DATE: 5/14/2013

TIME: 7PM

Chapter House, 425 Vaughan St., Seguin TX 78155

CALL TO ORDER:

Prayer by Chaplain Richard Cusson

Flag Honors: Y

Joint Session

- ❖ Memorial Day is on the 27th of May observed (Monday) and 30th (actual). Executive Board is coordinating with other Service Organizations. The event will take place at the San Geronimo cemetery. We will need all the DAV Volunteers that can make it on the morning of the 27th. We will have 2 groups working that morning; one will be helping to plant flags at the cemetery the other will be moving chairs, tables, trashcans, etc to the event site. Persons desiring to help plant flags can meet at the cemetery at 0830. People wanting to help set up the event site, meet at the DAV Chapter at 0830.
- ❖ Fire & Iron Station 87 will be having there benefit the 25th of May (Sat) at Double G bar on Kingsbury. This is a benefit to raise money for Chapter 61, if you can stop by and participate. We still have lots of raffle tickets they are selling, stop in and buy a few. The bike run starts at 11am and is over at 3pm, that's when the raffle and fun begins for the non-riders. Spread the word around and try to help us sell some of those raffle tickets as well.
- ❖ Department of Texas DAV Convention will be in June at the Doubletree Hotel in Austin. Delegates have been sent in, but will need to make sure they have the delegate cards with them.
- ❖ Freedom Fiesta will be July 3rd. We will have 1 booth selling Chicken and beef fajitas. Heb has meat on sale. **Bill Owen made motion to purchase chicken and beef, 2nd by Frank Rosario, motion carried.** We will be looking to sign up volunteers at next meeting.
- ❖ Honor Guard Captain Juan presented gifts to all the Ladies who have been helping out on the Honor Guard details lately and expressed his appreciation for their assistance.
- ❖ (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: 27 (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: Bobby J. Gray-LaVernia, David R. Hampton-Marion, Curtis Milford-Emory, Royal w. Munro-Floresville, Larry Nicholson-Kingsbury, Victor Gutierrez-New Braunfels and Wayne Lukaszewki-Seguin. (New members and those who have not been previously initiated must be initiated at the meeting and their names recorded in minutes.) 3 members sworn in, but I failed to copy their names, will amend minutes when names are researched.

Received Oath: Wayne Luaszewski, Larry Nicholson, Mary Moorey

Names of Transferred In Members: none.

Welcome to all our new members.

READING OF THE MINUTES: Stand as posted-**Motion-Frank Rosario, Second-JJ Chapa, 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 Mar 01 to 30, 2013.

Beginning: \$15,744.87. Ending: \$18270.15. Full report and statements read aloud and are attached.

Motion to accept: John Cuellar, 2nd: Wayne Lukaszewski, motion carries.

BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS: (list attached)

- ❖ Donation request from City of Seguin, Donation request Guadalupe Co. Sheriff, letter from Guadalupe Co. Attorney desiring to set up mental health task force (PTSD vets) to stem incarceration if possible (Gary Elley to follow). DAV Nat'l Mbrshp & Legislation Monthly. Various emails on Memorial Day program with Guadalupe County Veterans Council members.

SICKNESS & DISTRESS:

- ❖ Doug Herrle and Christa Howze are dealing with health issues, keep them in your prayers.

LEGISLATION

- ❖ See Attached. Includes report on activities of the Florida Based group "Veterans Support Organization (VSO)" activities being determined as illegal and misleading by the State of Florida.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

- ❖ Membership: 7 new members and 0 transfers. Chapter 61's recruiting efforts continue to be phenomenal, keep up the good work by those responsible.
- ❖ CSO:
 - SOs: Total Hours 85.5, Hrs available 270, Veterans seen 57. Hrs for 5 Srvc Ofcrs. See attached report for details.
 - Chaplain Hours: No hours reported.
 - Honor Guard Hours: No hours to report. Honor Guard has been requested to Post Colors for the Band of Brothers. Will meet at the Chapter House at 9am. 27 May, Rifle Guard will serve at the Memorial Day observance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- ❖ See Joint for other Old Business.
- ❖ Still have not received a date from the Food Bank truck for an arrival date.
- ❖ 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. Clean-up Days where TLU used the Chapter House to operate out of during their community events on Mar 2nd was a success.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ We are still looking to get our large BBQ pit welded up. Have been trying to get someone to do it pro-bono, but we may have to look to a commercial welder.
- ❖ Young marines presented \$300 motioned in previous meeting for leadership schools.
- ❖ 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.

- ❖ Sheriff Education Program (per correspondence). **Motion by Wayne Lukaszewski to donate \$144 for material for 100 children, 2nd by John Cueller, Carried.**
- ❖ City of Seguin education program request. **Motion to donate \$175 by James Dickerson, 2nd by Gary Elley, Motion carries.**
- ❖ Chapter 61 received a donation of \$1000 from New Braunfels VFW Post 7110 for the support to their members that Chapter 61 has rendered. Chapter 61 is greatly appreciative of the recognition and the donation by the New Braunfels Post 7110 of the VFW.
- ❖ Elm tree next to the Chapter House is dying and poses a threat to the building. Chapter pursued having the City remove the tree per ordinance. City inspector said the tree is fine and should not be removed. This is contrary to the Executive committee's evaluation of the tree's condition.
- ❖ Leon thanks all the volunteers that showed up to help cut back the tree line on surrounding fences. Even though it was a rainy morning, volunteers showed up and the job was done quickly.
- ❖ Chapter nominations for elections were held. No other persons were nominated. A **motion by Marlin Howze, 2nd by Frank Rosario and carrying** resulted in adjutant casting one blank ballot for a non contested election of the Executive Board. District Senior Vice-Commander Marlin Howze acted as Officer giving the oath of office to newly elected officers. Sworn in were Phil Sierer for Commander, Gary Elley for S. Vice Cdr, James Dickerson for J. Vice Cdr, JJ Chapa for Treasurer, and Richard Cusson for Chaplain. Comrades Howze and Garcia will continue as Adjutant and SAA respectively.

GOOD of the ORDER

- ❖ Comrade Chapa discussed new Bible Study class taught by Chaplain Cusson coming soon. Next class will be on Revelations. Study will continue on Wed 1:30-3pm every week. Chaplain Cusson will advise when materials arrive.
- ❖ More discussion on the News 10 report on the Veterans Support Organization. Copy of report provided.

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 JJ Chapa, carried.

CLOSING CEREMONY: Salute Closing Prayer by Chaplain

Next meeting will be 7 PM, on June 11th, 2013.