

October 2013



**COMMANDER'S COMMENTS
DAV CHAPTER 61 & DAVA UNIT 61, SEGUIN, TX
SEPTEMBER 2013**

Guadalupe County Chapter 61

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Hello again! Hardly seems possible but another month has passed and we are fixing to get really busy. So, once again, to save time and avoid repetition, we are combining our Commander's Comments for this newsletter. We again met together and we ask you to refer to the minutes of this meeting for more details on the upcoming events.

We first want to comment on the POW/MIA ceremony held last month at the Geronimo VFW. We sincerely thank them for once again providing the venue for this annual event and a special THANK YOU to Bill Owens for coordinating the ceremony and for serving as MC. We also want to express our gratitude to members of the Guadalupe County Veterans organizations and their auxiliaries who helped make this ceremony possible. We also want to thank the Guadalupe Valley Young Marines who participated in the program, helping to make it one of the most beautiful and meaningful ones we've had thus far. This year, for the first time, a junior member of DAVA Unit 61 participated. Mia Herrle placed the red rose on the missing man table. Thank you, Mia.

Come join us this weekend for our Forget-Me-Not fundraiser. We will be at the 2 main entrances on both Saturday and Sunday (October 12 & 13) from 9 AM to 5 PM. We are working in shifts and really need some help from 1 – 3 PM and from 3 – 5 PM. No need to sign up, just show up. We usually have a fun time visiting with each other and with the interesting and generous people we meet there.

Our annual Golden Corral/Disabled American Veterans of America (DAV) fundraiser begins on November 1st and extends through Veterans Day, November 11th. Last year we worked with the staff of the New Braunfels Golden Corral and we have been invited by the owners to come back this year. On weekdays we will work in 2 shifts covering lunch and dinner. On Saturday and Sunday we will have 3 shifts adding the breakfast hours. There is a sign-up sheet at the Chapter House. Or, if you are unable to come by to sign up, please call Gary Elley at the Chapter House, 830-379-3299, on Tuesday or Wednesday or if no answer, call us at any of these numbers:

830-914-2203 Home w/answering machine

210-863-7762 Phil's Cell

210-863-4257 Lynette's Cell

This is a nationally sanctioned fundraising partnership and potentially profitable for our Chapter. We did well last year and were invited back due to the professional way in which we conducted last year's event. Please remember that Golden Corral will provide a free meal to all veterans on Veteran Day. Last year the line was long but the efficient staff was courteous to everyone and the food was delicious so it was worth the wait.

There will be several Veterans Day observances on November 11th beginning with a ceremony that morning. Our next meetings will not be until November 12th so please read the minutes included in the September and October newsletters for details.

Members of Fire & Iron, a motorcycle club of local fire fighters, presented Chapter 61 with a generous donation of \$1,000, proceeds from the recent fundraiser to benefit our Chapter. We are sincerely grateful to this group for adopting Chapter 61 as their charity to support.

Emily Morgan, accompanied by several other students from TLU, members of the Honors Class, introduced themselves and brought us up to date on the upcoming 5K Run to benefit Chapter 61. They are working hard to make this November 16th event successful and profitable. In addition to participating in the event we have volunteered our services to assist in implementing the event.

On November 7th, TLU is sponsoring its annual Veterans Night Out at the activity center on campus. This is a free event for veterans and their families with delicious food, a fashion show, live entertainment and door prizes. Serving begins about 4:30 PM. Come early if you can as this event is very well attended.

We are very grateful for all the generous support of time, talent and from the students and staff of TLU. They put forth a lot of time and effort to make lives better for veterans and their families. Last month they officially opened their on-site Veterans Center, a place where veterans and their families can meet, study, and access computers. The TLU students worked tirelessly to furnish the Center with used furniture and equipment. We assisted them with donations from all 3 of our organizations.

A new Bible Study begins on Wednesday, October 23, 1:30 – 3:00 PM at the Chapter House. The study is open to all veterans and their families. We hope you will join us. Our study, based on the Book of Romans, will be led by Rev. Richard Cussons, Chapter 61 Chaplain. Study guides are \$5 each. This is the only expense.

Tickets for our December raffle will be for sale in a couple of weeks. We will once again have many nice items including two \$100 gift cards and an item from Kay's Jewelers. If you have items to donate for the raffle, or if you would like to donate funds to purchase items, please bring your donation(s) by the Chapter House on Tuesday or Wednesday between 9 AM and 1 PM.

Again, thank you all for your dedication and commitment to give of yourselves to assist our veterans and their families. Ours is a unique and special bond of understanding and acceptance. You and your family are always welcome at our meetings and activities.

Take care. Hope to see you soon.

Phil Sierer, Chapter 61 Commander (210-863-7762)

Lynette Sierer, Unit 61 Commander (210-863-4257)



Pictures from the Chapter 61 participation in the San Marcos Indigenous Peoples Pow Wow on October 5, 2013.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCT 12-13: FORGET ME NOT DRIVE AT WALMART

NOV 1ST-11TH: GOLDEN CORRAL IS SCHEDULED.

NOV 11: VETERAN'S DAY

NOV 16: TLU BENEFIT RUN (DAV DASH)

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.

Our New Members

Alan J. Bryant-Gillett
Jeffery S. Legere-New Braunfels
Odilo L. Molina-San Antonio

Our Transferred Members

Marvin Fey
James C. Guzman

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.

Thoughts from the Chaplain

As You Wait

“Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the Lord’s return. Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen.” (James 5:7, NLT)

God has put dreams and desires in every person’s heart. But most times, there’s a season of waiting involved. Maybe you’re waiting for a relationship to improve; waiting to get married; waiting for a promotion, or waiting to overcome an illness. Much of life is spent waiting. But there’s a right way to wait and a wrong way to wait. Too often, when things don’t happen on our timetable, we get down and discouraged or anxious and fretful. That’s because we’re not waiting the right way.

Notice that today’s verse doesn’t say if you wait; it says as you wait. The fact is that we’re all going to wait. It goes on to say that we should consider how the farmer waits — patiently and eagerly. We’re not supposed to sit around and be discouraged; we’re supposed to be hopeful, positive and full of expectancy!

Today, no matter what you are praying for, expect things to change in your favor. Today could be the day that God turns it all around. As you wait with patience and expectancy, you’ll open the door for God to move. He’ll fight your battles, and you’ll see that abundant harvest He’s promised in every area of your life.

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 4Verterans@hotmail.com.

May God’s peace and blessing be with all of you.

Chaplain Richard Cusson

From the Chaplain

Binnacle List

- ❖ Past Commander Doug Herrle still battling illness.
- ❖ Comrade Dennis Roy still recuperating.
- ❖ Comrade John Cuellar recovering.
- ❖ Mr. Lewis Herrera is battling illness.
- ❖ Junior Vice Commander James Dickerson is recovering from knee surgeries.

They are in our Prayers

Reminder

Bible Study is offered at the Chapter House every Wednesday afternoon from 1:30 PM usually finishing up by 3 pm. We have open and engaging discussions while we explore the Word of our Lord and find what he has to offer us. Come, join us. We are currently studying the complex issues surrounding Revelations.

DAV Meeting Minutes

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

DATE: 10/8/2013

CALL TO ORDER:

Prayer by Adjutant Marlin Howze
Flag Honors: Y

Joint Meeting Chapter and Unit

- ❖ Nancy Struble from the Texas Veterans Land Board gave a short presentation on the State Veterans Homes speaking on topics from eligibility to costs and services. Very informative.
- ❖ Fire&Iron stopped by to drop off a check from the Fund Raiser they accomplished in August on behalf of the DAV Chapter 61. A round of applause for these riders and their support of the DAV. The check was for \$1000. They do this for us every year and we really appreciate their continued support.
- ❖ Volunteers from TLU stopped in to give us an update of the upcoming DAV Dash they will organize in support of Chapter 61's efforts on behalf of the area veterans. They discussed the layout, activities, and main persons in charge. We thank these young people for their outreach to the community and especially our Chapter. Chapter 61 maintains a strong bond with Texas Lutheran University.
- ❖ Two sign up sheets are being passed around for the Forget me not Fund Drive this weekend. Please sign on for a shift.
- ❖ A 10X20 ft storage container has been located at the Texas Facilities Commission yard in SA. The cost is \$1200, under the \$1500 budget that we had voted on last year. Currently on hold for us as they are using it temporarily as they rearrange their warehouses. We will have 5 days to move it once it is cleared. Chapter will take care of this in new business.
- ❖ Chapter 61, Unit 61 and the VCZ attended a ribbon cutting ceremony at Texas Lutheran University for their new Veteran Student Center. TLU hosts 40 veterans and 41 dependents through their degree programs. We were well received and the donation was applauded by attending school functionaries.
- ❖ Auxiliary is collecting items for the Christmas Dinner Raffle. If you have some items to donate, see Commander Lynette Sierer or Adjutant Terri Herrle or any other Aux member.
- ❖ Bible Study resumes on the 23rd of Oct. This class will be discussing Romans. Chaplain Cusson invites anyone interested to join us. We have some really interesting discussions.
- ❖ Comrade Walls friend sent a donation of \$200 for prizes at the Christmas Party. We are thankful to Warren's friend for this generous gift.
- ❖ BBQ pit is still in the shop.
- ❖ Auxiliary retires.

Roll call of officers by Marlin Howze, Adjutant

Commander:	Present X	Absent
Sr. Vice Commander:	Present X	Absent
Jr. Vice Commander	Present	Absent X (Excused)
Treasurer:	Present X	Absent
Chaplain:	Present X	Absent
Adjutant:	Present X	Absent
SAA:	Present X	Absent

Total officers & members present: 18 (Sign in sheet attached)

Chapter had a quorum: Yes

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

Guests: 23 Guests from TLU, Fire&Iron Motorcycle Club, and the Texas Veterans Land Board

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Names of New Members: Frank Moreno-New Braunfels, Daniel Pape Jr.-New Braunfels, Herbert Cambell-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: None

Names of Transferred In Members: None.

Welcome to all our new members.

READING OF THE MINUTES: Stand as posted. (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.)

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

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

TREASURER'S REPORT: From Aug 01 to 31, 2013.

Beginning: \$18149.60. Ending: \$17259.99. Full report and statements read aloud and are attached.

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

BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS: (list provided)

- ❖ Monthly DAV Nat'l HQ report on membership and legislation
- ❖ DAV State Dept of TX authorization to conduct Golden Corral Fundraiser in New Braunfels
- ❖ Historic Guadalupe County History Book publisher wanting to add the Chapter's history to this coffee table size history book.
- ❖ Seguin High School Graduation Committee asking for donation for Senior Prom next year. Community involvement.
- ❖ CRAssociates sending information and points of contact with things revolving around the Community Based Outpatient Clinics in rural areas such as the ones in Seguin and New Braunfels.

SICKNESS & DISTRESS:

- ❖ Past Commander Doug Herrle still battling illness. Comrade Dennis Roy still recuperating. Mr. Lewis Herrera is battling his illnesses. Comrade John Cuellar still battling illness but was present at tonight's meeting (good to see you John). Junior Vice Commander James Dickerson is recovering from dual knee surgeries. Prayers for their continued recovery. Keep these members and their families in your prayers.

LEGISLATION

- ❖ During gov'm't shutdown, VA medical facilities will continue to remain open. However, Veteran Benefit Administration (VBA) offices will close. This stops the claim processes. Additionally, if the shutdown continues much longer, expect delayed compensation and pension payments. Plan accordingly, talk with lenders and finance partners.
- ❖ Veterans, service personnel, dependents and survivors enrolled in VA Healthcare, Tricare, or US Family Health Plans have met minimum coverages as required by the Affordable Care Act (referred to as Obamacare). You do not need to obtain other insurance unless you want to.
- ❖ Recovered Vietnam War MIAs
 - USAF Lt.Col Robert E. Pietsch (1968), Maj Louis F. Guillermin (1968), Maj. James E. Sizemore (1969), and Maj. Howard V. Andre were recovered this year. Welcome home comrades.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

- ❖ Membership: 3 new members.
- ❖ CSO:
 - SOs: Total Hours 132, Hrs available 240, Veterans seen 88. Hrs for 5 Srvc Ofcrs. See attached report for details.

- Chaplain Hours: 9 tot hrs
- Honor Guard Hours: Funeral for Edward Alexander: 4 volunteers, 16 hours tot. Honor Guard for POW/MIA observance Sep 20 2013, 12 volunteers, 60 hours tot. Honor Guard Totals: 76 hours, 2 events.
- Veteran Comfort Zone (VCZ): no report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- ❖ See Joint for other Old Business.
- ❖ Discussed more on the Traveling Wall. Booked for next year so not available to Guadalupe County. Some facts though; the Wall will cost close to \$18000 to bring to the area. We are looking to a future date to try this, maybe Memorial Day 2015. This would be a joint venture with the Guadalupe County Veterans Council, City of Seguin, Guadalupe County and hopefully a number of corporate sponsors.
- ❖ POW/MIA is Sep 20th. A success and a moving ceremony. Thanks to our partners at VFW 8456 in Geronimo and the other players in the Guadalupe County Veteran's Council. Great job by our Honor Guard also. Would have liked to seen a larger audience, but a good event nonetheless.
- ❖ Golden Corral is scheduled for Nov 1th through the 11th. We have received the green light from State and will soon be in contact with the managers at Golden Corral in New Braunfels. The executive Committee will meet with Golden Corral Management this Thursday (Oct 10th) to hammer out the details. Please sign up as we need a lot of volunteers for this.

NEW BUSINESS:

- ❖ Bill Murdock, a visitor from San Antonio, interested in transferring into the Chapter. Welcome Bill.
- ❖ We need to be ready to move the Connex container in short notice. Executive committee has identified a local mover with the equipment to do this. Request a motion to pre authorize a \$500 budget to effect the move. **Frank Rosario motions for \$500, Wayne 2nd, motion carries.**
- ❖ Honor Guard Captain DeLeon spent \$44.36 to have a photo of the Honor Guard, taken at the recent Indian Pow Wow in San Marcos, enlarged and framed. Requests reimbursement of funds. **Marlin Howze motions for \$44.36, Leon Garcia 2nd, motion carries.** The picture is proudly hanging in the bay library.

GOOD of the ORDER

- ❖ Bible Study on the 23rd. Romans is the next topic.
- ❖ Chaplain Cusson will be conducting a bike blessing this Sunday at VFW 7110 in New Braunfels. Your cage (car) can be blessed as well.
- ❖ Comrades Michael Fore and Jaime Cervantez are still looking for more facilitators to help with the VCZ's Seeking Safety course. See them for more details if you are interested in making a difference.
- ❖ We are also looking to start up a Seeking Safety program at TLU. Still in the works.

Moment of Silence. Remembrance of fallen comrades.

Motion for Adjournment:

Motion by Leon Garcia, 2nd by Wayne, carried.

CLOSING CEREMONY: __x__ Salute __x__ Closing Prayer by Chaplain Cusson

Next meeting will be 7 PM, on November 12th, 2013.