

March 2014



**DAV CHAPTER 61 & DAVA UNIT 61  
SEGUIN, GUADALUPE COUNTY, TEXAS  
COMMANDERS' COMMENTS  
MARCH 2014**

**Guadalupe County Chapter 61**

**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

Our meetings this month began in joint session. 1st item on the agenda was a YouTube internet video presentation showing the highlights from the 1st Annual TSU Army ROTC Polar Plunge to benefit Chapter 61. This well attended inaugural event has been determined a great success & it was fun to see the review of the event. As our meeting was during their spring break, and many of the students were away from campus, some of the cadets will attend our meeting to present our Chapter with a check for the proceeds of this fundraiser. We have also prepared a special plaque for them commemorating the event and expressing our gratitude. It was our privilege to meet these young men and women and are honored to be the beneficiaries of their fund raising efforts. They are a very special group of young adults who have committed or will commit to careers in the US Army or US Army Reserve.

Next was a PowerPoint presentation by Maria Paiz showing the activities, programs and progress of the Veterans Center at TLU. You may remember when they were seeking funds to establish the center. They have done a great job with the center that provides a study center and lounge for students there who are veterans and their families. The Center is not just a building with computers, but a program that ministers to the entire family and the community. One such event is the annual Veterans Night Out which many of us have enjoyed attending. Veterans and their families participate in the fashion show that night and get to keep the clothes they model. We saw pictures of the children's Christmas party and a spring visit to the local education center that included fishing. We are proud to have helped this program get off the ground and grateful for all the support we receive from the TLU students and faculty through their monetary donations and through their gifts of time and talent helping us around the chapter house.

We are grateful for our relationships with both these fine universities and hope they continue for many years to come.

We want to thank all of you, members of Chapter 61 & Unit 61, who pitched in to make last Saturday's DAV/DAVA District V spring meeting the wonderful success that it was. As hosts this year, it was our responsibility to ensure that everything ran smoothly, including registration and lunch for the 125+ attendees. Our Honor Guard presented and retired the colors. Chaplain Cussons conducted the joint memorial service. Unit members served up a delicious meal. **BIG THANK YOU** to Unit 61 members Leigh Harrelson, Christa Howze, Jean Garriott, and Frances Elley.

A SPECIAL THANKS to our own Unit 61 Adjutant Terri Herrle who also served as DAVA District V Adjutant. She came through at the last minute to provide the Sloppy Joe mix for lunch that day. On the Thursday before the meeting we found out that our menu had to be changed as we could no longer buy BBQ brisket at Sam's. Terri rolled up her sleeves and concocted a delicious mixture for our new menu item, Sloppy Joes. We had plenty for everyone and received rave reviews on the food. THANKS AGAIN, TERRI for taking the lead on this, making sure we had a delicious meal for the event. NOTE: We're pretty sure that if you ask Terri for her delicious recipe she will be happy to share it with you.

We worked hard and we were tired when it was over, but we had a great time. When everyone helps, it makes a big job much easier. One of the things we truly appreciate about our group is that we all work together. If someone sees something that needs to be done, or thinks of something we forgot, he or she asks about it or just takes care of it. It is our opinion that our Chapter and Unit are among the best in our District and likely among the best in the state. Success is not always measured

And last but definitely not least, our SINCERE THANKS & APPRECIATION to Bill Owens and members of the Geronimo VFW for facilitating our meeting. Many of us are members of this post and auxiliary so it feels good to have an event there. Bill and his "crew" are always accommodating and ready to help us with whatever we need.

BTW, several of us attended the recent BBQ cook-off at the Geronimo Post a couple of weeks ago. Always fun.

MORE NEWS from District V meeting: Congratulations to the following members of Chapter 61 who will serve DAV District V as follows:

Marlin Howze, Commander

Gary Elley, Adjutant

Richard Cussons, Chaplain

Commander Howze volunteered us to host this meeting again next year.

BIBLE STUDY continues at our Chapter House every Wednesday afternoon from 1:30 – 3:00 PM. We are currently studying the Book of Romans and have become quite intrigued with its message of God's love, the ultimate sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit's influence in our lives. Our group of 8 share ideas, ask questions and enter into some thought-provoking discussions. We have extended beyond our intended 8 weeks on this study and for this reason we don't know exactly when our next session will begin. We guesstimate that our study of the Book of Ephesians will begin during April. Please watch the newsletter for more information on this. Our thanks to Chapter 61 Chaplain Richard Cussons for guiding us through our studies, leading us in faith and knowledge and to Living Waters Worship Center for purchasing the CDs for our studies and for purchasing the workbooks sold to us at their cost. This Bible Study is open to members of our Chapter & Unit, clients of the Veterans Comfort Zone and adult family members of all. Also stay tuned for news of our Bible Study service project. We are firming up the details and are excited about giving of ourselves to help others.

Each week at Bible Study we close with a prayer giving thanks and asking that God heal and console those of us in need. Please let us know if you would like for us to pray for you, your spouse, family or friends and we will add them to our prayer list. We would also appreciate a progress report as time goes on.

Kudos to Warren Walls for continuing to organize our VCZ library. It is a labor of love as more and more books arrive almost weekly. And they are good books, too. There are lots of good mysteries and action-packed novels; inspirational books, a variety of magazines and some videos as well. Warren is putting up more shelving to accommodate all of it. Several of us, mostly Sandford and Kellerman fans (We know who we are) have read several works from these authors and we recommend them all.

Please refer to the rest of this newsletter for **UPCOMING EVENTS and MINUTES of the Chapter's March meeting.**

Please accept our sincere appreciation for all you do to make our endeavors successful. Cannot do it without you! Until we meet again, may God richly bless you and yours. Take care!

Phil Sierer, Commander, DAV Chapter 61

Lynette Sierer, Commander, DAVA Unit 61

P.S. Unit 61 always looking for projects to serve our veterans and our community. Please share any ideas you may have for this.



Our New District V Commander Howze swearing in new members Mallard and Vickeries.



Pictures from the Texas State Army ROTC's DAV fundraising event "The Polar Plunge." Pictures are left to right: Auxiliary Members Christa and Francis giving out the info. Shot of the DAV Mobile Service Van. TSU Army ROTC Commandant Col Adams, NSO Supv. Joe Noonan, NSO Lee Foreman, and our own Chaplain Richard Cusson. TSU taking the plunge. I don't know, Army mascot maybe?

### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7 PM at the Chapter House. This is the same time and place that our Chapter meets.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**22 MAR: 12-5PM, "BRIDGE THE GAP" VFW Post 76 SAN ANTONIO.**

**3-4 JULY 5PM-MIDNIGHT. FREEDOM FIESTA. SEGUIN.**

**APR 5&6: FORGET ME NOT FUNDRAISER AT WAL-MART. 9A-5P. PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE SHEET.**

**17 MAY, 10A-5P, FIRE AND IRON MOTORCYCLE CLUB STATION 87 IS HOSTING THERE 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FUNDRAISER FOR CHAPTER AND UNIT 61.**

**6-8 JUNE: DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS DAV CONVENTION. HAVE YOUR RESERVATIONS BY MAY 13.**

#### Our New Members

Samuel Barbosa-San Antonio  
Mark Bell-Floresville  
Robert Cone-Seguin  
Oscar Goins-San Antonio  
Carl Malard-Seguin  
Bernitt Powers-Schertz  
Darrel Schuenemann-Staples  
IrvingTillung-Brookings Oregan

#### Our Transferred Members

None

### 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:**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month

#### **PTSD Groups:**

Every Tuesday, 12 am-1pm and 1:30-2:30pm

**VCZ:** Tue-Wed, 9am-3pm

**Seeking Safety:** Wed. 7:30pm-9pm

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

“...with God all things are possible”  
(Matthew 19:26, NIV)

I had a gentleman tell me not long ago that his business was very, very slow. It looked like he would go under. He owned a small manufacturing company with one main competitor in town, a national company that was bigger with more resources. With the economy down, it made it harder and harder for him to stay open. This man was flexible about what he should do next, but he really believed he was in the business God wanted him to be in. So, he kept praying, believing and hoping; and instead of considering his circumstances, he considered his God. And just when he thought he was going to have to close down, his main competitor had a change in leadership and direction and decided to pull out of this market. Now he's breaking all kinds of records.

Friend, today I want to encourage you. If there's something coming against you, consider your God. He has a way to meet every one of your needs. You may not be able to beat the competition in the natural, but God can simply remove the competition. He wants to give you His favor. He wants to give you the advantage for success. Trust Him and believe because with God, all things are possible.

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](mailto:richardcusson@hotmail.com) or by calling me at (830) 491-8009.

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

### **From the Chaplain**

#### *Binnacle List*

- ❖ Comrade Louis Herrera, a long time member of Ch 61, passed away this last month.
- ❖ Past Commander Doug Herrle still hanging in there, but did get to work a day last week.
- ❖ Comrade James Dickerson's wife (Mary) is recovering from surgery/treatment.
- ❖ Comrade Mike Tellis is experiencing significant health issues.
- ❖ Comrade Lee Ramirez is down with illness.
- ❖ Comrade Mike Fore will be facing 2 procedures in a couple weeks.
- ❖ Comrade Warren Walls' wife is recovering from surgeries.
- ❖ Phil and Lynette's 6 month old great grandson, Camden Matthew Schoenart.

*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 Romans.

## DAV Meeting Minutes

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

DATE: 03/11/2014

### CALL TO ORDER:

Prayer by Chaplain Richard Cusson  
Flag Honors: Y

### Guest Presentations

1. At 6:30p, our own Comrade Steve Salas, provided a Venison and Hog Chili supper with venison jerky and dried sausage, hunted and prepared by him. If you weren't there, you missed a real treat. Thanks Red. We ought to think about this on a regular basis.
2. Video produced by Texas State University Students showing the TSU Army ROTC's fundraising effort "The Polar Plunge" promoting the DAV. Well done with interviews from San Antonio National Service Officer Supervisor "Joe" Noonan, Chapter 61 Commander Phil Sierer and Chapter 61 Adjutant Marlin Howze. Well made. Cpt. Arnett from the ROTC regretted not being able to make the meeting and has rescheduled to be present at the next meeting in April. They say they are bringing a present for us.
3. Marie Paiz gave a very nice Power Point presentation on Texas Lutheran's evolving Veteran's and Society Together (VAST) association thanks to the support from Chapter 61. The presentation covered everything from their start up to present day functions and activities. The presentation included thanks to Chapter 61 and that they hope our partnership continues. Very nice presentation.

### Joint Meeting Chapter and Unit

- ❖ Polar Plunge acknowledgement.
- ❖ 22 Mar, 12-5PM, "Bridge the Gap" event at Veteran's of Foreign Wars Post 76 on the River Walk. This is a Peer Network event gathering together many veteran service organizations to benefit veterans. Everything on information from health to employment benefits. Organizations dealing with homeless veterans, near homeless veterans, and family awareness groups. Chapter 61 will be there with Chapter Service Officers, Seeking Safety, Veteran Comfort Zone, and more. We would like some help on setup which will begin there at 10am. If interested, let Gary, Marlin, or Jaime know.
- ❖ 3-4 July 5pm-midnight. Freedom Fiesta. Lots of volunteers needed, particularly at midnight for the shutdown. People working the booth and cooking will need help at the end of the day. So we need volunteers at all stages. More info to follow including whether we get to do Sausage wraps or not.
- ❖ Chapter 61 has purchased a plaque for TSA Army ROTC's fundraiser on our behalf. The cost was \$59.
- ❖ Gary and Phil will check on the progress of the grill. [next day after the meeting, Phil and Gary checked on the grill and say that it is near finished. The guy working on the grill for us is going paint it and it should be complete in time for our July events or sooner.
- ❖ 17 May, 10a-5p, Fire and Iron Motorcycle Club Station 87 is hosting there 4<sup>th</sup> annual fundraiser for Chapter and Unit 61. The event will be held at the Whiskey Bent Saloon off FM725 near McQueeney. They have 3 weapons to raffle; semi-auto rifle, semi-auto .380 pistol, 12 gauge shotgun, \$5 a ticket. Come and get them while they are hot, while there are a lot of tickets, they are limited. They are asking that if we have any raffle items we would like to provide, 100% of all raffle/auction proceeds would come to the Chapter & Unit. See any of the officers or one of the local firefighters fro Station 87 (46 just south of 90).
- ❖ American Legion Post 245 is in charge of the Memorial Day ceremony this year, Details to follow.
- ❖ Great job by Chapter 61 at the recent District meeting as 3 of our members filled the executive ranks. Marlin Howze is the District Commander, Richard Cusson is the District Chaplain, and Gary Elley is the District Adjutant. Following the meeting the Department of Texas Senior Vice Commander Tim Lindsey visited 61's Chapter House. He was quite impressed with all that 61 has going on and was invigorated to see a Chapter involved in veteran's lives to this extent. (That's kudos to membership and the officers). Also at the meeting Senior Vice Commander Elley received an award for the top Blue Cap Recruiter in the District for the year. Good job Gary.

- ❖ 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: 21 (Sign in sheet available)

Chapter had a quorum: Yes

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

**Guests:** David Ordik (became a new member), Marie Paiz (TLU)

**ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

**Names of New Members:** Samuel Barbosa-San Antonio, Mark Bell-Floresville, Robert Cone-Seguin, Oscar Goins-San Antonio, Carl Malard-Seguin, Bernitt Powers-Schertz, Darrel Schuenemann-Staples, IrvingTillung-Brookings Oregon (Wow).

**Names of Transferred Members:** None

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

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.)

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

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** From Feb01 to 28, 2014.

Beginning: \$22,421.01. Ending: \$21,896.22.

Full report and statements read aloud and are available on request.

**Motion to accept: Mike Felix, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Leon Garcia, motion carries.**

**BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS:** (see list in file)

- ❖ Ltr from Public Television Services: Donation Req, Ltr Nat'l Svc Offc: CSO Certifications, Ltr from DAV Nat'l HQ: Call to Convention, Ltr from State of Texas Reports Unit: Report of Chapter 61's C(4) Status, Ltr from DAV Nat'l HQ: Recruiting Pennant, Ltr from Memorial Day Foundation: Donation Req., Ltr from AT&T: Acct profile chg, Ltr from Hartford Ins. Co.: Pending premium notification, email from Fire & Iron Station 87: notification of upcoming annual benefit for Ch 61, Ltr from BFW Post 8456: Dog tags for sale w/intent to have their Motorcycle group deliver them to the Vietnam Memorial Wall in DC this year.

**SICKNESS & DISTRESS:**

- ❖ Comrade Louis Herrera, a long time member of Ch 61, passed away this last month. Past Commander Doug Herrle recovering but seen back at work (nice). Comrade Billy Owens is at Remarkable Nursing room 403 (?). Comrade James Dickerson's wife (Mary) is recovering from surgery/treatment. Comrade Mike Tellis is experiencing significant health issues. Comrade Lee Ramirez is down with illness. Comrade Mike Fore will be facing 2 procedures in a couple weeks. Keep these members and their families in your prayers.

**LEGISLATION**

- ❖ No report

## REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

- ❖ Membership: 8 new members.
- ❖ CSO: (Full report available)
  - Service Ofcrs. Feb 2014: Tot Vets Seen 82, Tot Hrs Used 123, Tot Hrs Avail 288.
  - Chaplain Hours: Feb 2014: No Report.
  - Linda Truax: No Report.
  - Honor Guard Hours: Feb 2014. 382. (Full details in report files)

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- ❖ See Joint for other Old Business.
- ❖ The Chapter will have their Forget-Me-Not days on April 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>. The Auxiliary dates are Oct 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>. Changes in Wal-Mart's policies allow us to fundraise at one door this year due to the number of organizations requesting to do so.
- ❖ 6-8 June. DAV Department of Texas Convention. Will be held at North Doubletree Hotel in Austin. Have your reservations by May 13<sup>th</sup> if you're going. Delegates are being signed up. If you wish to be one, get with an officer to let them know. Adjutant will send in list after next meeting.

## NEW BUSINESS:

- ❖ Commander requests motion to pay Insurance Premium on Chapter House when the official due notice comes in, estimated premium is \$1817. **Motion by Leon Garcia, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Charles Glass, motion Carries.**
- ❖ Motion to donate \$100 to Memorial Day Foundation. **Motion by Leon Garcia, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Charles Glass, motion Carries.**
- ❖ American Legion Post 245 will host their District Meeting in Apr. Comrade Charles Glass (a member of both organizations asked if Chapter 61 wanted to buy an ad placement in their Program Guide for \$100. **\$100 Motion by Charles Glass, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Felix, discussion (good advertizing), motion Carries.**
- ❖ Commander was donated some DAVw/ "scrambled eggs" to sell to raise money for the Chapter. Supplies are limited, see one of the officers for a hat for \$10. That's a good deal for a nice looking cap.
- ❖ 1<sup>st</sup> round nominations for Chapter 61 officers.
  - Commander: Gary Elley, Phil Sierer
  - SV Cdr: Gary Elley, JJ Chapa
  - JV Cdr: JJ Chapa, Leon Garcia
  - Treasurer: JJ Chapa
  - Chaplain: Richard Cusson
  - Nominations are suspended until the next meeting.

## GOOD of the ORDER

- ❖ Still looking for Councilman (and Comrade) Tomas Castellon's mention that there would be an opportunity to name the Walnut Creek Park project adjacent to our Chapter House and thought we might like to consider what names we would like the Council to consider. Keep in mind that names submitted should be of those who have made significant contributions to the betterment of the Seguin community, however, we also like the idea of naming the park after a veteran or maybe a patriotic theme (such as Freedom Park as example).. Think about it and submit your fav name to one of the officers. Name inputs are expected to happen around August.

## Moment of Silence. Remembrance of fallen comrades.

## Motion for Adjournment:

**Motion by Richard Cusson, 2nd by Leon Garcia, carried.**

**CLOSING CEREMONY: \_\_x\_\_ Salute \_\_x\_\_ Closing Prayer by Chaplain Cusson**

**Next meeting will be 7 PM, on April 8th, 2014.**