

January 2014



**DAV CHAPTER 61 & DAVA UNIT 61
SEGUIN, GUADALUPE COUNTY, TEXAS
January 2014**

It's hard to believe that it's a new year but here we are and getting off to a busy start. Please reference the minutes from the January DAV Chapter 61 meeting and the **Upcoming Events** section. We want to direct your attention to the following events:

**Chapter Service Officer (CSO) Training
Saturday, Feb. 1st: 9 AM – 3 PM**

Chapter 61 is honored to be hosting this important annual training for members of District V DAV Chapters who volunteer their time to be certified or re-certified as CSOs so they can assist disabled veterans apply for benefits from VA. We are expecting about 80 attendees.

Unit 61 will be providing the food for this event. We will have donuts and coffee in the morning and for lunch we will serve chili, corn-bread and all the fixings. **Volunteers are needed to help set up, prepare, serve and cleanup.** Terri and Lynette will be at the Chapter House by 8 AM to begin the process. We will bake the cornbread and heat the chili in the Chapter House kitchen.

We hope you will join us. Yes, it's work but we always have fun. And, this is one way we can thank the DAV members who are giving their time and talents to assist other disabled veterans. If you have any questions please call us at 830-914-2203 (home) or 210-863-7762 (Cell-Phil) or 210-863-4257 (Cell-Lynette).

**District V DAV/DAVA Spring Meeting
Saturday, March 8, 2014**

Our Chapter and Unit are hosting this annual event at the Geronimo VFW. You will be hearing more about this next month as we are still working out some logistics. We are expecting around 125 attendees and our Chapter House is just not big enough.

Our unit will be serving the noon meal at this event as well. **Volunteers will be needed to help serve.** Our menu will include brisket sandwiches, chips, etc., tea and/or coffee. We will provide more details as the event date draws closer.

New Events

Stay tuned for information for 2 new upcoming events- 1 in February and 1 in March. They are still in the planning stages but we will have more details for you at the next meeting on February 11th at 7 PM at the Chapter House.

We wish each of you the very best for a happy, healthy and safe 2014. We are proud of the many things our Chapter and Unit accomplish to assist disabled veterans and their families, fulfilling our promise to make lives better for our disabled veterans and their families. It is through your support through your gifts of time and talent, and through the generous support we receive from our community through fundraisers and donations that we are able to accomplish this.

As you can see, we are off to a great start for 2014! We hope to see you at meetings and events. If you have any questions about our chapter or unit, or any of the upcoming activities, please give us a call at 830-914-2203 (home) or 210-863-7762 (Phil's cell) or 210-863-4257 (Lynette's cell) or via our email at oldrebel@satx.rr.com.

Sincerely,
Phil Sierer, DAV Chapter 61 Commander
Lynette Sierer, DAVA Unit 61 Commander

Guadalupe County Chapter 61

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Well, it's the start of a new year again. Last year, 2013, was a very successful year for us. We appreciate all the members that helped for all our fundraisers. For 2014 we will have just as many fundraisers, if not more. Once our BBQ pit is finished, we will have some additional fundraisers using it. We are finally getting our storage container. It is on the way to us as I write these comments.

Last week the Veterans Comfort Zone purchased some more tables and chairs. This will get us up to a seating capacity of about 80. Feb. 1st will be the District Chapter Service Officer training here at the Chapter House. Our chapter will have about 19 attending.

Don't forget about Veterans Comfort Zone library. It is for all of our members use. There are a huge number of paperback books for your reading pleasure. There should be some good reading for everyone in the library. Come by and take some books with you to read.

We are at the chapter house Tuesday and Wednesday from 9AM to 1PM. Hope everyone has a great 2014!

Sincerely,
Gary Elley
Sr. Vice Commander/Membership Chairman

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Reynaldo Alverado-Austin
Weldon Brewer-Canyon Lake Ronnie
Evans-Seguín
Cheryl Gregorio-LaVernia
Andrew Hildebrand-Seguín
Ray Irle-Gonzales
Kenneth Jones-Seguín
Wilhelm Kalmus-Seguín
Gary Kolb-Marion
Kenneth Kremenak-Cibolo Kenneth
McKindra-Schertz
Steven Saxon-San Marcos
Kirsten Suttmeier-New Braunfels
Gilbert Ugalde-Seguín
Jason Vickery-Cibolo
Roger Wigfield-New Braunfels

Our Transferred Members

Jose Alaniz Jr.-Seguín
Richard Little-Adkins

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

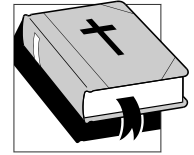
PTSD Groups:
Every Tuesday, 12 am-1pm and 1:30-2:30pm

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



Take up Your Cross

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. (Matthew 16:24)

Your "cross" is God's will for you, regardless of the cost. Taking up your cross is a choice; it is not beyond your control. You may have health problems or a rebellious child or financial pressures, but do not mistake these as your "cross to bear." Neither circumstances you face nor consequences of your own actions are your cross. Your cross will be to voluntarily participate in Christ's sufferings as He carries out His redemptive purposes (Phil. 3:10). Paul said he rejoiced in his sufferings because he knew that by them he was able to participate in the suffering required to bring others into Christian maturity (Col. 1:24).

We tend to want to go immediately from "denying ourselves" to "following Jesus." But you can never follow Jesus unless you have first taken up your cross. There are aspects of God's redemptive work that can be accomplished only through suffering. Just as Christ had to suffer in order to bring salvation, there will be hardships you may have to endure in order for God to bring salvation to those around you. Jesus did not talk with His disciples about the cross until they had come to know He was the Christ (Matt. 16:21). You will never be able to endure the suffering of the cross unless you have first been convinced that Jesus is the Christ. Once you have settled your relationship with Christ, He will introduce you to your cross.

There is no Christianity without a cross. If you are waiting for a relationship with God that never requires suffering or inconvenience, then you cannot use Christ as your model. God's will for you involves a cross. First, take up your cross, then you can follow Him.

As your Chaplain, I am available to all members and their immediate family for counseling or discussion of any spiritual issue that you may have. You may contact me by phone at [830-491-8009](tel:830-491-8009) or by email at 4Veterans.com.

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

From the Chaplain

Binnacle List

- ❖ Commissioner Greg Siedenberger's wife past-condolences sent.
- ❖ Bernard Brietzki's wife passed-condolences sent.
- ❖ Past Commander Doug Herrle recovering and seen back at work (nice).
- ❖ Keep these members and their families in your prayers.

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 Book of Romans.

DAV Meeting Minutes

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

DATE: 01/14/2014

CALL TO ORDER:

Prayer by Chaplain Richard Cusson
Flag Honors: Y (Sr Vice Cdr Elley presiding)

Joint Meeting Chapter and Unit

- ❖ Unit Treasurer Terri Herrle will be approaching Wal-Mart for Forget-Me-Not dates. Expect that the Chapter's will be in the spring and the Unit's will be in the fall.
- ❖ Feb. 1. CSO Training will be held at the Chapter House. We are expecting about 80 trainees. Chapter names have already been sent for our personnel to be certified, about 17.
- ❖ Leon picked up some new tables and chairs to replace those that have become damaged over the years. Thanks to the Veteran's Comfort Zone for the purchase.
- ❖ Unit 61 made about \$1114 from the raffle at the Christmas dinner. They are donating half to the Chapter. Thanks to the Auxiliary members.
- ❖ Mar 8. District V mtg at Geronimo VFW. Hosting Chapter gets to keep the registration fee.
- ❖ Auxiliary retires.

Roll call of officers by Marlin Howze, Adjutant

Commander:	Present	Absent X (Excused)
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 X	Absent

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

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: Reynaldo Alverado-Austin, Weldon Brewer-Canyon Lake, Ronnie Evans-Seguin, Cheryl Gregorio-LaVernia, Andrew Hildebrand-Seguin, Ray Irle-Gonzales, Kenneth Jones-Seguin, Wilhelm Kalmus-Seguin, Gary Kolb-Marion, Kenneth Kremenak-Cibolo, Kenneth McKindra-Schertz, Steven Saxon-San Marcos, Kirsten Suttemeier-New Braunfels, Gilbert Ugalde-Seguin, Jason Vickery-Cibolo, Roger Wigfield-New Braunfels. ***This was a record month for recruitment with 17 new members. Good job in the recruiting department.***

Names of Transferred Members: Richard Little-Adkins.

(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: Richard Little

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: Frank Rosario, 2nd Leon Garcia, motion carries.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT: From Nov01 to 31, 2013. (short meeting in Dec, not read)

Beginning: \$19,223.78. Ending: \$20,032.27.

From Dec 01 to 30, 2013

Beginning: \$20,032.27. Ending: \$22,239.27.

Full report and statements read aloud and are available.

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

BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS: (see list in file)

- ❖ Ltr Nat'l HQ-Mbr trsfr Jose Alnaiz, Ltr DAV HQ-Finance Rpt error, Christmas Card-Jesse & Vickie Ayala (we miss you too.), Ltr DAV HQ-Mbrshp Rpt, Ltr McCurdy Funeral Home-Donation \$150, Ltr Tx NSO Supv-CSO Trng, Book DAV HQ-C&B, Dept TX DAV-Chapter Assessmant, Ltr DAV HQ-Mbrshp Rpt. Letters are available in files.

SICKNESS & DISTRESS:

- ❖ No Member Deaths. Commissioner Greg Siedenberger's wife past-condolences sent. Bernard Brietzki's wife passed-condolences sent. Past Commander Doug Herrle recovering and seen back at work (nice). Keep these members and their families in your prayers.

LEGISLATION

- ❖ 1.5% COLA for retirees approved (1% for retirees less than 62 years old), New VFW Grant Program for Education (see VFW for details), New Traumatic Brain Injury structures to include: Parkinson's disease.
- ❖ POW's Recovered: Army Cpl George Conklin Jr., 7th ID, lost Dec 1950 Korea. Army Ssgt Lawrence Woods, 1st Spec Forces, lost Oct 1964 Cambodia. Army PFC Jerry Craig, 32nd Inf Reg, lost Nov 1950 Korea. AF Col Francis McGouldrik Jr., B17, lost Dec 1968 Laos. We shall not forget.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

- ❖ Membership: 17 new members and 1 transfer.
- ❖ CSO:
 - Service Ofcrs. Oct 2013: Tot Vets Seen 82, Tot Hrs Used 123, Tot Hrs Avail 400. Nov 2013: Tot Vets Seen 75, Tot Hrs Used 112.5, Tot Hrs Avail 240. Dec 2013: Tot Vets Seen 48, Tot Hrs Used 72, Tot Hrs Avail 192.
 - Chaplain Hours: Oct 2013: 30, Nov 2013 15, Dec 2013: 20.
 - Linda Truax: Oct 2013 25, Nov 2013 21, Dec 2013 37.
 - Honor Guard Hours: **November 2013.** Post Colors Alamo Pan Am Linda Escobar 60 hrs. Funeral Kenneth Hollingworth 44 hrs. Funeral Ronald Jones 36 hrs. Golden Corral Mil Appreciation (11 days) 200 hrs. Funeral Richard Vasquez 68 hrs. Post Colors Christian Family Church, Luling 56 hrs. Funeral Robert Everett 48 hrs. **December 2013.** Funeral Resugi Baltierra 40 hrs. Post Colors Debbie Bryan at Guadalupe Valley Memorial Park 36 hrs. Honor Guard Totals: November 512 hours, 7 events. December 76 hrs, 2 events. (Full details in report files)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- ❖ See Joint for other Old Business.
- ❖ We will need volunteer support to help host both the CSO trng and Dist V mtg events. Please keep your schedules clear to help out.
- ❖ BBQ Pit has all required materials in to complete the rebuild. Thanks to those who donated particularly Comrade Carl Jensen and Hanson Roof and Tile for making this all come together.
- ❖ Our Connex storage container should be here next week. Paid for container and mover to transport it to Chapter House.
- ❖ Big thanks to TLU for hosting the DAV Dash 5K run. They raised a little over \$1500 for the Chapter and are planning on making this an annual event. Good job Bull dogs.

NEW BUSINESS:

- ❖ A lengthy discussion on property taxes and disabled vet discounts and exemptions.
- ❖ New flags needed for the Chapter flag pole. Sr Vice Cdr Elley will contact Woodmen of the World for replacements.

GOOD of the ORDER

- The Golden Corral Military Appreciation Event was a record for both DAV and Golden Corral nationally. We know we did our part and thank all the volunteers who made it possible.
- Comrade Steven Johns Jr gave a presentation on a "Bridge the Gap" peer network seminar that will be held at VFW Post 76 Mar 22, 12-5 PM. Asked if DAV Chapter 61 would like to be a participant with a booth set up for people to learn about the DAV and Chapter 61's Service Corps. Adjutant Howze will clear with State and area Chapters to make sure there is no conflict.

Moment of Silence. Remembrance of fallen comrades.**Motion for Adjournment:**

Motion by Leon Garcia, 2nd by James Dickerson, carried.

**CLOSING CEREMONY: Salute Closing Prayer by Chaplain Cusson
Next meeting will be 7 PM, on February 11th, 2014.**