

ALAMO CHAPTER SUMMER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Some recent news of long-time Alamo members:

Carol Detweiler had brain surgery on June 17th; she had been suffering from headaches for a long while, and a scan revealed fluid in her brain and a membrane that was pressing on, (and actually moving), her brain. No more headaches since the surgery, she is home recovering with home health and therapy aid. She cannot drive but has help from her daughter to get the things she needs.

Yvonne Ainsworth's family notified us that she passed away on June 28th. We know that Buz was waiting for her in Heaven with that big grin of his. Her funeral will be held on August 9th. Details can be found on the Alamo chapter Facebook page or contact Mary Palmer for information.

This year's SMW Regional Muster was a huge success with great attendance, fantastic activity schedule, and wonderful food. Regional Director Joe Noonan and the Smart Texans hosted this muster at Coffee Creek RV Resort in Santo, Tx. This is a beautiful and secluded park nestled off the main roads with lots of trees and a rolling creek throughout. Also plenty of spacious cabins for those who cannot bring a rig. We had delicious catering from Natty Flat Smokehouse and delicious home-cooked food from the members. Thank you to Jan and Art Schnoor, and Nell Dahl for their planning and cooking. Donations of requested supplies were gathered for the Watkins-Logan Veteran's Home near Tyler, Tx, and proceeds from the 50/50 raffles were donated as well.

A highlight of this muster was a group visit and tour to the fairly new Vietnam Veteran's Museum in Mineral Wells, Tx. This was an incredible experience and quite emotional for us all. There is a Memorial Wall with engraved names located on the grounds outside. Plan to visit this museum if you are in North Texas, as they are adding unique displays all the time.

Alamo Members Hank DiGiovanni and Richard Palmer recently attended the grand opening of Fun Town RV Park in Cibolo, Tx and recruited a few new members. This park is located close to Randolph AFB.

Our June muster was cancelled, due to lack of sign-ups. Johnson Creek RV park requires a total registration one month before the actual muster, and it was difficult to meet that deadline. Muster Master Hank DiGiovanni was looking for alternatives, but with this extreme heat, many are reluctant to travel this time of year. September Nationals will be here before we know it, Sept 18-23.

October 12-15, we'll enjoy our annual Fish Fry Muster which is always well-attended. This will be held in Fredericksburg at Oakwood RV Park. Richard and Mary Palmer will host.

December brings our Christmas Muster, 11/30- 12/4, to be held at Skyline RV in Bandera. Willie and Joyce Pollard will host.

MUSTER MINUTES MAY 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Collier at 10:15 a.m., followed by the Pledges to the USA and Texas flags.

Secretary Mary Palmer read the minutes from the previous muster, and Theda Collier gave a financial report. Both were approved as given. Our chapter was able to send \$420 to our charity, Patriot Paws. Our remaining balance is \$1811.00. Theda mentioned that all dues for 2023 should be paid by now, Unfortunately, some members did not renew, for various reasons. We would hope that even if you are not able to drive a rig anymore, that you consider staying on as a social member. Many of the RV parks we muster at have cabin rentals. We depend on our local chapters to retain a certain membership to keep the National SMART organization strong.

Muster Master Hank DiGiovanni reports that it is becoming increasingly difficult to find local parks in the South Texas area who continue to accept rally groups in the winter months and/or lend the use of their Rally Halls without expensive daily fees. Members need to help in the sharing of information regarding new and existing parks as they travel or hear about them. Hank already has 2024 muster dates and park reservations secured for Super Bowl and Fish Fry.

Hank will be working with Texans secretary Nell Dahl on providing the Accountability Report for this Regional Muster to be sent to National Office.

Regional Director Joe Noonan reminded us that Alamo Chapter is hosting the Regional Muster in 2024 and he would like your suggestions for places we can hold this, tentatively sometime in April 2024. Also, our Region is hosting the 2025 National Muster, and wants three suggestions/ ideas for locations from each member.

Our friend Stan from SkyMed will have a presentation Saturday evening for those interested. He has videos of his and his family's appearances on the Ed Sullivan show from 1960's when they had a famous traveling acrobat troupe.

Richard Palmer, Recruiting and Retention director discussed the upcoming National Muster in Amana Colonies, Iowa. He and other board members have been in contact with Lee Greenwood's manager and hoping to secure his attendance. Wouldn't it be awesome to have a live performance of "God Bless the USA" at a National Muster? There wouldn't be a dry eye in the house, for sure.

As incoming SMART National President, Richard plans to focus on advertising by utilizing social media and publications to keep getting the word out about SMART. There will need to be a new Recruiting and Retention Director for 2024, and always looking for new committee members to help in this area. Let's keep out SMW Region active and influential by participating beyond the local level.

April 8, 2024 is the exciting date for the "Eclipse Muster". Most RV parks are already booked, so this will not be an official muster, but it was suggested that we all go to Mike and Linda Mosley's lovely and spacious house out in the country to view this spectacular event. (wink) to Mosley's and Pollards, who are their neighbors.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Mary Palmer, secretary