

*Swansea Community Post 2007
American Legion
Department of Illinois
P.O. Box 20093
Swansea, IL 62226*

Our next meeting is scheduled at 7:00 P.M. 31 January 2011 at the Swansea Improvement Association Hall, located at 301 Service St. in Swansea. The Executive Board will meet at 6:30 P.M. All members are welcome to attend. The SAL will meet at 6:00 P.M.

We had 24 members, 6 Wives and 1 Guest at our December meeting. The meeting lasted 34 minutes. Since we were celebrating the Posts 4th Anniversary we had plenty of food which was enjoyed after the meeting was over.

Our guest was Past Department Commander of the Sons of the Legion, Carl Stratton, who presented 'Founders Awards' to several Post members who were instrumental in the formation of our Posts' SAL Squadron.

Commander Meister also presented the 'Presidents Call to Service Award' to Sarah Meister. He also presented 'Certificates of Appreciation' to Jim Page, Dave Devine, Bob Noonan and /// for their involvement in Scouting.

Several Post members participated in a Veterans Day program at Sycamore Village on 11 November. We also handed out Christmas gifts to Veterans at Sycamore Village and Rosewood Care Center under the 'Gifts to the Yanks Who Gave' program. Altogether, over 30 Veterans were served. Les O'Neal, who handled the programs, thanks everyone who assisted.

Jim Page wants to remind everyone that the Sons of the American Legion Squadron meets at 6 PM on the last Monday of the month (same night and location as the Post meeting). This program is open to male descendants (natural or adopted) of any Legionnaire, or deceased veteran who was eligible to belong to the American Legion.

He is in the process of setting the dates for Poppy sales for 2011. The schedule will be available shortly and when available, will be published in the newsletter.

An annual Consolidated Report is prepared and submitted to the Department of Illinois. Figures from our report are consolidated with those submitted by other Posts and submitted to National. The figures from all Departments are consolidated and are reported to Congress. The report covers participation in the basic programs – Americanism, Children and Youth, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Economics and National Defense. But the reports goes further than the major program areas asking for information such as post involvement in community service, legislative endeavors, public relations efforts etc. It also asks if the post sponsors a uniformed group, or distributes a regular publication to its members, and the number of funeral honors for deceased members. Most of the activities originated by the Post are easily covered. Activities by individual members outside of Post sponsored activities are not. If you are involved in volunteerism of any kind including, but not limited to, scouting, youth sports, blood donation, food pantries, civic activities we would like to know the activity and how much time you spend. You can send the information to the address on the letterhead, or cvbales@aol.com. Monthly would be nice, but whatever schedule fits you will fit us.

The 76th annual session of the Illinois Premier Boys State will be held at Eastern Illinois University, Charleston Illinois June 11 - 17, 2011. The idea of this program is to teach young men how the government of the State of Illinois operates. Last year, the Post or members of the Post sponsored 6 young men. We are looking for young men to attend the 2011 session. They should be (preferably) current High School Juniors. We're also looking for individuals or organizations willing to sponsor a boy. Sponsorship fee is \$225.00. Graduates of a Boys State

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program include President Clinton, Newsman Tom Brokaw, Governor Mike Huckabee, Astronaut Neil Armstrong, Rush Limbaugh, Michael Jordan, and Senator Reid.

The Post has collected a large number of goodies to be boxed and sent to Chaplain Williams in Afghanistan. He is distributing to military personnel in his area that have no one at home. We have decided to make this an ongoing project. We will need your help to make it a successful project. So far we've had two members send monetary contributions which have been used for postage. Each package cost \$12.50. Many have provided some of the items listed below. If you would like to make a monetary contribution, send it to the address on the letterhead above. If you would prefer to provide any of the items listed below, you can drop them off on Post meeting nights at the SIA hall. Please do not take them to the SIA hall at any other time. The Association has no involvement in this project and has no place to store items. Items can also be dropped off at Carl Bales residence at 1760 Payton Drive in Dutch Hollow Village on Rt. 161 at other times. Call 233-4597 for directions. Items desired include but are not limited to hard candies, Snacks, Peanuts, Pistachio nuts, Cookies, Chips, Beef jerky, Chap Stick, Spices, Hot sauce, Ranch salad dressing, batteries (mostly AA), Zip lock bags, travel size tooth paste and other travel sized toiletries hard pack Pringles, nuts, white crew socks, disposable razors, Crystal drink packs, and women's travel toiletries.

On December 31, 2010 an EF3 Tornado with winds up to 165 MPH struck Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo. Damage reported so far resulted in 56 families who lost everything, another 159 homes were affected and of those 41 were completely destroyed and 32 had moderate damage. Currently, operations are in the process of relocating 300 military and family members. Families that have been displaced and residing in temporary housing are in need of new or slightly used winter clothing (all ages and sexes) as well as bedding, hygiene items diapers, dry goods, paper products, canned goods, spices, small kitchen appliances, pots & pans, dishes, etc. Basically, anything required to run a household. We have already sent over 30 boxes to the distribution point. We're still looking for more items. If you have any items you would like to contribute to the cause contact Carl Bales (233-4597 or cvbales@aol.com) and arrangements will be made for pick up and delivery.

Check your Membership Card. If your card doesn't have '2011' at the center top, you haven't paid your dues. Please do so at your earliest convenience.

Attend Meetings – We keep them short so that we have time to visit