

*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. 27 February 2012 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.

MEMBERSHIP: As of January 24, 2012 our paid membership is 82. There are 21 2011 members who have not, as of yet paid their 2012 dues. Are you one of those 21? Check your membership card. If the membership year does not indicate 2012, you are. PLEASE REMIT \$25.00 ASAP. We're always looking for new members. You'd be surprised how many of your family, friends and neighbors are veterans and who have not been invited to join. This writer has two family members on active duty. I gave them each a membership and told them I would pay their dues as long as they are on active duty. You might consider the same thing if you can afford it.

FYI: Thought you might like to know where most of the Post money was spent in 2011. We made the following donations – American Legion Child Welfare Foundation \$130.00; Anna VA Home \$250.00; Boys State \$450.00; Central Illinois Honor Flight \$250.00; Fischer House \$250.00; Gifts to the Yanks who gave \$924.28; Jefferson Barracks Christmas Fund \$100.00; Quincy VA Home \$500.00; School Medal Awards \$ 55.00; Scott MIA Council \$ 100.00; The Egyptian Past Commanders Club 'Haven' \$531.21; the USO \$250.00 and the Marion VA Hospital \$250.00. That's a total of \$4,115.49. Since our inception on October 2006 we have made \$14,054.29 to these and other similar entities. Your Post is supporting the Veterans and their families. We would like to do more, but in order to do so we need to raise funds to do so. That is why we had the 'Grocery Raffles' the past few years. Unfortunately they didn't raise the amount of money we hoped for. We have a couple of fund raisers scheduled for this year.

First and foremost is a 'Celtic Fest'. There are all kinds of 'German Fests', 'Italian Fests' and the like in the area which are a lot of fun with the appropriate food and music. But, there are a lot of people in the area who have a 'Celtic' heritage. We have arranged to have two of the top Celtic Bands in the country perform. They are 'Highland Reign' and 'Raising Gael'. We'll have the usual food and refreshment stands, a few things for the kiddies to amuse themselves with. We're looking for sponsors and individuals or organizations interested in taking part or specially helping. The 'Celtic Fest' is scheduled to be held on Friday and Saturday June 15 and 16, 2012 at the Mel Price Park on Caseyville Ave. in Swansea. For more information Contact Bill Meister at (618) 401-0531.

Secondly we are going to have a yard sale. The date(s) and location have not been set yet but it will most likely be in the 2nd half of the year. We will accept donations starting now of almost anything as long as it/they are clean and usable. If you have anything that you would like to contribute to this sale call Carl Bales at (618) 233-4597 and arrangements will be made to pick them up and store them until the date of the sale.

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On a different subject we have found another contact in Afghanistan, so we are resuming sending packages to the troops over there which have no one at home to supply 'Care' packages to them. Items desired, but not limited to, include Beef Jerky, Pringles (in tubes), Pasticcio Nuts, Spices, Hot Sauces, Hard Candy, Crystal Light Drink Packages, Zip Lock Bags, Travel size toiletries (both men and ladies), Chap Stick, Ranch Salad Dressing, Batteries (mostly AA), Disposable Razors and white crew socks. We could also use cash to pay for the shipment overseas. Items can be dropped off at our Post meetings on the 4th Monday of each month, or you can contact Carl Bales to arrange for pick-up. Cash donations can be sent to the address on the letterhead.

Each year the National American Legion submits a Consolidated Report to Congress. This report chronicles the many ways in which the American Legion performed at the national level in 2011. From its network of accredited service officers to the more than \$600,000 raised to provide college money to the children of military personnel killed on duty since 9/22, the Legion reached out and fulfilled the purposed behind its four pillars of service.

The American Legion Consolidated National Report for 2011 offers a snapshot off activities performed, as well as support services to the organization such as communications, membership management and information technology.

The report also provides a listing of training materials, workshops, conferences and other events designed to help members better understand the Legions programs and services. You can view the report at www.legion.org/american-legion-consolidated-national-report-2011.

As reported in previous newsletters, your post won an award at the 2011 Department Convention for its Community Service Report. This was for Posts with less than 100 members. Now we have 100 members, or at least we did at the end of the year, and the competition is tougher. We would like to win it again and you can help. Keep track of the hours you donate to any type of community service and let us know about them.

ARE YOU A VETERAN? DO YOU BELONG TO THE AMERICAN LEGION? HOW ABOUT JOINING?

JUST ASK! IT WORKS!

Have you checked out our Web-site? You can take a look at it at www.swanseapost2007.com. You will find pictures of some of our past activities, a Post Calendar and much more.

Attend meetings. We keep them short so that we have time to visit