

Swansea Community Post 2007
American Legion
Department of Illinois
P.O. Box 23944
Belleville, IL 62223-0944

Our next meeting is scheduled at 7:00 P.M. 25 November 2013 at the Swansea Improvement Association Hall, located at 216 Service St. in Swansea. The Executive Board will meet at 6:30 P.M. All members are welcome to bring a guest/potential new member.

POST BIRTHDAY. This Post will celebrate its 7th birthday at the November meeting. We'll have a 'Birthday Cake' available. Stop by, see what goes on at a meeting, and have a piece of cake. Meet some of the members you haven't met and let them meet you.

POPPY DAY. The Post offered Veterans' Poppy's to the public on Saturday 8 September 2013 from 9 AM to 3 PM at Dierbergs in Shiloh. These Poppies are assembled by Veterans in VA Hospitals who are paid a small amount for their labors. \$1236.00 was collected. None of this money stays in the Post. We sent \$200.00 to the 'USO', \$200.00 to the Illinois 'Honor Flight', \$200.00 to the 'Fischer House', \$150.00 to the 'Jefferson Barracks' Christmas Fund, and \$341.00 to 'The Gifts To The Yanks Who Gave'. We've received 'Thank You' notes from all. We are having another Poppy Day on 2 November 13. Proceeds from this drive will be distributed much the same as above. If you would like to contribute to the 'Poppy' fund, send your contribution to the address above'. Just be sure to mark it as 'Poppy' Fund.

MEMBERSHIP. As of this writing the 2014 Post membership stands at 89. We are behind our Membership percentage of last year. As you know 2nd dues notices have been sent out. The Legion Membership year runs from 1 January thru 31 December. Dues are payable in advance, hence the dues notices in July. Life will be a whole lot easier for Bill Martin if you would send you dues in pronto. They are still \$25.00.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, there were rumors, none substantiated, that the National Organization or the State Organization or both may be considering a dues increase. The rumor has been substantiated, at least by the State. They are going to raise their per-capita \$2.25. No word about national as yet. As it stands **now**, beginning in July 2014 the state and national per-capita total will be \$26.00. Unfortunately, that means a dues increase on our part. More on this later as additional information becomes available. Regardless of what National does, the Post is likely to be forced to raise its dues. Somebody figured out that the Post gets to keep \$.47 of the \$25.00 we now charge.

If you can swing it, purchasing a 'Paid up for Life' ('PUFL') membership would protect you from this and any future dues increases. The cost for PUFL depends upon your age and the Post Dues. You can pay the cost in full or over a 36 month period. Based on our current dues (\$25.00) if you should happen to be 24 or under your monthly cost would be \$30.64; Age 25 – 29 = \$29.50; Age 30 – 34 = \$28.25; Age 35 – 39 = \$26.89; Age 40 – 44 = \$25.42; Age 45 – 49 = \$23.83; Age 50 – 54 = \$ 22.08; Age 55 – 59 = \$ 20.19; Age 60 – 64 = \$18.25; Age 65 – 69 = 16.28; Age 70 – 74 = \$14.03; Age 75 – 79 = \$12.50, Age 80 – 84 = \$10.83; 85 and over = \$9.64. If interested contact Carl Bales @ 233-4597 and I'll get an application form to you.

PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY. Repeating ---- In order to satisfy the IRS, we are forced to request that you send a copy of your DD214 to the address on the letterhead. **Your name, your dates of service and your character of discharge is all we need.** Everything else can be blacked out if you desire. We thank those of you who have sent theirs in, and encourage those of you who have not to do so at your earliest convenience.

RECIPROCATATION. The Swansea Improvement Association will have its Annual Meat Shoot on Sunday November 10, 2013 from 12:00 pm to 5:pm **rain or shine.** They'll be shooting for Brats, Strip Steaks, Bacon, Hams, Pork Steaks, Rib Eye Steaks, Ribs, Pork Loins and T-Bone Steaks. They'll be selling chances to win Wenneman's Gift Certificates. 1 for \$125.00, 1 for \$100.00 and 1 for \$75.00. This organization supports us by allowing us to hold our meetings in their building at no cost. If you can, return the favor and support their Meat Shoot. Thanks.

VETERANS RECOGNITION. Legionnaire Garrett received the following E-mail from West High School which requested that it be passed on to our members.

'You are cordially invited to attend Belleville West High School's 8th Annual Veteran's Assembly On Friday, November 8, 2013, at Belleville West High School, between 2:45 pm-3:25 pm. (please arrive promptly by 2:00.)

Please allow Belleville West High School students, faculty and staff to honor you and the service you have given to our country.'

If you go, park in the back of the school. I'm told that golf carts will help those that need assistance.

CHRISTMAS POTLUCK. Mark 23 December on your calendar. That's the date of our December meeting and we'll be having a pot-luck meal. You can bring your significant other or a guest. The Post will provide the meat. The actual meeting (if any) will be shorter and sweeter than usual. More info. later.

The meeting schedule for the remainder of the year is as follows: Dec 2013 – 23rd. All begin at 7:00 P.M

ATTEND MEETINGS. WE KEEP 'EM SHORT AND SWEET.