



SWANSEA COMMUNITY POST 2007
DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS
AMERICAN LEGION

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

Commander: William T. Meister

Sr. Vice Commander: Carl V. Bales

Jr. Vice Commander: James Page

Adjutant: Robert Noonam

Finance Officer: Roger Homeier

Chaplain: Robin Ladtrick

Sgt. At Arms: Robert Burrack

MEETING NOTICE

The September meeting will be held on the 22nd as scheduled.

MEMBERSHIP

As of August 25th (Meeting night, our 2015 paid membership was 76. That's pretty good but we need **60** to reach 100%. If you haven't paid your dues, please do so at your earliest convenience.

There were 58 'Continuous Year Certificates' created. 5 or 6 were presented at the August meeting. The remainder will be sent by mail.

ANNIVERSARY

The August 2014 meeting marked, beginning of our eighth year of existence.

I thought it might be a good idea to summarize a few of our accomplishments.

For instance, we have made 'School Award' presentations to students in the graduating class in the two grade schools in Swansea. We've given over \$400 to the American Legion 'Child Welfare Association'. We have given over \$18,500.00 to the 'Gifts to the Yanks' program, the Quincy VA home and Mayfest, The Anna VA Home, the JB Christmas fund, the Scott MIA Council, the 'Fisher House', the 'Haven', the Marion VA Hospital, the 'Swansea Family Christmas' fund, the Special Olympics, and the 'Central Illinois Honor Flight'

In addition the Post and members of the Post have sponsored 20 or more boys to 'Illinois Premier Boy's State' over the years. We've gone into the Nursing Homes in Swansea and given Christmas gifts to the Veterans living there.

Every other year or so, we hold a Flag Retirement ceremony. We'll probably have one on June 14, 2015. Save your old flags, or bring them to one of our meetings. All of which leads us into our next our next subject which is:

POPPY DAY

On 16 August about 11 of us were standing in front of the O'Fallon Dierbergs selling Poppies. We did fairly well. We collected \$1,353.37 which was distributed as follows;

Marion VA Hospital, \$150.00; Illinois Veterans Home Quincy \$150.00; Illinois Veterans Home Anna, \$150.00; 'The Haven', \$300.00; 'Gifts to the Yanks Who Gave', \$313.37. The remaining \$290.00 will be used to purchase 2000 Poppies for future sales.

Since Poppy funds cannot be used for anything except aiding Veterans and their families, we're always looking for ways to raise funds so that we can accomplish more for our community and our veterans.

Future Meeting Dates

Oct. 27, 2014

Nov. 2014 TBD

Dec. 2014 TBD

Jan. 26, 2015

Feb. 23, 2015

Mar. 23, 2015

Apr. 27, 2015

May 26, 2015

June 22, 2015

July 27, 2015

Aug. 24, 2015

Sept. 28, 2015

All Meetings held at the Swansea Improvement Association Hall, 216 Service St. and begin at 7:00 P.M.

*Executive Board meetings begin at **6:30***

2014 Poppy Days

Nov. 1 at the Belleville Wal-Mart.

Sales Times are from 9 AM until 3 PM.

If you, or someone you know have any expertise in setting up and running a money making , contest or whatever, we'd like to hear from you.

SCHOOL AWARDS

This award is designed to emphasize the development of personal qualities such as Courage, Honor, Leadership, Patriotism, and Service. Also to develop the ideals of Americanism among young people and recognize young people who demonstrate good citizenship. As pointed out previously, we present these awards at High Mount and Wolf Branch. If we can get some assistance from someone in the neighborhoods of Pontiac-Holliday and Grant-Illini we'd like to make presentations at those schools at the end of the school year too.

GIFTS TO THE YANKS WHO GAVE

This program was established in 1944 to remember our hospitalized War Veterans. The last sentence of our Legion Preamble asks us to 'Consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness, and part of the opening prayer includes 'we ask thy blessing and comfort for those Comrades who are suffering mental and physical disability. Cheer the and bring back to them the blessing of health and happiness'. We try to do that by making sure that all Veterans in our local nursing homes get a visit and a gift at Christmas time.

RAFFLE TICKETS

The enclosed tickets look different (no stubs) but they are 2014 still \$1.00 each. If you want to purchase more than the two tickets enclosed, send the extra money and additional tickets will be filled out in your name.

The August winner was Norman Hake.

TAPS

JAMES KLUCKER August 21, 2014.
May God hold him in his hands.

BITS AND PIECES

As pointed out last month, our meetings are held at the Swansea Improvement Association (SIA) hall. They treat us very well. They have a Fish Fry every

Friday. I can tell you, from many years of personal experience, that the food is very good, and the prices are reasonable. If you should happen to get a yen for fish give 'em a try.

CHAIRMANSHIP'S

We had a member return his dues notice with a note attached stating that he was dropping out because the legion was not what that he expected. That's why a lot of the space in this newsletter is about what this Post has done and is doing. We've mentioned Poppies, School Awards, Gifts to the Yanks Who Gave, and Boys State (which, incidentally, originated in Illinois.

There are a lot of other programs that we could do if we had the individuals willing and able to step up and grab the reins. For instance we still need a person to chair the 'School Awarded program. We had a member Minister Tyrone Thorpe step up to chair the 'Gifts to the Yanks Who Gave' program.

What programs are available?

How about '**Americanism**'? This committee seeks to inspire love of country and good citizenship through patriotic observances, flag etiquette, civic instruction in schools, community service and youth activities. Boys State, School , Awards , oratorical contests, and baseball are subsets of this chair or,

How about '**Children and Youth**'. This committee. This committee is charged with making certain that every veterans child in need of care and protection, gets care and protection. It also extends support to sound organizations that provide services to for children and youth.

There are many others and in some of the upcoming new letters we'll discuss some of them

The important thing is, without some one to ramrod them, these committees exist only on paper. Think about it. Maybe there is something out there that will help make this organization become what you expected.