



**SWANSEA COMMUNITY POST 2007
DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS
AMERICAN LEGION**

P.O. Box 23944
Belleville, IL. 62223

Commander: Bill Meister

Sr. Vice Commander: Carl Bales

Jr. Vice Commander: James Page

Adjutant: Carl Bales

Finance Officer: Roger Homeier

Sgt/-at-Arms: Bob Burrack



**Future Meeting
Dates**

Oct. 26, 2015
Nov. 23, 2015
Dec. 21, 2015
Jan. 25, 2016
Feb. 22, 2016
Mar. 28, 2016
Apr. 25, 2016
May 30, 2016
June 27, 2016
July 25, 2016
Aug. 22, 2016
Sept. 26, 2016
Oct. 24, 2016

MEETING NOTICE: Our next scheduled meeting will be held on September 28, 2015. It will begin at 7:00 P.M. Other dates are listed on the right.

MEMBERSHIP: Our final 2015 membership was 167. As of 24 August our 2016 membership was 101 which, by the way, is a decent start. We need only 66 to gain the coveted 100%. That's the good news.

The bad news (which you should have read about in the national magazine) is that the National Organization has, at the 2015 National Convention, raised their dues \$5.00 effective 1 January 2016.

What's that mean to you? Nothing this year if you've already paid your dues, or, **if you pay your dues before January 1, 2016.** After January 1, 2016 you will have to pay more, since the Post's current dues of \$30.00 is not enough to cover this change. How much more will be determined at the September meeting. Want input? Show up.

Your \$30.00 dues is split -as follows: National \$13.50, Department \$12.50, Post \$ 4.00. After January 1, National will get \$18.50.

If you are a PUFL (**Paid Up For Life**) you don't have to worry about this or any other dues increase.

I would strongly encourage you to pay your dues by 20 December which would give us time to process them and get them in to department.

As it stands right now, 2017 and later years dues will be the same as what will be paid after 1 January 2016 until Department and/or National change their per-capita again.

Normally, I would suggest If you can see your way clear to buy a PUFL, that it would simplify your life and ours. However, that is your decision. In the past a PUFL was a pretty good deal for everyone. When you purchased one, the cost was based on the amount of dues collected by the post you belonged to. Low cost post like ours was less expensive than those from a higher cost post. That is not the case now. Now it is based on age

Still, for those who can afford the initial cost a PUFL can save you some money over the long haul.

For instance:

If you are between 18 and 29 years of age, a PUFL would cost \$1,399. L\Your life expectancy is between 49 and 59 years so the annualized cost would be between \$24 and \$29 dollars.

All Meetings held at the
Swansea Improvement As-
sociation Hall. 216 Service
St. and begin at 7:00 P.M.
Executive Board meetings
begin at 6:30 P.M.

Poppy Days

7 November at the Belle-
ville Crossing Wal-Mart on
Rte 161. Hours are 9 A.M.
until 3 P.M.

You can help from 9 til 12
or 12 til 3 or when ever or
how long you want.

None of the money col-
lected is used for Post op-
erations.

If you are between 30 and 39 years of age, a PUFL would cost \$1,275. Your life expectancy is between 40 and 48 years so the annualized cost would be between \$27 and \$32 dollars.

If you are between 40 and 49 years of age, a PUFL would cost \$1,120. Your life expectancy is between 30 and 38 years so the annualized cost would be between \$29 and \$37 dollars.

If you are between 50 and 59 years of age, a PUFL would cost \$935. Your life expectancy is 22 to 30 years so the annualized cost would be between \$36 and \$42 dollars.

If you are between 60 and 69 years of age, a PUFL would cost \$740. Your life expectancy is 14 to 21 years so the annualized cost would be between \$35 and \$49 dollars.

If you are between 70 and 79 years of age, a PUFL would cost \$550. Your life expectancy is 5 to 9 years so the annualized cost would be between \$39 and \$60 dollars.

If you are between 80 and 89 years of age, a PUFL would cost \$399. Your life expectancy is 4 to 8 years so the annualized cost would be between \$50 and \$100 dollars.

If you are 90 or older a PUFL would cost \$399.you.

If you should decide that a PUFL would be a good deal for you, you can pay in either of 3 ways.

1. Check/ Money Order.
2. 12 monthly payments. Billed to your credit card.
3. Full amount billed to your credit card.

If interested, contact Carl Bales @ 618-233-4597 or cvbales@aol.com and I'll send the proper form to you.

We had 16 members plus a guest, 22nd District Commander Larry Miller, at the meeting.

District Commander Miller talked about membership and the dues increase

We received 'thank you' letters from several recipients of the 'Poppy Money' collected in our last drive.

Bob Noonan, a 50 year member is in a Nursing Home in Edwardsville. He lost his leg and will soon be going to JB to get fitted for a prosthesis. From there he will go, probably to an assisted living facility in the Collinsville area near his daughter. His phone number is 618 -235-2896. If you know him, or even if you don't, give him a call.

A couple of weeks ago, the Swansea Fire Department and Police department had their first annual children's day camp. The children , from about 6 to 13 years of age or so got to meet and interact with some firemen and policemen and learned a little about their jobs. Our Post was asked to perform a 'Flag Retirement" ceremony, which we did. It was well received and the Post was thanked profusely.

Remember, before the elections, all the hype about the V.A. and how the politicians were going to get it straightened up? Every time you turned on the TV some politician was pounding the podium telling us all how he/she was going to get to the bottom of the problems. What do you hear now, after the elections?

From what I hear, things have not improved much, if at all. Do you think the politicians have your back? Seems to me that the politicians, Republican, Democrat, Independent, Socialist, male or female or what ever don't have my back. If they don't who does?

The Veterans Organizations.

The more members these organizations have, the bigger their clout.

Think about it.