

APRIL 28, 2025



CHARLES A. WOODFORD Post 2007

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Since We Last Met

Mar 30: I had the honor to be a panel member at a Veteran Town-hall. Senator Tammy Duckworth and Representative Nikki Budzinski answered questions. Questions ranged from paying the Coast Guard, Post Office issues, and cuts to VA personnel. While they did not have any definite answers/resolutions, they are working to protect our Veteran benefits.

Apr 12: District leadership and I went to Bloomington for Department Executive Committee (DEC) meeting. This meeting provides information about various items and programs. One item of interest was the State Convention. One of the hotels in Springfield, the Wyndham, is closed due to vandalism. This has caused some issues with lodging and transportation. Department is working with the City to correct issues so the Convention can move forward.

DID YOU KNOW?

Id.me

The VA (and every other federal agency) is shifting to ID.me logins to access your information.

To create an account, go to VA.gov. On the home page, right side, click Create Account, click Id.me and follow in instructions.

This method is being used for identify you for VA, IRS, Social Security,

The Committee also approved three Post to merge, one Post Name change, one temporary Charter issued, and the Charter cancellation for four SAL Squadrons.

Apr 19: Attended a District DAV meeting in Mt. Vernon. I was a speaker about the impact VAC's have on assisting Veterans in need.

Apr 23: Attended a meeting in Nashville IL with the Newly formed VAC Committee. They are working to establish a funded VAC in Washington County.

Apr 25: Attended the visitation for Philip Mette. Phil was a great Legionnaire. He always wanted those in positions to do their job! Phil did not allow his ALS to get in the way of his Legion duties.

Phil will be missed by many Legionnaires across the State. RIP Marine.

Department of Health and Human Services, and State sites. (I did not see where Illinois has implemented usage as of this date)

Yes it is another password! The Id.me crosses to many other websites so it helps reduce having numerous passwords for government sites.

CALENDAR

- Apr 29, 7 PM, VAC Meeting, 19 Public Square, 1st Floor Conf. Room, Public Welcome
- May 10, 8AM, Be the One Walk, Flora VFW to Louisville Legion.
- May 11, Armed Forces Day Dinner, 4PM, The Haven
- May 11, Mother's Day
- May 17, 9AM to Noon, Messinger Cemetery Clean Up
- May 17, 9AM to 3PM, Poppy Day #1, Belleville Lowes
- May 19, Post Meetings, Executive at 6:30, General at 7PM
- May 25, 1PM, 22nd District Convention, Post 581, Columbia IL
- May 26, 10 AM, Belleville Memorial Parade, 11AM, Memorial Day Ceremony at Walnut Hill Cemetery
- May 27, 7PM, VAC Meeting

CHARLES A. WOODFORD POST 2007

Meetings are the fourth Monday of the month at 7 PM.
Swansea Improvement Association
216 Service St, Swansea IL 62226

Check Out Our Facebook Page
Swansea American Legion Post 2007

Post Email:
ILLEGIONPOST2007@gmail.com

STILL SERVING AMERICA

DID YOU KNOW?

American Legion Structure

We all served in the Military. We all learned that there is a Chain of Command. The American Legion is not different. Here is the structure of the American Legion from bottom to top:

Post: The basic unit of the Legion. A community may have one or several Posts. A post must have at least 15 members to be a valid Post. A Post elects officers to manage the operations.

District: A District is made up Posts in a region. We are in the 22nd District. The District covers Bond, Madison, Monroe, St. Clair, and Washington Counties. There are 40 Posts in the District. Each District elects officers just like a Post. The main function of a District is to provide information and policy to the Post in that District. The District is the first link in providing training and resolving Post issues.

Division: A Division is made up of several Districts. We are in the 5th Division. The District Covers the Counties basically South of I70. The 5th has 119 Posts with 10,313 members. There are five Divisions in Illinois. Not all States use Divisions. Some use Regions while others do not use this link in the Chain. The Divisions are charged to pass information to the Districts and to assist in resolving issues and provide training as needed.

Department: In short, it is a State. There are five other territories, France, Puerto Rico, District of Columbia, Latin America, and the Philippines. The Department elects a Commander and officers as needed. The Department has operational control of the Divisions, Districts, and Posts. The Department attends various meetings and provides guidance from National.

National: The Headquarters for The American Legion. Our HQ is in Indianapolis Indiana. National sets policy for the American Legion. The Departments have input in these changes. Changes to Legion policy is accomplished through the use of resolutions. Resolutions come up the chain from the Post and if approved at Department, they may be voted on at the yearly National Conventions.



TID BITS

On This Day

1788 Maryland becomes 7th state to ratify US constitution

1919 1st jump with US Army Air Corps (rip-cord type) parachute (Les Irvin)

1952 Dwight D. Eisenhower resigns as Supreme Commander of NATO

I want to take time to thank those that spent time to do Buddy Checks for the Post. Barbara Page, Jim Nickles, Bill Martin and Todd Herzog accepted the challenge. Thank you Todd for leading your crew during this important mission. Many members were pleased to hear from the Team!

I was invited to speak at a DAV District Meeting a couple weeks ago. My topic was Veterans Assistance Commissions. After I spoke, several of my DAV brethren came up to get additional information about the Commission. While many of the Counties where these DAV Chapters are located, they wanted to know how to help. I reminded them that we need to support our VAC's. VAC's are established and operated by Veterans. We also need to watch our Representatives, State and Federal. There have been attempts to cut benefits. We need to remain vigilant concerning **our earned** benefits! How can you get in the know? Go to the National website and go to the Legislative tab. You can sign up for alerts on pending legislation. Support if you agree.

Commander Out