



# Post 36er

*Lt. Ray Dickop Post 36*

*Wisconsin American Legion, West Bend, Wisconsin*

**Building Address:** 712 Park Ave. West Bend 53090    **Mailing Address:** PO Box 921 West Bend 53095  
**Post Phone Number 262-277-1919**

### LEGION FAMILY MEETING SCHEDULE

Post and Auxiliary– 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of month, 7 p.m., SAL – 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of Month

#### COMMANDER’S REVIEW

##### QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity. The fears are paper tigers. You can do anything you decide to do. You can act to change and control your life; and the procedure, the process is its own reward. - Amelia Earhart

This quote is one that speaks to the heart of the American Legion ethos. We do act and we are tenacious. In battle when the officer is killed, the Sergeant takes over. When the Sergeant is killed, the Corporal takes over and when the Corporal goes down.... a Private takes over. We don't hesitate, we act. Your life and your organization are yours to make a success. We are heading into our busy season and there will be help needed so please join us on the road to success. I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting.

Charles E. Young

A leader is best when people barely know he exists, when his work is done, his aim fulfilled, they will say: we did it ourselves. - Lao Tzu

#### SCAMS – 101-

Internet scams through email continue to be a problem. For years I saw them in real estate and not I see them targeting veterans. If you ever get an email from someone you 'know' asking you to do them a favor of getting gift cards, DON'T!!! Another one is an email claiming to be from a child or grandchild and that they are traveling and got in trouble and need money to be wired - DON'T!!! Look at the senders actual email. Do you recognize it. Question it by calling the person if they need a favor or some money. Also look for typos and grammar mistakes. Many of these scams are from overseas and their English sucks! As a retired police lieutenant and detective for nearly 1/3 of my career, I have seen hundreds of scams and way too many victims! Don't let this happen to you. Call me anytime if you have questions!  
Mike Hartwell

#### **POST WEBSITE**

The Post officially has a new website and it has been designed for the entire AL family to use. It is up and running but still under construction. The address is [Post36WestBend.org](http://Post36WestBend.org).

Some of the highlights include hall rental, a one stop shop calendar for everything we have going on, links for the newsletter, both current and past issues, tabs and pages for the Auxiliary, SAL & Riders and many more things to come.

Please visit the webpage and look around. If you have any suggestions, please reach out to Mike Hartwell at 262-305-4036 or send him an email at [wibmwriders@gmail.com](mailto:wibmwriders@gmail.com).

**CONGRATULATIONS – HERO OF THE MONTH**



This month’s winner of Hero of the Month honors is 1st Adjutant Jim Geldreich. Geldreich began his military career when he enlisted in the Army Reserves in La Crosse in 1981, where he spent five years before transferring to the Wisconsin Air National Guard in the Milwaukee area. He spent the remainder of his military career there until his retirement in 1990, with just over nine years of service.

Geldreich, while never being formally deployed to a front overseas, kept himself busy. He trained as a combat engineer, learning about sweeping for mines, bridge building, explosives and more. When he transferred to the Air National Guard, he studied heavy equipment operation. "I was never deployed into combat, but just learning that stuff as an 18-year-old was pretty fascinating," said Geldreich. "And the training was enough to where I feel like if I ever were deployed, I’d know enough to do what they’d need me to do."

Geldreich also mentioned that there was a significant gap between his time in the service and his joining the Legion. Like many other veterans, there was a time when he didn’t know about the West Bend American Legion Post, or that he could even join.

However, the American Legion is a resource for all who have served this country, no matter what capacity. Geldreich told the story of how he was introduced to the organization as he was walking around the Washington County Fair in 2008 or 2009 when he ran into a man he knew. He was dressed in an American Legion uniform, and asked about Geldreich’s service. Confused, Geldreich mentioned that he had served, but was never deployed, and had served in the National Guard and the Reserves. The man assured Geldreich that he was still eligible, and encouraged him to apply. "I sent in my application, started coming to meetings, and I got to know a lot of the guys," said Geldreich. "I got to realize how important the American Legion is to the community of West Bend and what we do to help veterans when they need it."

According to Geldreich, the American Legion offers him a unique opportunity to continue to do rewarding work within his community outside of his regular work hours. "It gives me fulfillment that I can come here and be a part of this group and help other veterans; we fundraise and we make contributions to charities, veterans and things like Honor Flight," said Geldreich. "It gives me a chance to kind of step away from my regular job into something where I still spend a lot of time and is very rewarding."

Currently, Geldreich continues to serve his community, serving as Post 36’s 1st Adjutant as well as a member of the Post’s Executive Board, where he documents meeting activities and assists with the various events that Post 36 has a hand in. He is also part of the West Bend Veterans Honor Guard, which carries the flags at events like veteran funerals, parades, and other events. "I think it’s very pivotal that we have an American Legion Post in West Bend," said Geldreich. "We work with the police department, the fire department, Moose Lodge and things like that; all working together for the betterment of the community, recognizing veterans and helping out with their issues when they arise."



**Jim Maersch** presenting a certificate of appreciation from Post 36 to the West Bend Library for their cooperation in allowing us to put up 5 displays a year at the library. Our displays: Four Chaplains, Memorial Day, POW/MIA Recognition Day, Veterans Day and the Christmas Card project where veterans in the West Bend area receive Christmas cards. Jim has been doing this wonderful project for over 15 years.

Pictured: Steve Thiry, Library Director; Nancy Larson, Adult Services and Outreach Librarian; and Jim.

Thank you Jim for all you do for Post 36!

**Honor Guard -**



The Color Guard is always looking for more members to serve on the West Bend Veterans Honor Guard for parades, funerals and other events. In addition, a two-person team presents the U.S. flag and American Legion flag at the beginning of each monthly meeting and retires them later. Any Legion, SAL, Rider or Auxiliary members are welcome to perform this Post Meeting function. Please consider joining this squad. See Richard at a meeting or call him at (414) 916-8253. Thank you.

**DONNA KLEINMAUS, 2<sup>nd</sup> VICE Meeting Reports  
Child & Family, Youth Programs**

- Americanism & Government Scholarship Test - 2024 Test Dates: March 4-15**  
 Students are given the opportunity to receive recognition and scholarships by taking an online test comprised of 50 multiple-choice, true and false questions followed by an essay question of 300 words or less. The program is endorsed by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and is open to any Wisconsin student in the 10th, 11th or 12th grade. Scholarships are:
  - 10th Grade- 11 \$250 Scholarships awarded
  - 11th Grade- 11 Scholarships awarded \$300 Scholarships awarded
  - 12th Grade- 11 \$750
- American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund, American Legion Baseball Scholarship**  
 A senior may be nominated by the head coach. Deadline for this Scholarship is set at July 15th of each year.
- Badger Boys State**  
 The 81st Session of Badger Boys State is June 9-15, 2024, to be held again at UW Eau Claire in Eau Claire Wisconsin.

**The following were recognized at the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting for continuous years of  
American Legion Membership:**

<b>5 YEARS</b>	<b>15 YEARS</b>	<b>40 YEARS</b>
Bergquist, Brett	Dudevoire, Monte	McCartney, Carolyn
Forester, Curtis	Girard, James	
Fuhrman, Jerome	Kleinmaus, Donna	<b>45 YEARS</b>
Harris, Mark	Lanza, Robert	Santoro, Joe
Herman, John	Merkowitz, James	
Johnson, Keith	Totten, Gordon	<b>50 YEARS</b>
Lawrence, Scott		<b>National Commander Recognition!</b>
Schluga, Robert	<b>20 YEARS</b>	Bath, David
Spaeth, James	Faber, Gerald	Bestul, Gregory
Spiropoulos, James	Niebauer, Steve	
Stewart, Richard		<b>55 YEARS</b>
		Fairbanks, Raymond
<b>10 YEARS</b>	<b>25 YEARS</b>	
Anderson, Jay	Westphal, Michael	
Foshag, Thomas		
Grueneberg, Robert	<b>30 YEARS</b>	
Hayes, James	Johnson, Jamie	
Kissinger, Herb		
Naylor, David	<b>35 YEARS</b>	
Olivo, Samuel	Crowley, William	
Rondorf, Dennis	Sadonikow, Konstantyn	
Voeks, Ronald	Sommerfeld, Max	

# American Legion Family News



Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, is the Auxiliary Spring District Meeting at Post 36. We will be serving sandwiches and salad. We are looking for someone to put posts on the American Legion Family Website for the Auxiliary. If interested, please call Tami Feller.

We now have a bake sale schedule for the Downtown West Bend Farmers Market; Saturday's on the corner of Old Settlers Park: May 25 June 15 July 13 August 17 September 21 October 12 Setup time starts at 6 a.m. with cleanup beginning after 11 a.m. The actual market hours are 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Bakers and setup/cleanup help is always needed and appreciated! These bake sales help us to send out monthly donations and sponsor girls for Badger Girls State. Jeni is looking into containers for the baked goods; the Auxiliary will be covering the cost for this.

Correction: The \$5000 golf outing check has not been received.

Our \$100 donation for the month went to the American Cancer Society.

Membership update: SAL membership continues to grow – we are now at 64 members!! If you have family members who might qualify, please encourage them to join!! Contact Jeff Schwitz with any membership questions: [j.schwitz@att.net](mailto:j.schwitz@att.net) cell: 1-262-483-2857

### Supporting Veterans

Guitars for Vets - On Monday March 4th the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 36 donated \$500 to Guitars for Vets (G4V). Pictured: Jeff Pueck from G4V, Commander Steve Rohde from the SAL. Guitars for Vets instruct disabled Veterans on how to play the guitar. After a successful completion of the lessons the Veteran receives a guitar from G4V. Contact Jeff Schwitz for info: [j.schwitz@att.net](mailto:j.schwitz@att.net). Organization site: <https://guitars4vets.org/>



### Honor Flight fundraiser:

Squadron 36 of the Sons of the American Legion donated \$200 to the VFW for the Honor Flight fundraiser at Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1393 on Feb 24th. Over \$18,000 was raised for the Honor Flight organization. Pictured L to R: Randy Zemel, Howard Hadley, SAL 1st Vice Jeff Schwitz, Donna Kleinmaus, Dennis Ziebell, David Runge, Tony Mohr. Front row John Kleinmaus and Mike Henner.

### Tile bracelets available:

Bracelets are available at stores around West Bend and anywhere fundraising for the Post is happening! Jeff's Spirits is now proudly displaying and offering these to their customers!!!



March 2024  
**Membership**

As of 3/6/24 the Post currently stands at 251 members out of our goal of 267 which is 94%. There are still 23 members who were 'active' in 2023 but have not renewed their membership for 2024. If you are one of the few who have not renewed, jump onto [www.mylegion.org](http://www.mylegion.org) and make it happen! You now have the option of doing a three year renewal and there is still the PUFL option. While I will be reaching out to these individuals, we need to continue to recruit new members as well. Unfortunately every year we lose a number of members as we are all getting older. Recruiting new members is not a one man show. I need your help! You know who the veterans are. Look for those hats, t-shirts, license plates, bumper stickers. These are the guys and gals who are telling everyone that they were in the military and proud of their service. Don't you think they would make a good legion member? Strike up a conversation. Invite them to a meeting. Need a hand, call me. I can also reach out, just get me a name and phone number! Mike Hartwell - 262-305-4036.

**Buddy Checks**

During the month of March we are again in full swing of Buddy Checks. For those of you who volunteered to make some calls, thank you. If you would like to make some calls, I have several pages available! While making the calls, please double check addresses, phone numbers and emails. If you have any updates, please get them to Mike.

**Art Therapy for Veterans**

Every other Monday, 3:00 - 4:15 pm, NAMI Welcome Center, 279 S. 17th Ave., Ste.7, West Bend. These groups are FREE and CONFIDENTIAL! Group will meet every other week for 1.25 hours. Registration is required. Please contact Katy at (414) 698-5420 for more information.

**Military Cruise**

An American Legion Cruise is being planned for February 9 - 16, 2025, sailing on the Celebrity Constellation out of Tampa and stopping in Progreso, Belize City and Costa Maya. By no means are we taking over the ship. Just some local veterans from the American Legion family who want to get away for a week. Prices range from \$1,096 - \$1,528 depending on your room but include taxes and post fees as well as a basic drink package and basic internet package. Several had expressed interest at a meeting on March 9th, but there is still plenty of room for you! More details and contact information can be found at this [CRUISE LINK.](#)



**Last Bugle**

March 31, 1947 – February 21, 2024

Larry passed away as a result of declining health due to Alzheimer's disease at the age of 86. He was honorably discharged from the Army before he met and married Rosemary who preceded him in death. Our sincere condolences to his family whom he was so very proud of.

**LEGION FAMILY CONTACTS**

**Post 36 - Legionnaires**

<b>Commander</b>	Charlie Young	920-948-6602	<a href="mailto:c_tyoung@charter.net">c_tyoung@charter.net</a>
<b>First Vice</b>	Mike Hartwell	262-305-4036	<a href="mailto:wibmwrider@gmail.com">wibmwrider@gmail.com</a>
<b>Second Vice</b>	Donna Kleinmaus	262-305-4505	<a href="mailto:dkleinmaus@charter.net">dkleinmaus@charter.net</a>

**Unit 36 - Auxiliary**

<b>ALA President</b>	Tami Feller	262-685-7895	<a href="mailto:tfeller@mtlcraft.com">tfeller@mtlcraft.com</a>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander</b>	Jenny Kaebisch		<a href="mailto:jennykaebis31@gmail.com">jennykaebis31@gmail.com</a>
<b>ALA Secretary</b>	Jeni Griswold		<a href="mailto:geno182@hotmail.com">geno182@hotmail.com</a>

**Squadron 36 - Sons of the American Legion**

<b>Commander</b>	Steve Rohde	414-581-4381	<a href="mailto:Sprohde@charter.net">Sprohde@charter.net</a>
<b>1st Vice Commander</b>	Jeff Schwitz	262-483-2857	<a href="mailto:j.schwitz@att.net">j.schwitz@att.net</a>
<b>2nd Vice Commander</b>	Glenn Pietschmann	262-689-9329	<a href="mailto:Glenn440@charter.net">Glenn440@charter.net</a>
<b>Adjutant</b>	Tim Hansen	262-305-5984	<a href="mailto:sal36.sec@gmail.com">sal36.sec@gmail.com</a>

March 2024



«Name»

«Address»

“It is a proud privilege to be a soldier – a good soldier ... [with] discipline, self-respect, pride in his unit and his country, a high sense of duty and obligation to comrades and to his superiors, and a self-confidence born of demonstrated ability.” – **George S. Patton Jr.**