



Lt. Ray Dickop Post 36

Wisconsin American Legion, West Bend, Wisconsin

Building Address: 712 Park Av, West Bend 53090
Post Phone Number: 262-277-1919

Mailing Address: PO Box 921, West Bend 53095
Website: Post36WestBend.org

LEGION FAMILY MEETING SCHEDULE

Post and Auxiliary- 1st Tuesday of Month, 7 PM

SAL - 1st Monday of Month, 7 PM

HOLIDAY CELEBRATION



to get together on Sunday, January 5th at noon.

We have added a big screen TV to the Post and will have the football game on (hopefully the Packers vs Bears but the times for that weekend have not been announced and thanks to the NFL's flex scheduling, we have no idea).



Bring your wife, friend or future member and share some camaraderie and food! Play some cards, (would love to find some pinochle players), play some cribbage or tell 'war stories.'



The bar should be open, and we are asking participants to bring a dish to pass (that serves 10) as well as some type of dessert.

Hope to see you next year, on the 5th! Please RSVP to Donna so she has an idea on the number of attendees!

COMMANDER'S CORNER

When it is obvious that the goals cannot be reached, don't adjust the goals, adjust the action steps.

-Confucius

Happy New Year All, welcome to 2025!

It is the start of a new year and as such a new mission plan. As I write this my goal of all current members renewing has not happened in 2024 and thus 100% was not reached. Recalculating (GPS) action steps. If anyone is having a problem with the increase or paying their dues, please contact me to discuss an adjustment.

Additional Goals:

- 1. Increase number of members at meetings.
2. Bring in interesting speakers!
3. Continue delicious meals.
4. Begin in January having all membership meetings as family meetings.
5. Work on new programs and projects such as:
a. Legion Baseball and Softball Team
b. Bigger presence in our schools
c. More contact with our local reserve unit
d. Billboard advertising our post
e. Collaboration with the Civil Air Patrol

This should give us plenty to work on and keep us busy, so I need more members to step up. We are in a post of over 250 and I figure if we get 50% involved, we can accomplish these and more especially with SAL and Auxiliary joining in, a real family affair.

Thank you all for your hard work this last year.

Charlie Young, Commander, Post 36

1st & 2nd Vice Commanders

1st Vice Commander – Mike Hartwell

MEMBERSHIP

If you get this newsletter before January 1st, you have a couple of days before the dues increase.



Unless you have been living under a stump or buried in snow, you know that the National Headquarters increased dues back on July 1st. We tried to save you a couple of bucks by not increasing the dues for the Post until January 1st, 2025. The good news is that the majority of our membership have renewed for either one year or three years at the fixed rate of \$40. We are currently at about 81% of our goal of 276.

Right now, dues for 2025 are \$40 however on January 1, 2025, they go up to \$45. Save a little more by doing a 3-year renewal at \$40 per year online at [mylegion.org](http://www.mylegion.org). You will save \$15.

Take 5 minutes out of your day and go to <http://www.mylegion.org> and renew your membership for 2025.

AWARDS

We are looking for nominees for Legionnaire of the Year. Forms with information on submitting a nominee are available at the Post meetings. The deadline is January 31st, 2025.

I have also reached out to the Police Department and Fire Department to honor the Officer of the Year, Firefighter of the Year and EMT of the Year.

We are also hoping to honor an Eagle Scout of the Year.

If you know a teacher that you would like to nominate as an Educator of the Year, please reach out to me. We have given out this award in the past, but not as an annual award.

All these awards will be presented at our regular membership meeting on June 3rd, 2025.

2nd Vice Commander – Donna Kleinmaus

ORATORICAL

Haley, our oratorical winner at the Post level, will be competing at the County Level in Jackson on January 23rd in Jackson at 7 PM. If she advances to the District Level, that will take place in Horicon at 5 PM on February 15th. If you would like to see some of our future leaders who 'get it,' check out these special events.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Please encourage your children and/or grandchildren to be applying for the Legion Scholarships. Our Post Scholarship is for \$1,000 and there are others available like the Americanism & Government Test Program between March 3rd – 14th. This is for students in the 10th – 12th grade. Thirty-three scholarships totaling \$14,300 in Wisconsin. More information is available through the schools or by contacting Donna.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT DAY

County Government Day has been scheduled for February 26, 2025. Hopefully this new time frame will result in less conflicts. Contact Donna for more details.

WALLECA

Applications for the 2025 Wisconsin American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy will be available in January 2025 with a deadline to apply of March 31st. The dates are June 23 – 27 at Fort McCoy.

Visit wilegion.org/walleca

BADGER BOYS STATE

With the donation received from Delta Defense, we will be sending multiple young men to Badger Boys State. Gary Logan in continuing to collaborate with Donna and the schools on this securing funding as well as recruiting young men for the program.

RENTAL COMMITTEE

Hall rentals for the General Public are \$250.00 for the day and \$150.00 per every 6 hours.

Veterans can rent for \$75.00, and Post Members can still get the hall for \$50.00.

All Veterans groups and Law Enforcement partners will get it free, along with funeral rentals. Donations of course are accepted and appreciated. Please tell your family, friends, and neighbors that we rent the hall, and it is a great space for nearly any type of event. Rental agreements can be found online at Post36WestBend.org.

NATIONAL SECURITY

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

The next blood drive coming up is: February 13th starting at noon. Additional blood drives are:

April 10th, June 9th, August 20th, October 16th, and December 11th.



American Legion Family News

Message from Commander Steve Rohde:

Squadron 36 received a number of citations from the Detachment of Wisconsin for Membership Excellence for 2024. These included citations for: All Time High Membership, 100% Membership and Triple Nickel Membership.

Membership Update:

SAL membership remains stable at 68 members. If you know anyone who is eligible and/or interested, please contact Jeff Schwitz with any membership questions:

j.schwitz@att.net Cell: 1-262-483-2857

Patriotic Bracelets Available:

Bracelets are available at stores around West Bend and anywhere fundraising for the Post is happening! All proceeds benefit Camp American Legion. Squadron 36 has donated another \$1000 this past year (2024) to Camp American Legion via this fundraiser.



The following West Bend businesses proudly display and offer these to their customers!!!

West Bend Vacuum, Jeff' Spirits on Main, Dunn Brothers Coffee, Candyman on Main, Laughing Mountain Popcorn, Mac 15 Sports Memorabilia, Respawn Retro Gaming, BG Decal & Apparel, A Conversation Piece, Sass a Frass Candles, Altered States, Perfect Timing Gift Shop, Xpressions Boutique, Dave the Barber

Please patronize these businesses and thank them for their support!

TRIBUTE to LT RAY DICKOP



SAL Squadron 36 member Mark Gebler presented a professionally designed and produced (by Mark's company) plaque that includes the photo and short bio of Lt. Ray Dickop (namesake of the Post) to be displayed prominently

in the Post. Look for this when you attend your next meeting at the Post. Many, many thanks to Mark for initiating and following through on this project.

FROM THE PRES:

A vote was taken to have our Family Promise donation be our December donation for the future. This year we were able to buy gifts for five people from the shelter.



Several ladies came out to decorate the Christmas tree in the hall area; we had a great time and ended with hot cocoa and a bit of relaxation. Thank you to those who were able to make it!

The tree will still be up on January 5, 2025, for the all Post Christmas party. This event starts at noon and Donna is asking everyone to bring a dish to pass for at least ten people. Also, if you are planning to attend, please contact her to let her know how many people are coming at 262-305-4505. Hoping to see you there!

As we come to the end of 2024, please take a few minutes to think about how we might help our veterans and community in 2025. We will need to start making plans for the military child's table presentation this Spring, donations for the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative (which serves vets all over Wisconsin), and the Spring collection for the female vet's baby shower.

Any questions, please call Carolyn at 414-378-1703.

The Auxiliary will now be doing the pre-meeting meals; if you are interested in helping for a particular month, please let Shirley or Carolyn know for planning purposes.

If you know of someone who is interested in joining the Auxiliary, please let Carolyn and she will get you the proper form and information for them to sign up for 2025. The dues are \$34.

SAL – Continued:

Upcoming (2025) SAL events - Please consider attending and/or participating:

- SAL Winter Brat Fry - 2/8/2025 - to be held at the Post.
- Spring 2025 Highway 144 Cleanup Project - date TBD

What's New?

AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY GOLF OUTING

The 4th Annual Family Golf Outing has been scheduled for August 9th, 2025, at Hon-E-Kor Golf Course in Kewaskum.

If you would like to be directly involved in the committee, please reach out to Todd Kaebisch (SAL), Steve Rohde (SAL) or Mike Hartwell (AL).

Even if you are not directly involved in the golf committee, we still need your help. While the committee does a great job with hole sponsors and the raffles, we need foursomes to play.



While you may think you are too old or not good enough to golf, that is hogwash! The golf event is a scramble or 'best ball' event, carts are provided, and the event is a lot of fun! Everyone knows someone who plays golf. Talk about the event now and put the date out there. There are a lot of golf outings as fundraisers, but why shouldn't these golfers that we know support our event?

Last year alone, this event raised over \$17,000 which was divided within the family giving each over \$5,700 to support our missions.

SNOW SHOVELING

Thanks to everyone who has already signed up for the snow shoveling at the Post.

There are still a few slots to fill at the end of the season in March and April (*hopefully no snow then!*) Here is the link to signup:

[SNOW SHOVELING SIGN UP](#)

There will also be a hard copy at the Post.

Sign-ups are for a 7-day block, starting on Monday and ending on Sunday. For example, if you sign up for Monday, 12/16/24, you would have shoveling duties through Sunday, 12/22/24.

Shoveling includes the area around all the doors of the Post and the area in front of the Post by the parking curbs (so they don't get hit by the plow. It does not include the sidewalk area adjacent to the street).

PLEASE DO NOT shovel the memorial. The stones are very slippery.

BYOS - Bring your own shovel.

LEGION FAMILY WEBSITE

If you have not already done so, be sure to visit our American Legion Family website at Post36WestBend.org. You can view it on your computer, tablet, or smart phone. The [American Legion News](#) page is updated daily with numerous articles of interest. Under the Archives tab, you can find Post 36er Newsletters as well as the minutes from the Executive Council Meetings and Membership Meetings. There is a tab for renewing your Membership and of course the [Event Calendar](#)

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The next deadline is February 15th.

Deadlines will always be on the 15th of the even months.



If you are submitting anything for the newsletter, please plan accordingly based on what is coming up over the next couple of months so our membership can get involved!

Newsletters over the last several years are now available on the Post website by [CLICKING HERE](#).

Please submit any information to NewsletterPost36@gmail.com. Thank you!

SCAMS

On the next page, you will find the phone numbers, emails and contact information for some of the leadership positions in all three families. The emails have been removed from the website due to scammers sending out bogus emails posing as the commander, aka 'The Exalted Ruler.' If you need to contact someone else, please reach out to any of us and we will point you in the right direction.

As always, be cautious with emails or texts message that sound or look out of place!

POST UPGRADES

As you know, we continue to make upgrades to the Post. Over the last few years, you have seen a bar addition, new lights, new flooring, new paint, and new shades just to name a few.

The newest additions are a 75" TV and new tables and chairs. Hope to see you at the holiday party on January 5th.

Family Contacts

LEGION FAMILY CONTACTS

Post 36 - Legionnaires

Commander	Charlie Young	920-948-6602	c_tyoung@charter.net
1st Vice Commander	Mike Hartwell	262-305-4036	wibmwriter@gmail.com
2nd Vice Commander	Donna Kleinmaus	262-305-4505	dkleinmaus@charter.net
Adjutant	Jim Geldreich	262-707-6686	jgeld@charter.net

Unit 36 - Auxiliary

ALA President	Carolyn Schatz	414-378-1703	cschatz2000@gmail.com
1st Vice Commander	TBD		
ALA Secretary	Shirley Tuttle	262-573-3668	

Squadron 36 - Sons of the American Legion

Commander	Steve Rohde	414-581-4381	Sprohde@charter.net
1st Vice Commander	Jeff Schwitz	262-483-2857	j.schwitz@att.net
2nd Vice Commander	Glenn Pietschmann	262-689-9329	Glenn440@charter.net
Adjutant	Scott Mindel	262-689-1274	sal36.sec@gmail.com

Calendar of Events

JANUARY

- 1 *New Years Day*
- 4 County Dinner Mtg
- 5 AL Family Holiday Party – 1200
- 6 SAL Mtg – 1900**
- 7 Membership & Auxiliary Mtg – 1900**
- 16-19 Mid-Winter Conference - Appleton
- 20 *Presidential Inauguration Day*
- 20 *Martin Luther King Day*
- 21 Post Exec Council Mtg – 1700**
- 23 County Oratorical – Jackson - 1900

FEBRUARY

- Black History Month
- 2nd Week – National Salute to Veteran Parents
- 2 Ground Hog Day
- 3 Four Chaplains Day
- 3 SAL Meeting – 1900**
- 4 USO Birthday (1941)
- 4 Membership & Auxiliary Mtg – 1900**
- 13 Red Cross Blood Drive – 1200
- 14 Valentines Day
- 17 *President’s Day*
- 15 District Oratorical – Horicon – 1700
- 18 Post Exec Council Mtg – 1700**
- 19 Coast Guard Reserve Birthday
- 26 County Government Day

Federal Holiday
****Flags at Half-staff****

Be sure to check the Post website Event Calendar for additional events and information.

www.Post36WestBend.org

AMERICAN LEGION

Lt Ray Dickop Post 36
P.O. Box 921
West Bend, WI 53095

«Name»

«Address»



**RENEWAL
REMINDER**

*More information on additional events, news, notes,
and information can be found on our family website:*

www.Post36WestBend.org