



# 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

FROM OUR COMMANDER CHARLIE YOUNG –

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live by the light that I have. I must stand with anybody that stands right, and stand with him while he is right, and part with him when he goes wrong. - Abraham Lincoln*

Happy Spring....it is on the way! I have been reflecting a lot this last month about the state of our world and country. I won't say it is worse than it has ever been, but it needs help. So, what can I do, I'm just one person. Well, glad you asked.

You are part of the WORLD'S largest veteran's organization. Yes, Auxiliary, Sons, and riders as well, the whole family! Your voice means something, and the combined voices mean a lot. The principals of this organization are exactly what are needed right now. Bringing veterans who feel lost and abandoned, sons who are looking at a gang as their only alternative and wives or husbands who need a sense of belonging into the fold. So spread the word, we have a solution to what ails this Country. We strengthen America and can bring us back to greatness.

I look forward to our next meeting and hope to see all of you there.

Charles E. Young

**\*\*SPECIAL NOTE FOR THE VFW HONOR FLIGHT FUNDRAISER:**

TO BE HELD AT: VFW Post, 260 Sand Drive, West Bend

Saturday, February 24, 2024

Start Serving at 3:00PM, \$10/Plate  
Choice of chicken leg quarters, pulled pork, or hamburgers. Includes sides & desserts. (All food made is donated by VFW patrons and the Post.)

Live classic rock music by "CRIPS" 5:00PM - 8:00PM

Silent Auction, Raffles, and 50/50s!

All proceeds go towards the Honor Flight. If you would like to donate towards Raffles, please contact the VFW Post - 262-334-9190. Hope to see you at this very worthwhile event that several of our members have been honored to be participants in!!



The newsletter is now going to be sent out monthly. Please submit any info you would like included by the following Tuesday (one

week later) after the meeting night. Info can be submitted to [cschatz2000@gmail.com](mailto:cschatz2000@gmail.com). *The next newsletter deadline is: MARCH 12TH*

# American Legion Family News



At our last meeting on February 6<sup>th</sup>, we welcomed Mary Montag, our County President and had some good input from her. It is always great to see Mary! We also welcomed a new member, Terri Young, to the Auxiliary. Thank you Terri for joining us!

Our event scheduled for children on February 11<sup>th</sup> was cancelled due to it being Super Bowl Sunday and not getting a good response in terms of kids to participate.

We did get to share in the Post Everlasting Memorial Ceremony presented by the Legionnaires that night honoring the Veterans from our Post who passed away in 2023 along with family members representing their deceased Veteran. It is an honor to have had these Veterans in our Family.

Tickets were distributed to all the members for the American Legion Auxiliary Sweepstakes. The suggested donation is \$5 each or 3 for \$10; please see an Auxiliary member to purchase your tickets. First prize is \$500 cash, along with smaller prizes of \$200, \$50, and \$25 with several chances to win! The funds raised help in donations by the District such as Camp American Legion and various children’s programs. Auxiliary members – Please remember to turn your ticket stubs into Mary Montag by APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup>.

It has been decided that there will now be Legion Family Meetings every three months for any member of the Legion family to attend. Since the next one will be on May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. there will be no separate Auxiliary meeting that month.

Please get your sheets with your volunteer hours to Jeni Henke before our March meeting so she can get them tallied and sent on to headquarters.

The West Bend Auxiliary will be hosting the Washington County Spring Meeting on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. There is a light luncheon starting at noon with the meeting to follow, ending at approximately 2:30 p.m. Carol

Hausmann will be heading up the Committee for this event; see her to volunteer.

Information on Public Relations suggestions for the Auxiliary units has been put together by Bob Shappell who is also going to be putting out videos related to this.

A check for \$5,000 from the golf outing was received.

Our \$100 donation of the month is going to the WDVA Homeless Women Vets.

Next meeting is March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. – hope to see you all there!



**Membership update:** SAL membership continues to grow – we are now back to 59 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), or cell: 262-483-2857

**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!!!

**2023 Post 36 Golf Outing:**

\$5,000 checks were presented to the American Legion and Auxillary as the wrap up to the 2023 Post 36 Golf Outing Event. Together, we can make a difference in our community, for Veterans and Veteran programs!!! Look for more information coming soon re: 2024 Post 36 Golf Outing!!

**Legion Family Calendar**

The calendar for the American Legion Family that was created by Scott Mindel has a new link. Click on calendar and it should take you there. [CALENDAR](#)

## CONGRATULATIONS – HERO OF THE MONTH



WEST BEND — At Lt. Ray Dickop American Legion Post 36, they like to honor veterans in their ranks by giving their outstanding members special recognition, and a platform to tell their stories. Each month, the post selects a member to be featured as the Hero of the Month, honoring veterans within the community. This month's winner of Hero of the Month honors was the newly-elected Post 36 1st Vice Commander Mike Hartwell.

Hartwell's military career began in the Army right out of high school, going on active duty in 1981. He spent a year stationed in Colorado, then went to a specialized school before spending a year and a half in Germany as a military police investigator. His active-duty career was a unique one, as those who saw him out and about may have not even known he was in the military at all. "My last year in Germany, I worked investigations," said Hartwell. "I only wore a uniform one time, as most of the work was plainclothes."

After he got off of active duty, he left Germany to come back to the U.S., went to college, and joined the Army National Guard, where he spent the last 17 years before his retirement. "I spent 17 years in the guard, predominantly as an MP [military police] but I had a stint as military intelligence," said Hartwell. "My last four years were in the combat engineers, and I retired as a First Sergeant back in December of 2000."

While Hartwell was never formally deployed to any front, he is still thankful for all that the military has given him during his 20 years in the service. "From a military standpoint, it's kind of positive and negative," said Hartwell. "Twenty years of service and I was never deployed, so one hand I feel like I wanted to serve my country and my community more, but on the other hand, the military shaped me into who I am. It helped me immensely in my civilian career and getting off on the right foot."

After his time in the military, Hartwell spent 28 years with the West Bend Police Department (WBPD). He was hired on in 1987, and filled various roles over his long career with the police department, beginning as a patrolman and a member of the SWAT team. From there, he spent time as a K-9 handler and evidence technician. He also spent some time as a school liaison officer as well as a D.A.R.E instructor. In 2004, Hartwell was promoted to detective, and continued to work his way up the ranks with his promotion to lieutenant in 2011. This is where he would spend his last few years with WBPD until his retirement in 2015.

"There's the old saying, 'Just because I'm out of the service, my oath of enlistment doesn't have an expiration date,'" said Hartwell. "You still have that sense of duty and that commitment."

Hartwell has always felt the need to serve and help the community around him, and has strived to do so at every stage and opportunity.

To Hartwell, who now serves as the Post 36 1st Vice Commander, the opportunity to be part of a group like the American Legion has been fulfilling, and satisfies that need to serve. "The American Legion, as far as how it impacts me, is really what you get out of it," said Hartwell. "The things you see in the community, it's right within our constitution of promoting patriotism. We're the ones putting up the flags downtown and in the Barton area, trying to promote veterans' rights and getting them good benefits and things like that. A lot of that is based on the strength of the American Legion with posts like ours and throughout our community making a difference."

Per the Executive Council, I was requested to make a SignUp Genius like last year for the show shoveling. A manual sign-up sheet had been started and those names have been plugged in.

[CLICK Here to see the SignUp.](#)



## Post Reminders

### Membership

Please encourage your friends who are veterans to become a member. New membership is only \$30 and renewals are \$40.

Maybe it is time to consider a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) membership, then you don't have to worry or listen to us talking about renewing your membership every year. No doubt it is an expense, but when I did mine, I considered it an investment and a commitment. Having a strong American Legion is what gives us a strong voice in Washington looking out for and fighting for veterans' rights and benefits. If you know of someone that has served in the military, talk to them about the American Legion. Remember, the dates of service are NO longer an issue to join.

Please take 5 minutes out of your day and go to <http://www.mylegion.org> and **renew your membership for 2024.**

### Honor Guard Recruitment



As mentioned in the previous newsletters, Richard Gerard has taken over the coordination duties of the Post 36 Color

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.

## Calendar of Events

### FEBRUARY 2024 -

24 – Sheriffs Dept SWAT Day. Call Donna for more info

**\*\*West Bend VFW fundraiser for Honor Flight**

27 -Red Cross Blood Drive at Post – 12 – 5 p.m. - go to their link to sign up ahead of time  
DAV – 1 pm

28 - Ed's dance class at Post

### MARCH 2024 -

3 – Navy Reserve Birthday

5 – Seabee Birthday

10 – Daylight saving ends, set clocks ahead 1 hour

13 – K9 Veteran's Day – March 13, 1942 is the official birthday of the United States K9 Corps.  
Ed' dance class

16 – County Dinner Meeting at Kewaskum, Social time 5 p.m., meal 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m.

17 – St. Patrick's Day

19 – Exec Board Meeting at 5 p.m.  
First day of Spring

22 – Ed's open dance class

23 – Oratorical Regional & State Contest, Ripon College, start time at 10 a.m.

24 – Palm Sunday

27 – Ed's dance class

29 – Vietnam Veteran's Day  
Good Friday

31 – Easter

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

Let’s work together and work at getting some more Fundraisers going and get out in the Community so our Community knows WHO we are! I believe the downtown Brat Fry’s have helped immensely. Our Community needs to know we are there to support them also.

On that note – we are discussing having once again, an Open House celebrating our Post’s 105<sup>th</sup> birthday. August is our birthday month and the date has been set for October 5th. Please think about idea’s for involvement other than just a Brat fry.

- **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
- **EAGLE SCOUT OF THE YEAR**  
Nominations are due March 1st of each year; eligible to receive a \$10,000 Scholarship to be awarded over a 4 year period.
- **Badger Boys State – 81<sup>st</sup> Session**  
 The 81st Session of Badger Boys State is June 9-15, 2024, to be held again at UW Eau Claire in Eau Claire Wisconsin. Gary Logan is working on this and hopefully we will have a participant.

**LEGION FAMILY CONTACTS**

**Post 36 - Legionnaires**

<b>Commander</b>	Charlie Young	920-948-6602	<a href="mailto:c_young@charter.net">c_young@charter.net</a>
<b>First Vice</b>	Mike Hartwell	262-305-4036	<a href="mailto:wibmwriider@gmail.com">wibmwriider@gmail.com</a>
<b>Second Vice</b>	Donna Kleinmaus	262-305-4505	<a href="mailto:dkleinmaus@charter.net">dkleinmaus@charter.net</a>
<b>Adjutant</b>	Jim Geldreich	262-707-6686	<a href="mailto:jgeld@charter.net">jgeld@charter.net</a>
<b>Finance Officer</b>	Ed Draeger	262-689-4144	<a href="mailto:drygulch@reagan.com">drygulch@reagan.com</a>
<b>Service Officer</b>	James Maersch	262-338-0991	<a href="mailto:jamesmaersch@gmail.com">jamesmaersch@gmail.com</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:jennykaebs31@gmail.com">jennykaebs31@gmail.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>
<b>Newsletter Submissions</b>	Carolyn Schatz		<a href="mailto:cschatz2000@gmail.com">cschatz2000@gmail.com</a>

«Name»

«Address»



"No man is entitled to the blessings of freedom unless he be vigilant in its preservation." --  
Gen. Douglas MacArthur