



Kiwaniis®

Kiwaniis Club of Madison West – Kiwanogram

Program: “The Hard-Nosed Lombardi and Astonishing Green Bay Packers” - Philip Hardacre, V.P. U.S. Bank, Retired, former Kiwanian (Milwaukee and Madison East)



Phil Hardacre treated us to a summary of Vince Lombardi's life, including what motivated him as a youth, his path to greatness with the Green Bay Packers, and a few quotes from him and others about him.

Lombardi was born in 1913 in Brooklyn, NY.

His grandparents on both sides of his family had immigrated from Italy.

As a young man, he sought perfection in his daily life. He was drawn to the Polo Grounds at the age of 12 to see the NY Giants NFL team based there. Early thoughts of a life in the priesthood turned to a life in sports. He became a good running back in high school and received a football scholarship to Fordham University and moved to offensive line. As a senior in 1937, the team lost the last game of the season to be knocked out of the Rose Bowl. It taught Lombardi an important lesson – to never underestimate your opponent.

After trying semi-professional football and several part-time jobs, he enrolled in Fordham Law School for one semester.

August 28, 2026

Presiding: Dwight Gribble
Greeter: Jim Wiederhoeft
Opening Word: Fred Ross
Checkpoint: Joseph Tevaarwerk
Setup: Tom McCrill

Lombardi started his coaching career in 1939 at St. Cecilia High School in Englewood, N.J. He taught several classes and coached both football and basketball, producing winning teams in both sports. He coached a young Joe Paterno in 1943 when they were recognized as one of the top teams in the country.

Lombardi spent one year as an assistant coach in football and basketball at Fordham before taking an assistant coaching position at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. This position greatly influenced his future philosophy of coaching.

Lombardi began his NFL coaching career in 1954 with the N.Y. Giants. The Packers, who had excelled as the only small market team to survive in the NFL into the 1940's, were on a downward spiral. In 1959, they convinced Lombardi to accept the position as general manager and coach, giving him complete control of the team.

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Date	Event
Sep 11	MWK Board of Directors, 10:00 am
Sep 18	Foundation Trustees, 1:00 pm

Up Coming Programs

Date	Program	Greeter	Check In	Opening Word
Sept 4	No Meeting – Labor Day Weekend	NA	NA	NA
Sept 11	Exploring the Future of Madison Lakes - Dr. Steven Carpenter, UW Madison Professor of Ecology,	Grabel	Aspinwall	Johnson
Sept 18	The Road Home Dane County - Elliot Valentine, Development Director	Danner	Jordan	Saville

Meeting Time and Location

Every Friday, 11:45 am
Covenant Presbyterian Church
326 Segoe Road, Madison, WI 53705
Web site: www.madisonwestkiwanis.info
Email: KiwanisWest@outlook.com
Facebook: facebook.com/madisonwestkiwanis

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Lombardi implemented strict rules for curfew and meeting attendance. He treated everyone the same, as one player quipped “he’s fair, he treats us all like dogs”. He was named the NFL Coach of the Year as a rookie head coach. Fans responded to his great first season by purchasing all the home game tickets for the 1960 season. Home games have been sold out ever since.

The Packers lost the Championship game in 1960, but won it in 1961 and 1962, the first of five titles for Coach Lombardi.

In 1969, Lombardi left to coach and acquire an ownership stake on the Washington Redskins (something not available in Green Bay). After a successful first season with the Redskins, Lombardi succumbed to colon cancer and died shortly before the start of the 1970 season.

George Shook reports **Rich Donkle, Case Dorresteijs, Jim Martin, Tom McCrill,** and **George Skupniewicz** are signed up for our next volunteer date at **Habitat ReStore September 17th**. One slot remains open.

Jim Danner reports that **Jim Danner, Rich Donkle, Dwight Gribble, Bruce Hoehne, Tom McCrill, Fred Ross, George Skupniewicz,** and **Joseph Tevaarwerk** packed 930 pounds of rice into 4,650 meals sized servings on August 27th. Our next volunteer date at **Second Harvest is September 24th**. Contact Jim if you would like to sign up.

Club Officers (2025-26)

President:	Dwight Gribble
President-Elect:	Cody Kramschuster
Secretary:	Leroy Baker
Assistant Sec:	Thomas DuVal
Treasurer:	Randy Grobe
Past President:	Ken Saville
Board of Directors:	John Busby
Harley Skjervem	Jim Danner
Joseph Tevaarwerk	Ed Reisch



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BikesForKidsWi.org

We received the following handwritten note from Bikes for Kids:

“Dear Kiwanis Club Foundation,

Thank you so much for your generous donation to our annual bike giveaway. Thanks to you, we gave away 1,511 bikes!

We appreciate you!

All the best,

Linda and the entire Bikes for Kids Team”



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