



The American Legion

The American Legion was established by Congress (Congressional Charter) in 1919 when a group of ex-servicemen, after World War I, determined that there was a need for support of injured soldiers who were coming home from the battlefield. Today this need continues not only for veterans but active duty and military service retirees. The organization is 2 million strong; however, as the World War II, Korean and Vietnam War veterans pass on; the organization needs support to continue our multi-faceted mission.

In addition to care of those injured (physically and emotionally) during conflict, we promote a strong military service. The National Commander goes before Congress each year to report their findings on VA management and national security.

When I mentioned multi-faceted mission I refer to the programs to remember those who served, those who are serving, their families, and to promote patriotism with programs for our youth.

The following are the programs the Grand Forks Post supports (founded July 4, 1919):

- ❖ Conducts weekly visits to the veterans in the hospital
- ❖ Provides placement of 1200+ flags on the graves of veterans at Memorial Cemetery each year (along with an Observance Ceremony) for Memorial Day Weekend
- ❖ Working with the VFW and DAV to provide an annual Veterans' Day ceremony
- ❖ Scholarships to the Boys/Girls State Leadership Academies (for youth who have completed their junior year of high school or home schooled equivalent)...last year we sponsored 4 boys and 3 girls
- ❖ Prepare and send high school youth to compete for college scholarship funds through The American Legion Oratorical Contest
- ❖ Promote sportsmanship through management/ sponsorship of two Class AA American Legion Baseball teams (Royals/Blues)...this programs runs \$55K/year for equipment, travel, lodging
- ❖ Supports local youth and civic organizations to include the Boy/Girl Scouts of American, Northland Rescue Mission, Grand Forks Mission, Salvation Army, and the Veterans Home in Lisbon, North Dakota
- ❖ Partners with Grand Forks AFB Air Force Sergeants Association to collect pop can tabs to support the Ronald McDonald House in Bismarck, ND (68,000 last year) and Coke Rewards Points to provide supplies for local area schools
- ❖ Present annual leadership and scholastic awards to UND Army ROTC cadets at Spring Award Ceremony, recognized local public servants by securing state-level awards to local police and firefighters

\$40 annual dues provides support for these and other local and national programs

Membership is open to active military members, Honorably Discharged war-era veterans, and federally activated guard and reserve service members

Legionaires receive quarterly news letters from both the Department (North Dakota) and National Headquarters to keep you abreast on American Legion events and programs.

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month @ 7:00 pm

GF County Office Building, 6th Floor Conference room

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www.legion.org