

AMVETS is the nation's most inclusive veterans service organization. Founded in 1944 and Congressionally chartered in 1947. We represent the interests of over 20 million veterans. AMVETS is open to all who served honorably and include the National Guard and Reserves.

AMVETS has over 250,000 members. The Department of North Dakota consists of 10 posts and as of September 2019 has 2775 members. We have posts in Dickinson, Minot, Bismarck, Jamestown, Valley City, Bottineau, Steele, Hague, Fargo and West Fargo. The Departments average age in in the high 60's and our oldest post has average age in the mid 70's.

Mission Statement: To enhance and safeguard the entitlements for all American Veterans who have served honorable and to improve the quality of life for them, their families, and the communities where they live through leadership, advocacy and services.

Aims and Purposes: To serve our country in peace as in war; to build and maintain the welfare of the United States of America toward lasting prosperity and peace and to assist in the maintenance of international peace.

1. To encourage. In keeping with the policies of our government, the establishment of a concrete plan to secure permanent international peace and to assist in the maintenance of international peace;
2. To inspire in our membership a sense of responsibility and to develop leadership for the preservation of our American democratic way of life;
3. To help unify divergent groups in the overall interest of American democracy;
4. To train our youth to become purposeful citizens in a democracy with full knowledge of the responsibilities as well as the privileges of citizenship
5. To cooperate with all duly recognized existing veterans' organizations in the furtherance of the aims of the veterans who have served or are serving in the Armed Forces of the United States during and sense World War II
6. To ensure the orderly return of the veteran to civilian life by protecting the rights of individuals while the servicemember is still in uniform;

7. To expedite and assist in the rehabilitation of veterans by maintaining employment services; sponsoring educational opportunities; providing counsel on insurance, housing, recreation, personal problems, hospitalization and veterans benefits;
8. To act as a liaison agent between the veteran and the government;
9. To provide an organization to encourage fellowship among all American veterans who have served or are serving in the Armed Forces of the United States during and since World War II
10. To keep the public forever reminded that the American veterans who have served or are serving in the Armed Forces of the United States during and since World War II fought and served to preserve peace, liberty, and democracy for their nation.

Our Programs: Our programs from the local to national levels, deliver our promise of preserving freedoms secured by America's armed forces.

1. AMVETS annually awards Scholarships to deserving high school seniors, J/ROTC students, veterans and service members pursuing higher education. Subgroups such as Sadists provide Scholarships for nursing students
2. Americanism is our program for K-12. Activities range from coloring flags, designing posters and writing short essays on aspects of Americanism.
3. Spirit of America Youth Conference sends exceptional 9th graders to the conference held at the Freedom Foundation in Valley Forge PA in November at no cost to the student
4. We honor our veterans while they are still with us through the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service, the largest volunteer organization in the federal government, and after they have passed on, through Military Funeral Honors.
5. The White Clover Program generates donations to support and assist local veterans in need. These donations are used to provide a service and item for a veteran in a VA medical facility, to provide a service or item for a sick or hospitalized veteran in a civilian medical facility, to provide support for volunteers for sick and hospitalized veterans such as transportation and food, to support the family of a sick or hospitalized

veteran in their time of need, and to support AMVETS programing dedicated to serving sick and hospitalized or homeless veterans.

AMVETS has been at the forefront of public policy related to national defense, services for homeless veterans, adequate funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs, concurrent receipt of retirement pay and disability compensation by disabled military retirees, veterans' employment and training, POW/MIA accountability and flag protection.

Membership trends: Veteran organizations in North Dakota are all facing a decline in membership. We are aging and dying out. The younger veteran sees no benefits in belonging to veteran service organizations. This trend all impacts the civilian world of fraternal organizations also. I believe we all need to change the way we do things with changing our mission. I have researched this trend and it is a "generational" phenomenon. There is no simple answer or cure. The AMVETS in North Dakota according my observations has perhaps 10 more years.

Ways to improve: In my opinion we all need to set aside our turf mentalities and work together. No one groups as the answers and by combing resources we could do much more. Some of us have drifted away from our mission and aims statements. We need to focus on the needs of the veteran and their families. We can work together to do good things, and this is illustrated by the North Dakota Veterans Legislative Council. All five of the veteran's organizations are represented on this council and we all work very well together.

North Dakota Veterans Legislative Council: The North Dakota Veterans Legislative Council (NDVLC) was established to bring veterans organizations together in a unified effort on behalf of all veterans and dependents. It is meant to provide a practical means through which veterans organizations throughout the state may effectively contribute to the betterment of all veterans.

The three major responsibilities of the NDVLC are to sponsor and monitor legislation that affects veterans and their dependents, monitor all general programs for veterans including hospital benefits, employment programs, and social programs: and finally. to establish a system of public relations for veterans. No member of the NDVLC may hold concurrent membership on the ACOVA.

The NDVLC is made up of three members from each of the following veterans organizations: American Legion, AMVETS, DAV, VFW, and VVA. The three representatives from each organization shall be the Department Commander, Department Adjutant, and one other representative. Each member has one vote.

The office of president, vice president and secretary/treasurer shall be elected from these voting members. The secretary receives no salary and performs the duties as outlined in the Bye-laws.

The third segment of the NDVLC is the drafting, or monitoring, or co-sponsoring Veterans legislation. It is not an administrative body. Administration and implementation of veterans laws is the function of ACOVA.