

Gunnerud-Dietrich American Legion Post 86 and Auxiliary Unit 86 of Minnewaukan



Endowment



The Gunnerud-Dietrich American Legion Post 86 of Minnewaukan was established December 14, 1919, primarily by World War I veterans.

The name was chosen for two Minnewaukan area residents who died for their country during WWI. Fred W. Dietrich served with Company L, 138th Infantry. He died of wounds received in Meuse, Argonne, France, on September 8, 1918. He is buried in grave 12, row 25, block H of the American Cemetery in France.

Menton Gunnerud (sometimes known as Mentor) served with Company F, 157th Infantry. He died of wounds received in September of 1918 in the Argonne Forest in France. He is buried at Big Coulee Cemetery northeast of Minnewaukan.

The American Legion is a service organization composed of veterans of US military service which promotes community and youth activities and is an advocate for the needs of veterans.

The first project of the post was to start construction of Memorial Hall in Minnewaukan. Due to lack of funds, the project was turned over to the village of Minnewaukan in 1926. The post operated the Roxy Theater in Memorial Hall for many years. The post also sponsored Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and athletic programs such as baseball. The post continues to sponsor students to Boys State and the International Peace Garden Music Camp.

There was a need in the mid-1950s for office space for J. Terlecki, MD, and E. O. Yri, DDS. The Legion built a building with medical offices on the upper floor and Legion and Auxiliary

meeting rooms in the basement. This building was completed in 1951, and today attorney James P. Wang occupies the upper floor.

The post was instrumental in constructing and operating the Minnewaukan Swimming Pool until costs became too great, and the pool was eventually closed.

The post conducts an annual Memorial Day ceremony at the Minnewaukan Cemetery when those who gave their lives for their country are remembered.

As a fund-raising effort, the post has been serving breakfasts for the public on the fourth Sunday of each month since April 26, 1987.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 86 of Minnewaukan was organized March 28, 1921, under the auspices of the Gunnerud-Dietrich American Legion post 86 of Minnewaukan. The unit sponsored delegates to Girls State for many years. They also conducted fund-raising activities in support of the community, the VA

Hospital in Fargo, the Veterans Home at Lisbon, the International Peace Garden Music Camp, the Bell Tower at the Peace Gardens, the county Christmas Food Basket, and children at the State Hospital in Grafton. The Auxiliary also served dinners following Memorial Day observances for many years. Due to lack of membership, Auxiliary Unit 86 was disbanded in 2012.

The Gunnerud-Dietrich American Legion Post 86 established this endowment in 2012, and scholarship awards are made each year to students who are military veterans and their descendants. ★

