

Chamber Mission Statement

We create an environment that encourages business success while enhancing the quality of life in our region.

Our Chamber History

The Grand Forks Chamber was founded in 1904 and became a charter member of the U.S. Chamber in 1912. In 1956, we changed from a "Civic and Commerce Club" to the "Chamber of Commerce." In 2005 the Grand Forks and East Grand Forks Chambers merged to form The Chamber Grand Forks/ East Grand Forks.

OVER 114 YEARS OF RESULTS



Overarching Philosophy/Vision

- The Chamber will be an advocate for the free enterprise system.
- The Chamber will work in partnership with other organizations whenever possible to accomplish its mission and goals.
- The Chamber will serve as a catalyst to ensure the GF/EGF Region remain future focused, embracing change and driving growth.
- The Chamber will be the voice of business in the GF/EGF Region.
- The Chamber will work toward a "one community" approach with GF/EGF.

CHAMBER ANNUAL DINNER



BUSINESS AFTER HOURS



BROWN BAG SEMINAR



LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



AG CITY TO FARM TOUR



MILITARY APPRECIATION



SHARK TANK



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YOUR CHAMBER HAS PRODUCED OVER 114 YEARS OF RESULTS

2008

- Chamber's Business Government Alliance (BGEA) establishes a workforce committee – Greater Grand Forks Career Expo is formed.
- Chamber coordinates Rebecca Ryan visit to launch the Greater Grand Forks Young Professionals.



2008 Young Professionals Launch

2009

- Chamber defeats City sign ordinance regulating digital signs.
- Member to Member Friday e-mail initiated – today more than 3,000 people receive this weekly information e-mail.
- First Annual State of the Base – proceeds from the event are used for GFAFB retention effort.

2010

- Chamber organizes first of several “East Meets West” trips with 40 business leaders traveling to the Bakken to capitalize on the business opportunity with the oil boom.
- Chamber publicly supports and advocates for a new airport terminal and a new landfill.
- The Chamber retools Brown Bag Seminars to provide immediate take home value for attendees.



2010 East Meets West

2011

- “Team Grand Forks” is formed. The legislative lobbying partnership is led by The Chamber with the EDC, City, County and UND as partners.
- Chamber launches NV 360 results and engagement process with Community Foundation based on Knight “Soul of the Community” findings – focus on social offerings openness and aesthetics.
- The Chamber organizes annual NCTC State of the College.



Senator Hoeven at The Chamber

2012

- Chamber hires Buxton Retail Analytic Firm. 17 new retailers and restaurants locate in GF/EGF based on the Buxton retail analytic data and Chamber/City recruitment efforts. The successful effort helps create new choices and a broader selection for local, regional and Canadian customers.
- The Chamber continues to host the now 10th annual Mayor's State of the City providing vision and leadership for change and investment in our community.

2013

- “Team Grand Forks” priorities include – Medical School, Law School, Grand Sky, and Base Retention funding. All four are funded by the ND Legislature at the level asked for.
- Base Realignment Impact Committee (The Chamber is a member of BRIC) drives effort to have North Dakota named a UAS Test Site with congressional delegation paving the way for UAS development and the Grand Sky Enhanced Use Lease development at GFAFB.
- The Chamber partners with ND Chamber effort to reduce property taxes, corporate and personal income taxes.
- Housing Task Force convened by The Chamber. Partnership is formed and major progress is made on multi-family housing.

2014

- The Chamber offers Disney Training - the premier customer service training in the world - 300 attend.
- Chamber and Community Foundation receive \$200,000 BUSH Innovation Grant - talent retention, core city vibrancy, information sharing and entrepreneurship are the focuses. 47 projects are provided seed funding from the “Grand Escape” to Alley Alive.



Disney Training

2015

- The Chamber's Community Profile/ Membership Directory publication wins “Publication of the Year” by Mid American Chamber Executives.
- The Chamber conducts the first ever “Chamber Shark Tank” encouraging start-up companies and entrepreneurship.
- “Team Grand Forks” successfully lobbies ND Legislature for 2nd half of Medical School funding, \$60M; 1st half of Water Plant funding, \$30M; and Grand Sky infrastructure funding, \$5M.
- Chamber and EDC form Workforce Development Committee.
- Grand Forks named 6th Best City to live by Airmen in Air Force Magazine, a tribute to the way Grand Forks feels about and treats men and women and the family members stationed at GFAFB.



2015 Membership Directory

2016

- Annual BAH attendance breaks the 3,000 annual attendance mark.
- Chamber President Barry Wilfahrt is appointed to the prestigious US Chamber's Committee of 100.
- The community celebrates the opening of the Grand Sky UAS Business Park.
- The Chamber's Herald Business Advisory Committee hosts Governor Burgum.



Business After Hours

2017

- The Chamber hosts the first annual East Grand Forks Mayor's State of the City Luncheon.
- The Chamber joins the MN Chamber's “Chamber Federation” MN Legislature makes the most progress in a decade on MN business climate.

- “Team Grand Forks” successfully lobbies ND Legislature for 2nd half Water Plant funding, \$30M; Grand Sky Infrastructure funding, \$5M; UAS Test Site funding, \$15M; and Base Retention funding \$200,000.
- The Chamber Proposes .5% sales tax for 20 years for roads and reasonable water rates – special election anticipated late this year.
- The Chamber lead the successful half cent Sale Tax special election for roads and water which won 73% to 27%.



Grand Sky UAS Business Park

2018

- Chamber is 5 Star Accredited by the US Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber is one of the top 112 chambers out of more than 7,000 chambers nationwide.
- The 1,000 person graduates from the Chamber “Leadership Program”.
- The Chamber achieves record attendance at each of its events and programs.
- Business After Hours are sold out two years in advance for 7th year in a row.



5 Star Accreditation

2019

- “Team Grand Forks” successfully lobbies ND Legislature for \$28 million investment in Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) infrastructure; \$3 Million of Grand Sky, \$2.25 Million for the UAS test site, military spouse reciprocity, \$5 million for the EERC and over \$100 million in funding and bonding for UND facilities.
- The Chamber offers the premiere “Disney Business Excellence” training.
- The Chamber organizes a Market Capture Assessment Committee aimed at looking at various ways to capture more of the Grand Forks potential market.