



October 31, 2024

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# DAV DISPATCH

## News from Adam Klein Chapter #3, Bismarck, North Dakota

### OFFICERS

#### Commander:

Lamar Kruckenberg

#### Sr. Vice Commander:

Tom Newton

#### Jr. Vice Commander:

David Schall

#### Chaplain:

Leslie Ross

#### Treasurer/Adjutant:

Mark Landis

#### Auxiliary Commander:

Linda Otto

#### Auxiliary Adjutant

Bonnie Leingang

### MEETINGS

1st Thursday, 7 p.m.

4023 State Street

Bismarck, ND

### EMAIL

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### MAILING ADDRESS

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Bismarck, ND 58502-0915

## Driscoll Sibley Park Project Closes for the Season

The chapter completed mowing and maintenance at Driscoll Sibley Park for 2024. The "last cut" was after Labor Day. We have done this community service project since 2019. This year, 11 volunteers donated 130 hours to keep the park looking good throughout the summer. The park is located about five miles east of Sterling along Highway 10. One of the highlights this year was opening a time capsule, which contained several items from the North Dakota Centennial observance in 1989. The items were taken to the State Historical Society for preservation. Pictured is Lamar Kruckenberg, operating his mower under the hot summer sun..



## \*\*\*Membership Update\*\*\*

Our chapter membership is currently 646 life members. Recruiters this year include Mitch Erhardt, Joe Hall, Lamar Kruckenberg, Mark Landis, Tom Newton, Robert Olzweski, David Schall, Cynthia Schlosser, and Jeff Simek. Everyone is encouraged to join this esteemed group of members before December 31, 2024. Three names from this group will be drawn for one of three DAV polo shirts to be presented during the Volunteer Appreciation Banquet in January 2025. Everyone from this esteemed group will have an opportunity to be drawn for a round-trip ticket for two to attend the 2025 DAV National Convention in Las Vegas. You can find DAV membership information and application forms on our DAV Chapter #3 website.

*David Schall*  
Jr. Vice Commander

\*\*\*VA Updates on Page Two\*\*\*

\*\*\*Department Fall Conference October 11-12\*\*\*

## Chaplain Chats



Acting as the bridge between joyful abundance of summer and the darker winter months, autumn is a season that is associated with great transition. It is a season that invites us to witness the graceful art of letting go, surrendering to change and the descent of nature into a period of rest. There is so much wisdom that we can glean from nature. I hope that you will look at the natural world with new eyes of appreciation and wonder. So let go of what does not serve you. Embrace change: What changes could you make that are beneficial for you and what do you need to clear the way for? The four seasons are a metaphor about life: Do you need to rest and hibernate, grow and expand, blossom and shine or surrender and let go? Delight in the detail: Start paying attention to the glimmers, the small amounts of joy, wonder and awe that each day offers.

*Leslie Ross, Chaplain*

## Message from the Commander

Fall has arrived in North Dakota. The trees are turning colors, and fall football is in full swing. Chapter #3 has many fall programs. We will be serving noon lunch at First Lutheran Church in Mandan. If you can find the time, please consider volunteering for this fun and wonderful project. The kids love to see the veterans in action. The 2024 Department Fall Conference will be held in Valley City at the Eagles Club on October 11-12. The auxiliary auction is Friday night and the business meeting on Saturday. We will be taking the chapter van. Please consider attending this event.

**On the menu for the October meeting:** Knoephla and sauerkraut with country style sausage.

*LaMar Kruckenberg, Commander*



Visit us at <https://www.aklein3dav.org>

*Keeping Our Promise to America's Veterans*

# \*\*\*VA Updates\*\*\*

## October 2024

- Veterans are receiving post cards from the VA, asking them to renew their Veterans Health Identification Cards. It is not a scam. The ID cards may be renewed at the Bismarck CBOC or the Fargo VA.
- Veterans are encouraged to use the online system to file travel pay claims.
- The Fargo VA is doing some advertising to get more veterans to enroll in VA health care.
- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has awarded a rating of four stars or five stars to 79% of VA hospitals nationwide. The Fargo VA recently received a four-star rating. By comparison, only 40% of private hospitals attain a four or five star rating.
- Access to the Myhealthvet system is scheduled to change on February 1, 2025. Veterans will log in through the [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) website.
- Construction projects in Fargo continue, including a new mental health unit, a primary care addition, and new flooring in several sections of the hospital.
- The VA has process 1.66 billion PACT Act claims and issue retroactive payments of \$7.54 billion nationwide. For North Dakota veterans, almost 4,000 PACT Act claims have been decided and \$20.9 million has been paid.