



February 14, 2025

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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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## Record Turnout for Volunteer Recognition Banquet

The annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet was attended by 105 volunteers, members, and guests, far exceeding any previous number. The banquet was held January 16th at the Bismarck AMVETS Club. During the past year, our DAV and Auxiliary reported more than one thousand volunteer hours. Volunteers performed as van drivers, served meals in the community, maintained Driscoll Sibley Park, represented the chapter during special events, and more.



## Monthly Business Meetings Resume in February

After a break for the holidays, we are getting back to the business of our organization. Some important issues will be on the agenda, including nomination of chapter officers for 2025-2026. But don't let that keep you away! We will also discuss upcoming events such as the Freedom Riders Motorcycle Classic in March and the Department Convention in May. Plus, the commander will provide home cooking. Our meeting attendance has been growing and we hope to continue that trend. The next meeting is scheduled on Thursday, February 6th.

## Chapter Offers Assistance for Service Dog Expenses

Service Dogs are invaluable to veterans who are dealing with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Since 2019, our chapter has offered grants to help offset the cost (primarily food) of maintaining service dogs. Grants are \$500 annually for DAV members and \$250 for non-members. A new application is needed for each year. Veterans need a clinical diagnosis of PTSD and have a service dog that has been certified by a recognized dog training organization. We are offering the program again in 2025. The application is posted in the documents section of the chapter website.

**\*\*VA UPDATES ON PAGE TWO\*\***



## Chaplain Chats

A secular prayer on strength, courage, and love:

Let me find strength in the face of hardship, not only in my body but in my mind and spirit. May I stand firm when the winds of doubt and fear arise, knowing that resilience is built in struggle. Grant me courage - not the absence of fear, but the will to act despite it. May I choose what is right over what is easy, and may I walk boldly toward truth, even when the path is uncertain. Fill my heart with love - love that is patient, love that is kind, love that lifts others as I climb. May I see the goodness in others, and may I give freely without expectation. In moments of weakness, remind me of my strength. In moments of fear, remind me of my courage. In moments of anger, remind me of love. Let me move through this life with grace and purpose, spreading light where there is darkness, and hope where there is despair.

*Leslie Ross, Chaplain*

## Message from the Commander

The state legislative session is in full swing. We are tracking several House and Senate bills pertaining to veterans and military personnel. We as veterans do not intend to take one step back for the benefits we have earned. We may be asked to step up and contact our local representatives and voice our concerns. Please take notice of the emails we are sending. Your help may be needed.

February meeting menu: Knoephla, sauerkraut, and sausage.

*LaMar Kruckenberg, Commander*



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

*Keeping Our Promise to America's Veterans*

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

## **January 2025**

Expansion of the Bismarck VA Clinic is tentatively scheduled in 2026. The VA is searching for space to accommodate a significant increase in services, including radiology and eye care.

The new contract has been finalized for the VA clinic in Dickinson. The clinic opened for business on January 30th.

New hires at the Fargo VA Hospital include a dental section chief, pulmonologist, ophthalmologist, oncology MD and nurse practitioner, and neuropsychologist. They are seeking to fill a primary care provider position in Bismarck.

The Fargo VA is researching additional clinic locations in the Fargo area.

Inpatient room service for ordering meals will soon begin at the Fargo VA.

The VA will go through a review process to possibly reclassify non-clinical positions.

The Connected Care office is trying to help as many veterans as possible with the transition to the new MyHealthvet login procedure.

The announcement of a new director for the Fargo VA is pending approval from the Secretary of the VA.