



HAPPY NEW YEAR
2024

January 2024

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

Connie Serhienko

MEETINGS

1st Thursday, 7 p.m.

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Chapter Enjoyed Great Success in 2023: Year in Review

- The year started with a banquet to recognize our volunteers and enjoy fellowship with chapter members. We also had a fun picnic in July. Chapter volunteers donated 1,306 hours in 2023.
- Ten students were awarded academic scholarships from the Gene L. Kouba Memorial Scholarship Fund.
- The chapter hosted the annual convention of the DAV Department of North Dakota at the Baymont Hotel in Mandan. Leslie Ross, Lamar Kruckenberg, and Joe Hall were elected to leadership positions in the department.
- Membership continued to grow. The chapter finished the year with 615 members, a net gain of 37 for the year.
- Chapter Senior Vice Commander Tom Newton was selected as outstanding chapter member for 2022-2023.
- The Chapter Honor Guard presented colors at the banquet, Freedom Riders Motorcycle Classic, Bismarck Senior Center, Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies, Railway Credit Union Annual Meeting, and welcome home for the Western Dakota Honor Flight. They also participated with other organizations as a combined honor guard.
- The Veterans Aid Fund disbursed money to provide basic needs such as housing, utilities, and food to disadvantaged veterans in the community.
- The chapter provided financial support to the North Dakota Veterans Home, North Dakota Veterans Cemetery, Western Dakota Honor Flight, Wreaths Across America, Central Dakota Veterans Stand Down, and others.
- Volunteers completed another year of mowing at Driscoll Sibley Park in rural Burleigh County.
- The chapter and auxiliary combined to collect more than \$1,500 in toiletries and gift cards for hospitalized veterans at the Fargo VA, assisting veterans as they are discharged from the hospital.

There is not enough space to list everything, but those are a few highlights. Thank you to our great volunteers!

Chaplain Chats

Happy New Year to my fellow brothers and sisters! I hope you took it upon yourselves to reflect on the past year's graces. What was placed in your path, the obstacles you overcame, the triumphs you had, how you grew personally and professionally. Ending a year with gratitude is a great way to begin anew. I am reminded of a quote by Richelle E. Goodrich, "The direction you choose to face determines whether you're standing at the end or the beginning of a road." As I have taken the quote to mean, I met the challenges and celebrated the successes from the last year of my life and now choose to embark on a new "road." With an abundance of unknowns and possibilities ahead I know that I do not go on it alone or without direction. My compass is my faith, family, and friends who will guide me on my new path. I look forward to what we will be able to accomplish together to ease the burdens of others, to spread joy and peace, and lead by example. Wishing you gratitude for years past, joy in the present and hope for the future. **2 Chronicles 15:7:** "But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded."

Leslie Ross, Chaplain



Message from the Commander



We have turned the page on 2023 and are now looking for a tremendous 2024. We will be embarking on several new community service projects. Soon we will sponsor and work at the Heavens Helpers Soup Café in Bismarck. This is a wonderful program that supports folks who are in need of a meal. We will also be involved at the LAF Program at First Lutheran Church in Mandan. This is a program that provides noon meals to children who are in need. We will be calling for volunteers for these very worthy programs. During the next year, our very own Chaplain Leslie Ross will assume the office of Department Commander. We are very proud of her accomplishments.

LaMar Kruckenberg, Commander

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

Keeping Our Promise to America's Veterans