



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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DAV/DAVA Provides Toiletries for Hospitalized Veterans

The chapter and auxiliary combined to collect and donate more than \$1,500 in toiletries and gift cards to help hospitalized veterans at the Fargo VA Medical Center. VA staff will provide the items to low income veterans when they are released from the hospital. Donations consisted mainly of personal hygiene items, gas cards, and Wal Mart gift cards. The VA Center for Development and Community Engagement (formerly Voluntary Service) sent a request to all veterans service organizations, and they were highly impressed with the response from Chapter #3 and the Auxiliary. Thank you to everyone who donated. Pictured is Chapter Commander Lamar Kruckenberg with Voluntary Service Specialist Jaid Nelson.



Veterans Day Ceremony Plans Are Being Finalized

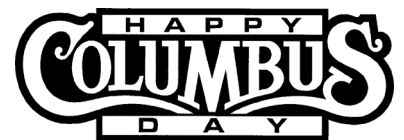
Representatives of the local veterans service organizations have begun planning for the Veterans Day ceremony in Bismarck. The ceremony will begin at 9:45 a.m. on Saturday, November 11th at the North Dakota Heritage Center (Russell Reid Auditorium) on the state capitol grounds. The planning committee met in September and will have another meeting during the first week of October. The ceremony was cancelled last year due to an early season blizzard, so we hope for better weather this year.

By the Numbers

607: The number of members in Adam Klein Chapter #3 at the end of September.

1,156.50: Donated hours logged by chapter volunteers thus far in 2023. Thank you for your selfless efforts!

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VA Updates



Chaplain Chats

As we welcome the Autumn months, may the earlier setting of the sun remind us to take time to rest. May the brilliant colors of the leaves remind us of the wonder of Your creation. May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that it is You who gives us the breath of life. May the harvest from the fields remind us of the abundance we have been given and the bounty we are to share with others. May the dying of summer's spirit remind us of Your great promise that death is temporary and life is eternal. We praise You for Your goodness forever and ever. *-Author Unknown-*



Yours in Christ, Leslie Ross, Chaplain

Message from the Commander



The colors of fall are breathtaking. North Dakota is an amazing place to live. I attended the recent ACOVA meeting in Steele, ND. At that meeting, I was assigned to the Legislative and Strategic Planning Committee. Several items were discussed that would positively impact disabled veterans. We need to work together to support our organization and the veteran community. More information will be following.

On the October menu: Smoked brisket with jacked up macaroni & cheese.

LaMar Kruckenberg, Commander

Save the Date

Volunteer Recognition Banquet January 18, 2024

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

Keeping Our Promise to America's Veterans

Notes from September Fargo VA stakeholder meeting:

The Fargo VA budget for 2024 will be tighter than previous years. There was no discussion regarding reduction of services.

Approximately 60% of enrolled veterans in the Fargo VA Health Care System have had PACT screenings. Veterans may inquire with their primary care provider.

The electronic health record initiative is paused indefinitely.

The community care backlog has decreased significantly. The VA is contacting veterans within 7-10 days to schedule appointments.

Beneficiary travel payment timeliness has also improved. Payments are usually processed within 10 days. However, it may take some additional time for the payments to post to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.

There will soon be a new Chief of Staff in Fargo. Dr. Jeff Rondeau will retire at the end of November. Dr. Andrew Stasko is the acting Chief of Staff.

The Dermatology Clinic in Fargo is expanding. They are adding a nurse practitioner. A physician was added to the department during the last year.

Missouri Slope (Hillview Campus) in Bismarck and Hilltop Home in Killdeer have been added to the list of VA contract skilled nursing facilities. There are 31 contract facilities in North Dakota.

The RSV and COVID vaccines should be available in October. Flu shot clinics have been very active at all VA locations.

The VA is reviewing leases for CBOCs in Bismarck, Jamestown, and Devils Lake. New contracts will be awarded in 2025. Contracts are typically for a 10-year period.

The contract for the new Mental Health building on the Fargo VA campus will be awarded during the first quarter of FY 2024.

North Dakota veterans have submitted more than 3,000 PACT Act claims. The VA has issued 1,435 decisions for a total of \$7.5 million. The grant rate is higher than 83%.

The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) is testing Automated Decision Support, incorporating artificial intelligence, to expedite claim processing. They also hired more than 8,000 new employees nationwide during the past year and anticipate hiring up to 5,000 more in 2024.