



September 7, 2026



September 2026

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

P.O. Box 915

Bismarck, ND 58502-0915

Stand Down Event in Bismarck Draws Large Crowd

More than 200 veterans and family members were served at the Central North Dakota Veterans Stand Down in August. The event was hosted by the Bismarck AMVETS Club. Approximately 60 agencies and organizations were represented, providing information and services. Our chapter was one of the organizations there to help veterans. And we received five new member applications! Stand Down events have become very popular across the country. The first Stand Down in 1988 was in San Diego, CA. The first in Bismarck was at Buckstop Junction in 2004. The event was moved to the AMVETS shortly thereafter, and continues to make a difference in the lives of veterans in our communities.



Chapter Continues to Exceed Membership Goals



God Bless America! Our chapter membership roster stands at 780. To put that in perspective, on February 1, 2024 our membership total was 616. *Thank you* and *congratulations*, we've done very well with growing a strong chapter. Visit the chapter website and open the "NEW MEMBERS" link to view the names recently added to our roster. Open the "JOIN" link for a membership application, poster, and video. We recently added five members during the Stand Down. Now, we want to challenge our members to sponsor at least one new life member between September 1st and November 11th (Veterans Day). Our goal is a minimum of 11 new life members, and our intention is to have a drawing for the new members to potentially win a DAV polo shirt.

David Schall, Junior Vice Commander

Chaplain Chats

September is Suicide Prevention Month and National Recovery Month. For those of us who have served, these observances remind us of something we learned a long time ago. We were never expected to accomplish the mission entirely on our own. We depended on one another, looked out for one another, and sometimes carried a little more of the load when someone beside us was struggling.

May we remember that same responsibility today.

For the veteran who is struggling and wondering whether tomorrow is worth facing, may there be hope enough to get through today and the courage to reach out to someone who will listen. May they know that asking for help is not a sign of weakness. Sometimes it takes far more strength to say, "I need someone," than it does to remain silent.

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Message from the Commander

Fall is almost here. Our chapter will have a very active season, including the Department Fall Conference in Valley City. We will provide transportation in the chapter van for our members. The 14th District Meeting will be held in Mandan on the third weekend in October. We should have as many members as possible to represent our chapter. We have also volunteered our chapter to serve Lunch at First Lutheran (LAF). It is a very worthy community service project for our chapter. Please sign up when we call for volunteers. We also plan to serve at the Soup Café in Bismarck, another very worthy cause. These activities present our chapter in a very positive light.

Report Volunteer Hours to the Adjutant by the End of Each Month

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

Keeping Our Promise to America's Veterans

Chaplain Chats (Continued)

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For those walking the road of recovery, addiction, trauma, grief, or the difficult experiences that can follow us long after our service has ended, may each step forward be recognized for what it is: progress. The road may not always be straight or easy, but no one should have to travel it alone.

And for the rest of us, may we pay attention to the veterans around us. Help us notice the friend who has become a little quieter, the comrade we have not heard from lately, or the veteran who says everything is fine when we sense that it may not be. Give us the courage to ask how they are really doing, the patience to listen to the answer, and the willingness to stay beside them when they need us.

We once served by watching over one another. That responsibility did not end when we took off the uniform.

This September, may we remember those we have lost, stand beside those who are struggling, celebrate those who are continuing their journey or recovery, and make certain the veterans in our lives know that they still matter, their lives have value, and their stories are not finished.

Amen.

Leslie Ross, Chaplain

“Two are better than one...For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow.”

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10