

**REGION 8
LOCAL VETERANS
COMMITTEE REPORT
JULY-SEPTEMBER 2025**

The biggest thing to happen this quarter was the two conferences, the 2025 National Veterans Conference and the 2025 Region 8 Standing Committee Conference. Even though the Conferences were concurrent, the Region 8 Veteran Committees were able to send a total of 58 delegates combined. Several small Locals were able to take advantage of the Region 8 Scholarships for Black Lake. The delegates really enjoyed the changes made to the curriculum at the 2025 National Veterans Conference. The Region 8 Standing Committee Conference had several guest speakers from the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, to include Bay Pines Veterans Outreach, as well as the availability of Veteran Service Officers. There was also an election of Officers. The current Region 8 National Veterans Advisory Council remained intact.

Many of the newly appointed Local Veterans Committee Chairs were able to attend one of the two Conferences. They had the opportunity to network with other Chairs to get some ideas, particularly concerning fundraising and volunteer opportunities. Some have already been able to increase the number of people on their Committee.

Local 129 (Grand Prairie, TX)

- * The new Veterans Committee Chair is in place. He has set up some visions and goals for his Committee:
- * 1) Canvas the membership to increase the number of people on the Veterans Committee. Make sure the members have volunteer opportunities available so that they can be active in the Committee.
- * 2) Find out what resources are available in the community for Veterans. Set up opportunities to use these resources to help the Veterans become more knowledgeable of their benefits, to include how to open a VA claim.
- * 3) Reach out to other Committees and support their endeavors. Invite them to help us with ours.
- * 4) Network with Chairs of other Local Veteran Committees to get ideas on volunteer opportunities and fundraising. Become familiar with the rules regarding fundraising.
- * 5) Set realistic and achievable goals for myself and the Committee. Grow the Committee together.

Local 276 (Grand Prairie, TX)

- * The Veterans Committee was able to go forward with their postponed Veterans Celebration Comedy Show. To show their appreciation, it was free to all Veterans in the plant. Money that was raised went back into the budget (\$1420).
- * The following month the Committee meet to discuss past events and plan future ones.
- * Roy Davis was appointed as the new Co-Chair of the Committee, a vacancy that occurred when DeShaun Spencer was appointed the Chair of the Veterans Committee.

Local 862 (Louisville, KY)

- * The Veterans Committee voted to purchase eleven new Air Soft Rifles for the Active Heroes Veterans Retreat in Shepherdsville, KY. It was approved by the E-Board. The Veterans Committee meeting was held at the Retreat. Lunch was catered by Mission Barbecue, a Veteran owned business.
- * The Committee was able to send a total of 13 members to the two Veterans conferences this year. The new format of the 2025 National Veterans Conference was very much appreciated. Signing up for the classes was a smooth process.
- * The members participated in the final Bluegrass Honor Flight of the year. We helped the Veterans who were handicapped/disabled get out of their vehicles and into wheelchairs. They were helped inside the airport and were checked in. Upon their return, a "Welcome Home" inside the airport awaited them.
- * Coozies were ordered for the Committee members, as well as having them as a give away at the Veterans Committee table for the upcoming Local 862 Resource Fair, a family event for the entire local, but geared towards the Louisville Assembly Plant as they prepare for a temporary layoff for retooling.
- * The Committee received approval to purchase tickets for the annual Be At Ease event, which is a fund raiser for Dogs Helping Heroes.
- * Local 862 Veterans Committee made a donation to Wreaths Across America and assisted Local 3047 Veterans Committee with the event that they were hosting.

Local 1407 (Cookeville, TN)

* The Chair of the Local 1407 Veterans Committee is still trying to get his Committee going. A lack of funds is keeping them from being able to do anything requiring cash. Suggestions on fund raising ideas have been shared. Also, looking at some volunteer opportunities to get out into the community.

Local 1853 (Springhill, TN)

- * The Veterans Committee made a donation of \$100 worth of socks to the Marshall County Veterans Center.
- * The Committee made a donation of \$100 worth of miscellaneous items to Robertson County.
- * SGM Jimmy Martin was honored at the Local meeting with pictures, memorial testimonies and a moment of silence.
- * Members volunteered their time and grilling skills at the Annual Labor Day Parade in Nashville, TN. The Veterans Committee was honored for their continued support.
- * Member Chad Livermore reported out on his experience at the 2025 National Veterans Conference.

Local 2069 (Dublin, VA)

- * The Veterans Committee is staying busy, with members attending both the 2025 National Veterans Conference and the 2025 Region 8 Standing Committee Conference, being held concurrently.
- * Three members were able to attend the Mountain Valor Festival. This festival is a great opportunity for individuals to learn about Veterans benefits and opportunities.
- * The Committee has started planning for its Veterans Day projects. Along with participating in different community parades, the Committee plans to put on a fish fry at the local VA hospital.
- * The Committee is planning a gun raffle to coincide with hunting season.

Local 2164 (Bowling Green, Ky)

- * At the beginning of the quarter, the Veterans Committee started selling T-shirts (119) and Raffle Tickets (408). Proceeds will go towards funding the Dependant Scholarship that will be awarded next year. Also, a \$500 donation will also be made to the Veterans Alliance Center.
- * The Committee had a Car & Craft Show. This event was to raise money for Toys For Tots and Wreaths Across America. The Veterans Committee is hoping to be able to work together with other Committees in order to bring more members to these events and increase participation.
- * The focus of the Committee is now on increasing volunteer hours and preparing for Veterans Day. There is a Veterans Day celebration planned inside the plant with the GM VERG Group. There are also plans to participate in the community Veterans Day Parade.

Local 2360 (Carrollton, TX)

- * The faculty at Confluence Academy donated State Fair tickets to the Committee. Several members of the Committee were able to attend the State Fair along with their families.
- * The Chair has reached out to several Veteran Service Officers in hopes of arranging a future event to be held at the Local Union Hall. This would be a great opportunity for the Veterans to learn about VA benefits and ask questions about a possible claim.
- * The Committee is working on having a Veterans Day Dinner for all the Veterans in the Local, as well as their family. The plan is to have a separate dinner for each shift.

Local 2404 (Charlotte, NC)

- * Nothing to report at this time.

Local 2406 (Memphis, TN)

- * The Local Veterans Committee was able to send someone to the 2025 Region 8 Standing Committee Conference. In the general sessions, they were guest speakers who spoke about their respective department within the UAW. Matt Uptmor delivered (via TEAMS) an informative report on how the current political situation is affecting Veterans. In the Committee break out sessions, we had guest speakers from Veterans organizations who spoke on a variety of topics (PACT Act, Mental Health/Suicide Prevention, Women Veterans Health and VA Benefits).
- * The Committee continues to serve the local shelter for women and Children, delivering much needed items as often as we can.
- * With everything that has been going on in the streets of Memphis, the Committee continues to go out and check on the homeless Veterans to try to help them, even if all we can provide is someone to talk to.

Local 3047 (Elizabethtown, KY)

- * The Veterans Committee hosted a fundraising event for Wreaths Across America. The event generated \$2862, not including funds that were donated by UAW Local 3047 and UAW Local 862.
- * Another fundraising event to benefit Wreaths Across America is scheduled for 8 November at the local Ace Hardware. The members of the Committee are looking forward to continuing their support of this organization.
- * The Veterans Committee is pleased to announce they have had 4 new members join the Committee this quarter.

Local 3064 (Dry Ridge, KY)

- * The Veterans Committee has not been very active lately. An attempt was made to sell T-shirts for Veterans Day. However, another Committee was selling T-shirts for their Committee, so that didn't work out.
- * The Committee is planning on having a push-up contest for Veterans Day to raise some funds.

Local 3057 (Marshall, TX)

- * The new Chair of the Local 3057 Veterans Committee is trying to build up the Committee. In the last month, several people have joined. Unfortunately, due to different work schedules, they have not been able to have a meeting. Zoom has been suggested as an option. So, Brandon Smith will be looking in to how to do that.

Local 3520 (Cleveland, NC)

- * The Veterans Committee had a bake sale in June. The donations were earmarked to provide financial aid to a disabled Marine Corps Veteran so they would be able to attend the National Wheelchair Games in Minneapolis, MN. A donation of \$915 was given to Milas Wyatt in July to attend this event.
- * The Committee sent two members to the 2025 Region 8 Standing Committee Conference and two members to the 2025 National Veterans Conference.
- * Members of the Veterans Committee attended various Veterans breakfast/ lunch events in the local community.
- * The Committee has discussed having a cookout with local high school JROTC students at some point in the future. The hope is to be able to promote Union involvement for potential future Veterans.
- * The Veterans Committee will be providing a door prize (20 oz tumblers) for all Veterans attending the November Union Meeting.
- * The Committee will be providing and preparing a Thanksgiving dinner for the Veterans who are currently residing at a home in North Iredell County.

Local 5285 (Mt. Holly, NC)

- * The Veterans Committee Color Guard lead the Charlotte Labor Day Parade this year.
- * The Committee has been volunteering at the Community Relief Organization in Mount Holly, NC, packaging food and baby items for the homeless and less fortunate.
- * The Veterans Committee has slowed down on some of the events/activities we normally participate in due to the layoff at the factory.

Donna Kerberg
Region 8 NVAC

