

REGION 8
VETERANS COMMITTEE
ANNUAL OVERVIEW
2025

2025 saw a lot of changes in the leadership of the Local Veterans Committees in Region 8. Retirements and step downs due to family issues resulted in welcoming several new Chairs on board. The Chairs are able to network through text/email, the Region 8 website's Veterans page and a Region 8 Veterans Facebook page. I was very fortunate to be able to meet a lot of the old and new Veterans Committee Chairs for the first time this year, as well as seeing others again.

The Region 8 Veterans Committees were able to have a combined 58 delegates attend the two main conference this year:

- * UAW National Veterans Conference (Black Lake). A push was made to get some of the smaller Locals to apply for the Region 8 Scholarships that are available for this conference. As a result, we were able to send more delegates than the previous year.
- * Region 8 Standing Committee Conference (St Pete). Even though the two conferences were held at the same time, a lot of first time delegates and chairs attended this conference. Once again, the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs and the Bay Pines Veterans Outreach were able to provide speakers. We held our elections for the Advisory Council.

The individual Veterans Committees continue to participate in various Veteran related events throughout the year. Fundraising ideas are shared between the Local Veterans Committee Chairs through the Region 8 Veterans Quarterly Report. Results of the fundraising efforts are used to help other Veterans (organizations, families, UAW Veterans) and others in their community who are in need.

Local 129 (Grand Prairie, TX) has a new Veterans Chair. Realistic goals have been set for the Committee to move forward with training opportunities to make the veterans more knowledgeable of their benefits. The Chair is trying to get people more involved, as he personally makes a point of volunteering at the local Veterans Center at least once a week.

Local 276 (Grand Prairie, TX) brought on a new Veterans Committee Chair and Co-Chair. The Committee continues to be involved in community events such as attending the grand opening of The National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation in Arlington, TX. The Veterans Committee continues to educate its members by having a CPR training class and Veteran benefits town halls. The Veterans Committee pairs up with GM Veterans Group to have their annual Veterans Fair. Not only were the Veterans honored at the plant but they were also honored with a Veterans Celebration Comedy Show that was put on by the Veterans Committee.

Local 862 (Louisville, KY) continues to participate in events aimed at helping/ honoring Veterans such as the African American Veterans Breakfast with Congressman Morgan McGarvey and attending meetings of the Joint Executive Council of Veterans Organization. The Veterans Committee has been very involved with helping Active Heroes Veterans Retreat and Dogs Helping Heroes by donating needed items as well as monetary donations and purchasing tables for fundraising galas. The Color Guard presented the Colors at various functions (Ford Sub-Council Conference, IPS Conference, Peace Award, Pegasus Parade, 4th July Parade and Veterans Day Parade).

Local 1407 (Cookeville, TN) Veterans Committee is still a work in progress. The Chair has contact information with other Veterans Committee Chairs to help come up with ideas on how to have an active Committee with limited members and funds. The Chair was able to pass out gift cards to the Veterans in the plant as a token of appreciation for Veterans Day.

Local 1853 (Springhill, TN) continues fund raising efforts to donate needed items such as socks to the Marshall County Veterans Center. The Committee presents a flag to two Veterans of the Month. This year, the Local Veterans Committee lost two long time members (Jimmy Martin and George Fox). A remembrance ceremony was held for each. The Veterans Committee continues to provide donations to Veteran families in need and to local Veteran organizations.

Local 2069 (Dublin, NC) had a new Veterans Committee Chair appointed. The Committee has a lot of members, with only 12-15 actively participating in volunteer opportunities. The Committee does annual gun raffles and T-shirt sales to raise funds for activities and future donations. They are very involved in the Run To The Wall and helping the AmVets who participate. They are fortunate to be able to use some of the trucks they build during events. The Committee was able to send delegates to the Mountain Valor Festival to receive training on Veterans benefits. The Veterans at the VA hospital in Salem, NC, were treated to a fish fry for Veterans Day.

Local 2164 (Bowling Green, KY) is involved in several car cruises-ins throughout the year to raise funds. They join forces with Veteran organizations such as VFW, American Legion, AmVets #130 and WKU Upward Bound. Donations are made to the Veterans Alliance Center, Toys for Tots, Wreaths Across America and a Veterans Dependent Scholarship. They also sell T-shirts and do raffles. The Committee updated the landscaping around the Veterans Memorial Garden at the Union Hall. They were able to create a designated Veterans parking spot at the Hall. They worked together with the GM VERGE Group to put on a Veterans Celebration inside the plant.

Local 2360 (Carrollton, TX) has a new Veterans Committee Chair. As the Chair, he was able to send delegates to the National Veterans Conference by using the Regional Scholarships. One of the things he wanted to accomplish this year was to have a Veterans Day lunch/dinner for the UAW Veterans and their Families. He was able to make this happen. The Veterans Committee joined forces with other Committees to have a successful clothing drive. The items were donated to a local shelter and Salvation Army. The tables were turned when the faculty at Confluence Academy donated State Fair tickets to the Veterans Committee.

Local 2404 (Charlotte, NC) participated in the local Wreaths Across America event.

Local 2406 (Memphis, TN) Veterans Committee members volunteer to take it to the streets and check on the homeless Vets to try to help them or just talk to them. The Committee serves the local Women and Children's Shelter by donating much needed items to them. They were able to purchase over \$300 worth of winter blankets for the shelter. They were also able to get individual members from the Local to pledge more blankets.

Local 3047 (Elizabethtown, KY) Veterans Committee concentrated a lot of their efforts on contacting Representatives regarding the cuts being done to VA. They have participated in protests in their community as well as helping out neighboring UAW Locals with their agenda. They have attended ceremonies at the Vietnam Veterans Cemetery and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall replica. The Committee was able to get approval to permanently display a POW/ MIA table at the Union Hall, complete with a Remembrance Ceremony being presented by members of the DAV. The Veterans Committee participated in several fundraising events to help with Wreaths Across America. They sold Local Challenge Coins and hosted two different events consisting of a car show/ silent auction/food sales and a chili cook off at their Union Hall. Over \$19,500 was raised.

Local 3057 (Marshall, TX) Veterans Committee not only appointed a new Chair, but he is currently the only member on the Committee. He had the opportunity to meet other Veteran Committee Chairs/members at the Region 8 Standing Committee Conference. He is taking some of the ideas he gathered at the conference to try to get his Committee going. The different work schedules in the plant have proven to be a hindrance. In the meantime, he has paired up with the Recreation Committee. They have brainstormed the idea of putting together an Emergency Response Team complete with a mobile disaster relief cargo trailer.

Local 3064 (Dry Ridge, TN) Veterans Committee has had success in raising funds through their push-ups for pay contests. They also do Split-The-Pot chances. The Veterans were each given a hat to honor their service for Veterans Day. The Veterans Committee was able to donate \$300 towards the Christmas Dinner/party that was put on by the Local Union.

Local 3520 (Cleveland, NC) had a new Veterans Committee Chair appointed. The Committee had a bake sale to help provide financial aid to a disabled Marine Corps Veteran so he could attend the National Wheelchair Games in Minneapolis, MN. Members of the Committee attend various Veterans breakfast/lunch events in the community throughout the year. The Committee has been involved in helping a local Veterans Home in North Iredell County. They provided both a Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner for the residents, donated two complete tackle boxes to the facility for upcoming fishing events and even made a cash donation for the home to buy some basic items. The Committee provided a Veteran themed tumbler for all the Veterans who attended the November Union meeting. The Veterans Committee was also able to donate \$1100 to the NC Chapter of the Buffalo Soldiers.

Local 5285 (Mt. Holly, NC) Veterans Committee started the year by working with Daimler Truck to set up a Veterans Corner on the DTNA employee app. They will continue to expand the Veterans Corner by adding more links to better assist and inform the members who are Veterans. The Committee assembled packages of toiletry items to hand out to homeless Veterans. Members of the Committee have been volunteering at the Community Relief Organization in Mt. Holly, NC, packaging food and baby items for the homeless and less fortunate. The Local Color Guard participated in the Labor Day Parade. They put together trick-or-treat bags for residents of a local assisted living facility. The Veterans Committee along with Daimler Truck provided all the Veterans at the plant a meal. Swag bag items were provided by Daimler Trucks and the VA. Some events have been scaled back due to a layoff at the plant.

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