2019 Region 8 UAW Retired Workers Conference

The UAW Region 8 Retired Workers Conference for 2019, once again, was no disappointment to anyone! Director, Mitchell Smith and Assistant Director, Tim Smith put together another very informative conference that brought plenty of appreciation from the retirees. The conference was administered by the Region 8 Retiree Executive Board. Chairperson, Zane Payne expressed the gratitude and appreciation on behalf of the executive board.

Assistant Director, Tim Smith welcomed the delegates along with recognizing our veterans in attendance. Unfortunately, Tim was unable to stay for the conference due to other responsibilities. Director, Mitchell Smith was in route from another conference to support the retirees at the conference. The retirees have shown Director Smith great appreciation for all he does for not only the Region and the UAW, but the retirees also.

The councils gave their reports, which is always very informative and very well received. The presentations gave so much useful knowledge. Along with our benefits vendors there were presentations on mid-term elections in Region 8 and the UAW's support for labor friendly politicians. The hard work put in for our friends as usual is appreciated not only by the Community Action Program but also by the politicians themselves. It is no secret that endorsements from the UAW equals a lot of hard work in support as well as the monetary gift.

Obviously, the highlight of the conference is hearing from our Director, Mitchell Smith. There was no disappointment as Director Smith gave vital information and updates on happenings within the UAW. As we all know, this is contract year for the "Big 3". Mitchell came out firing on all cylinders as he addressed the delegates. He started with some of the antics that General Motors has already executed with closing of plants and making major contributions for a foreign company to build a plant in Georgia to make batteries for electric vehicles. Mitchell firmly believes that CEO, Mary Barra, and GM has full intentions to do all they can to break the UAW. Brother Mitchell let us know that we, the UAW, are ready for this fight! "Tell your active workers to get two month's wages in the bank and a freezer full of vegetables!", he said. This fired up the delegates and affirmed the confidence in our leadership to protect us all. He also addressed the affect that Trump has had on us as union members. One point of interest in what has transpired in Chattanooga at the VW plant. One of the first appointments made by Trump was to the Nation Labor Relations Board who immediately rescinded all previous decisions. This directly affected the VW plant and our quest for organizing, which has been a constant fight. We have a continuous fight for the social and economic justice of our membership, not only in Region 8, but also across the land as well.



Director Mitchell Smith, Addresses the delegates



Retiree Chairperson Zane Payne and Retired Education Coordinator Tom Savage

In closing, Mitchell thanked all his staff for all their hard work. He thanked the retiree's for paving the way for our future and for their loyalty to the UAW. It was at this point that he changed direction and brought to the attention of the conference, Tony Fransetta. Tony retired out of Cleveland Engine at age 54 and started coming to the Region 8 Retiree's Conference in 1991. Tony is an awesome union man and has been loyal to organized labor all his working and retired life. Brother Smith congratulated him on his many accomplishments and thanked him by presenting him a plaque of appreciation from UAW Region 8. Tony has many awards to which most recently elected to the Florida Labor Hall of Fame.

Tony: "Everything I have I owe to the UAW". This was Tony's last conference because he will be moving back to Cleveland Ohio; the persuasion just happens to be his grandchildren. What a man of integrity! Tony Fransetta, thank you for your leadership, dedication, and passion for the UAW and our brothers and sisters.









2019 Region 8 Retiree's Conference!



2019 Retiree Conference



UAW Region 8 Director Mitchell Smith addressed the conference with enthusiasm and passion. It was very well received and appreciated!



















2019 Retiree Conference



Assistant Director Tim Smith unfortunately was unable to stay for the week. But he stopped by for quick welcoming that was much appreciated! Mitchell & Tim are a great team!













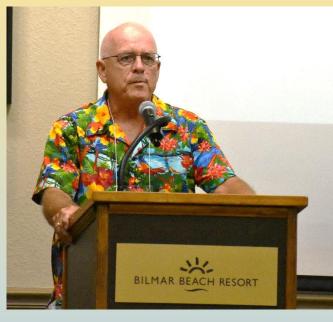








2019 Retiree Conference









Reports

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2019 Retiree Conference

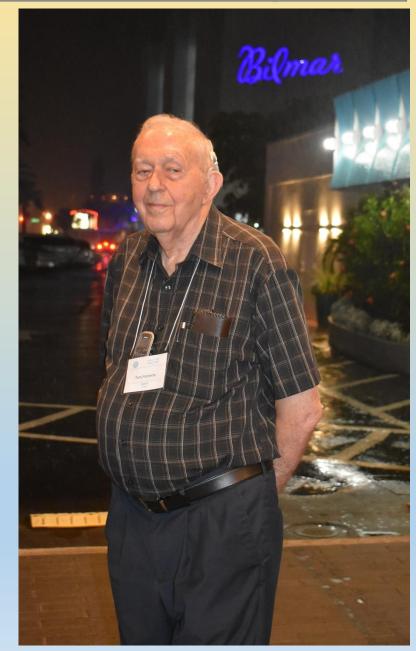








Tony Fransetta starting coming to the Retiree's Conference in 1991. Tony retired out of UAW Local 1250 Cleveland Engine Plant. This year, 2019, was his last conference. He is moving back to Cleveland Ohio to be close to his grandkids. Tony is a truly awesome Union Man! Tony received an award from Director Mitchell Smith which he undeniably cherished. Tony has always supported union labor with honor. Tony, <u>thank you</u> for all you have done and enjoy your grandchildren!









Beautiful Sunset Of Region 8

