

REGION 8  
LOCAL VETERANS  
COMMITTEE REPORT  
JANUARY 2025

The last quarter of the year is probably one of the most active times for the Local Veterans Committees. As Veterans and Veteran Supporters, we are honored to participate in Veterans Day events in our area. Whether it's something as small as donating a pair of socks to providing an entire meal, the members of the UAW Veterans Committees are truly Veterans helping Veterans.

**LOCAL 276 (Grand Prairie, TX)**

- \* The UAW/GM Education and Resources Expo was held at the plant in October 2024. Several Committees participated in the Expo. The Veterans Committee invited organizations who help Veterans (such as The Veterans Services of Tarrant County, the VA North Texas Healthcare System, Veterans Outreach Program Specialist and the Vet Center.
- \* For Veterans Day, the Committee paired up with the GM Veterans Group to participate in the Arlington Inaugural Veterans Day Parade. Five vehicles were provided for the parade in order to transport Honor Flight Veterans through the parade. Several members of the Veterans Committee marched in the parade.
- \* The Committee was also able to honor all the fallen Veterans with a moment of silence in the plant. Red, white and blue cupcakes were distributed to the active employees who are Veterans.
- \* The Veterans Committee teamed up with other Committees as well as the GM Veterans Group to provide children and families in need with Christmas gifts.

**LOCAL 862 (Louisville, KY)**

- \* Donated to and manned two tables for the Local 862 Trunk-or-Treat for the children of the membership.
- \* The Local 862 Color Guard participated in the Veterans Day Parade held in downtown Louisville. Members of the Committee walked in the parade. We also provided shirts for members of the Local who participated in the Parade.
- \* The Committee provided hands on help as well as a monetary donation to Bikes-or-Bust, a program that provides underprivileged children with bicycles for Christmas.

- \* Several members volunteered to help with Boxes of Love, which provides a pre-boxed Christmas meal for a family of four to those in need.
- \* The Committee participated in Wreaths Across America, laying wreaths at Zachary Taylor National Cemetery. We also co-sponsored a fund raiser with Local 3047 to benefit this event.

### **LOCAL 1853 (Springhill, TN)**

- \* The Veterans Committee was able to deliver two boxes of socks to the Robertson County VA during the month of October. In November, they delivered one box to the Marshall County Veterans Center.
- \* For Veterans Day, the Committee performed a short ceremony to honor all the Veterans, both active employees and the fallen.
- \* At Decembers meeting, a flag was presented to the Local's Veteran of the month.
- \* A \$500 gift card was given to both the Marshall County and Robertson County Veteran Centers to help Veterans in need.
- \* The Committee had their first Veteran Angel Tree. The retirees donated sweaters and lap blankets to this project. The membership also donated needed items that were requested. All of the donated items were distributed to local VA hospitals, Veteran Centers and satellite branches of the VA in middle TN and Northern Alabama.

### **LOCAL 2069 (Dublin, VA)**

- \* For Veteran's Day, the Committee, along with Local 2069, provided gift cards for the members who are Veterans.
- \* Members of the Committee participated in several Veterans Day Parades. They were able to drive two themed trucks in the locally televised Veterans Day Parade in Roanoke, VA. They drove one themed truck in the Floyd Veterans Day Parade. They also had one themed truck for the parade in Ocena, WVa parade.
- \* The Committee hosted a fish fry at the Salem VA hospital for staff and residents in honor of Veterans Day. The food was prepared and served by members who volunteered.
- \* The Committee raised \$3250 by having a gun raffle. The funds were used to buy wish list items for the residents of the Salem VA and to provide them with a Christmas party, complete with food and Santa Clause.

- \* The Veterans Committee participated in the Local's Children's Christmas Party. A booth was set up at the Union Hall to provide gifts and games for the children.
- \* The committee was able to get one themed truck for the Blacksburg Christmas Parade. They were also able to get one themed truck for the Dublin Christmas Parade.
- \* The Committee volunteered to help with the Christmas wreath laying ceremony at the Southwestern Virginia Veterans Cemetery. The volunteers parked cars and laid wreaths, some of which were purchased by their donations. They were able to bring three themed trucks to the ceremony.

### **LOCAL 2164 (Bowling Green, KY)**

- \* The Veterans Committee was able to pre-sale 144 Veteran themed shirts. The shirts were distributed prior to Veterans Day.
- \* The UAW along with the GM VERGE Group unveiled the new Veterans Wall in the plant. The Miller brothers (both Vietnam Vets) were the special guests. The celebration included sack lunches and giveaways.
- \* The Committee participated in the Bowling Green Veterans Day Parade. The Miller Brothers were the special guests, along with Jim Keown (Flags For Vets). After the parade, a ceremony was held at the Union Hall to dedicate the Veteran's Memorial Bench. There was also a flag ceremony where the members of Flags For Vets presented a flag to the Veterans Committee.
- \* Denise and Jeff Hogan donated a Missing Man table to the Union Hall to be used at UAW events.
- \* A dedicated Veterans parking space at the hall was approved.
- \* A donation of \$500 was given to the Veterans Alliance Center in Bowling Green to purchase pantry items.
- \* The membership donated a truck load of toys to Toys for Tots, along with a \$100 donation from the Veterans Committee. They also helped to distribute the toys to the kids.
- \* The Committee participated in Wreaths Across America, volunteering to lay wreaths on Veterans graves at Kirby & Son Cemetery.
- \* A \$1000 Veteran's Dependent Scholarship was awarded.
- \* Two more members joined the Veterans Committee.

### **LOCAL 2404 (CHARLOTTE, NC)**

- \* The Committee participated in Wreaths Across America, volunteering to lay wreaths on Veterans graves at Salisbury NC National Cemetery. An email the Chair received stated that only 50% of the Veteran headstones received a wreath.

### **LOCAL 3047 (ELIZABETHTOWN, KY)**

- \* The Committee co-sponsored a fundraiser to benefit Wreaths Across America. They were able to donate \$500 themselves, along with getting the company to agree to a matching donation. The wreath laying event took place at the Kentucky Veterans Cemetery near Ft. Knox. Over 3000 people attended the ceremony.
- \* The Committee attended the Veterans Day Ceremony held at the Elizabethtown Nature Park, home to an 80% replica of the Vietnam Wall. The ceremony honored all Veterans, the living and the fallen.
- \* The company agreed to donate three boxes of hoodies and three totes of t-shirts to the Veterans Committee. In turn, the Committee donated all the wearables to the Radcliffe Veterans Center.

### **LOCAL 5285 (MT. HOLLY, NC)**

- \* The members of the Veterans Committee donated and delivered much needed items to a women and children's shelter in Black Mountain, NC, following the devastation of Hurricane Helene.
- \* In recognition of Veterans Day, two separate meetings were held at the flag pole for the Veterans. Both meetings were started with a prayer and a moment of silence for all of the Veterans in the Local who have passed. After the Pledge of Allegiance, there were key note speakers from the UAW leadership as well as the Plant Manager. The Veterans received a choice of meal and a token of appreciation. There were door prizes furnished by the VA. The women veterans received flowers from the Committee.
- \* There was another donation run to the shelter in Black Mountain, NC, in December to provide blankets and toys for the children.

Donna Kerberg  
Region 8 NVAC