

2024 UAW Region 4 Veteran's Spring Conference

The Region 4 UAW Veterans Spring Conference was held May 17th - 19th, 2024, which was the 36th year of Region 4 supporting veterans. Our Region 4 Veterans Board is always trying to challenge ourselves, thinking outside the box. This year, we used eight (8) veteran service officers (VSO) and PTSD experts from various states of Illinois; Wisconsin; and Iowa, to help our vets. We concentrated not only on the Pact Act, but we dove into how to help them personally with those who needed help with their disability claims. Here, we formed four classrooms, dividing all of our 110 delegates. This was something that has been long overdue. Our belief is, with smaller groups, which would give our veterans a chance to be comfortable, and more likely to speak up on the issues that need immediate attention to resolve. The veteran service officers ran their individual classes, following lunch 1 - 4 pm to end the day.

To start off the conference was color guard from Local 94 of Iowa, followed by introductions of our Region 4 Veterans Board. Next, Region 4 Veterans Chair, Horace W. Hubbard Jr, introduces Region 4 Coordinator, Ted Dever to go over the Pat Greathouse facility; do's and don'ts, as well as what is to be expected of everyone carrying our UAW brand. Next our Region 4 Director, Brandon Campbell spoke to the delegates and took questions as well. At 11:00 am was our CAP Presentation, presented by CAP Staff, Kelli Harrison. Afterwords everyone went outside for our "WE WEAR RED" (R.E.D.) picture in front of the Pat Greathouse Clubhouse. And of course, our VSO classes in the afternoon.

On May 18th, we started the day with Major Ron Kirchgessner, Regimental Surgeon, Civil War Reenactment Unit, from the Peoria Illinois area. He talked on the history of the civil war, and he had replica medical instruments that were used in serious injuries, but unfortunately there was a high mortality rate in the eighty percentile.

At 10:00 am, we had Jason Zaideman, of Operation Charlie Bravo speaking on the new programs they created in the aid of helping veterans and giving them the ability to a variety of hands-on distractive therapies for day-to-day problem solving and camaraderie, at no cost to the veteran. These programs are: "Hot rod therapy", which is a DIY facility to learn motorcycle or auto repair; furniture restoration and much more. "Lima Charlie" is a problem-solving peer support group. "Jam" program is therapeutic music activities to help express creativity. "Blaster" program is a problem solving "A to B" transportation solution program designed to keep veterans mobile. "On Your Feet" is a financial assistance program for grants and coaching. It also includes job placement, food pantry, and continued education. "Fat program" is about fitness and tranquility. A health & wellness program to help re-establish a balanced mind, body, and spirit. And the last program, "Get Lost" which is an outdoor adventure program. It consists of fun, adrenaline rushed-camaraderie filled action packed trips across the U.S.

Chris Stout was our last speaker of the day. He is a member of Wreaths Across America, and formerly of the tiny houses for veterans' movement. He has been a CNN favorite, highlighted with how many homes he was able to create for our vets. At the end of his speech, our very own Thomas Epperson of Minnesota sketched a picture of him, as well as he did for the other guest speakers. The evening consisted of Bingo in the Region 4 Educational Center with our delegates and our own coordinator, Ted Dever as the Bingo wizard. It was truly a great conference, and we are looking forward to our fall conference scheduled October 25th - 27th.

UAW REGION 4 VETERANS 2024 SPRING CONFERENCE PICS



Chris Stout
"Wreaths Across America"



Region 4 Director
Brandon Campbell



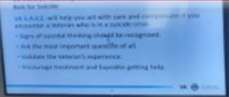
Jason Zaideman Operation
Charlie Bravo



First Timers! (Newbies)



Major Ron Kirchgessner: Civil War Re-enactment Unit



VSO classes!



UAW Region 4 E-Board

