

The Well Armed Woman Leaders Conference Report



The Well Armed Woman Shooting Chapters is a non-profit organization with chapters throughout the country. Their motto is to Educate, Equip and Empower women in the shooting community. They have over 350 chapters and over 12,000 members! As a leader of the Jacksonville West chapter of The Well Armed Woman (TAWW), I was invited out to Provo, UT, to attend the annual Leaders Conference at the end of September. This was truly an amazing, inspiring and uplifting event!

Although I was not able to make it out until Thursday evening, many of the ladies had arrived early and were able to participate in Range Day. They had the opportunity to shoot Glock and Walther pistols, a Ruger long range rifle, an AR-15 from LWRC International, and work with Ultimate Training Munitions (UTM). I'm sorry to have missed that!

Friday kicked off with a discussion of our core values and effective leadership, lead by Carrie Lightfoot, the found of our organization. It was followed by a panel discussion related to dealing with trauma and healing. So many members of our chapters have endured some type of trauma, be it domestic abuse, assault, rape, or any other horror our society sees. We focused mainly on how the leaders could recognize the signs of trauma in our members and to what resources we could direct them for help.

Then we got into the meat of the seminars Friday thru Sunday, with presentations from UTM and the Sheepdog himself, Lt. Col Dave Grossman. We had a conversation about attracting minorities and millennials with Gabby Franco and Antonia Okafor. We spent a few hours training in dirt medicine, and took a realistic look at the legal ramifications of using lethal force, and so much more. The evenings offered opportunities to hear from industry leaders, Dana Leosch, Cam Edwards, and the NRA's own first lady, Susan LaPierre!

The conference was attended by over 300 chapter leaders! We were able to get training, network and draw off of each other for new ideas and techniques. An invaluable experience!

There are currently 22 chapters in the state of Florida. If you are interested in finding out more about The Well Armed Woman Shooting Chapters, or to find a chapter near you, please visit the website, www.twawshootingchapters.org.