

## Auxiliary Members

It has been a busy summer. I hope all of you have been able to spend time to enjoy gathering with family and friends as I have. Since being installed as your Department President, I have attended events and meetings across the state, and it makes me proud to be a member of the American Legion Auxiliary. Getting to know many of you on a personal basis has been a pleasure. Thank you for your support and encouragement as we travel the next year together.

### **Flag Day June 14, 2021 - White Shield ND**

I was proud to participate in honoring the veterans' flags on June 14<sup>th</sup> in White Shield, ND. Families brought their loved one's memorial flags and marched in a mile long parade. The parade route was lined with flags. Community members along with some young school children came out to honor Flag Day as well. Native American honor songs were sung as the flags entered the pow wow grounds. Joseph Young Hawk-Elmer Bear Post and Unit 253 provided a meal for the community and one of the floats in the parade as well.

### **2021 Department Convention - June 25-27, 2021 - Minot, ND**

At the officer installation ceremony at Department Convention, I was proud to share part of my Native culture with my American Legion Family. Native Arikara Honor songs by Thomas Wells and Kenny Wells Jr. were sung. I was escorted by my sister Kathy White Bear and my brother Kenneth Deane Jr. (both US Navy Veterans), and Joseph Young Hawk-Elmer Bear Post 253 White Shield, ND. My son, Wacey White Bear Dunn, escorted me to the podium. Thank you, Marlys Aubol, for serving as the installation officer.

### **July 2021 - White Shield Pow Wow - White Shield, ND**

The community of White Shield and Joseph Young Hawk-Elmer Bear Unit 253 honored me as your American Legion Auxiliary Department President. Thank you to all who participated in the event.

### **July 2021 - North Dakota State Fair - Minot, ND**

I was invited by Linda Siewert, Minot Unit 26 President, to participate in the ND State Fair parade. Once again, I was proud to represent this wonderful organization. Thank you, Linda, for the gracious invitation and thank you to Myron for providing your vintage "Le Mans" convertible for me to ride in. I was happy to see Minot's American Legion float and our new Department Commander, Steve Anderson, participating in the parade.

### **July 31, 2021 - Organizational Meeting - Fargo, ND**

We already have our first Department Executive Committee meeting under our belts. The 2021 Organizational Meeting was held at the Department Office in Fargo. I was encouraged to see everyone here and thank you for traveling to this far corner of the state to participate. The District Presidents had a lively discussion and produced ideas for increasing our membership throughout North Dakota. I am looking forward to the rest of my year as Department President.

## **August 8, 2021 -Twin Buttes Pow Wow - Honor Flag from 9/11**

This event was held to honor one of the three flags that survived the attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. This flag came from the North tower, the first attacked and the second one to collapse. This flag is held in trust and preserved by the Cheyenne River Veterans Association from Cheyenne River South Dakota. This flag travels to events all over the United States. More information about the flag and how to contact the Cheyenne River Veterans Association can be found at the following address [www.crstvets.org](http://www.crstvets.org).

I am looking forward to the 2021 National Convention to be held in Phoenix, AZ, at the end of August. May we all have a blessed year as we continue to support all veterans in North Dakota and the United States.

May we always remember - 'Freedom is Never Free!'

Sharon White Bear