

Extension and Revitalization

April 2023

There had been much talk in the tribal village for the last several weeks about the Tribal Auxiliary Pow-Wow coming at the next full moon wondering who would be the leader. Many members said that the leader of the group was too old and did not like change. Meetings were long and very unproductive; many members stayed in their own wigwams caring for their family with little interest in setting around the campfire to hear the same old stories.

There was a young maiden, Shining Star, who had talked to many of the members about wanting to make more of a difference in the tribe's Auxiliary (health). Many of the old members talked against this young maiden for her youthful ideas. Others knew that Shining Star had been working hard to learn about the many programs that came from the Great Council of the Tribal Auxiliary.

But who would help this young maiden? Could she get the rest of the leaders to work with her or was it just a dream that she had to bring life back to the aging Tribal Auxiliary? Would she get younger tribal women and tribal braves to become members? So many questions ran through her mind. When she stopped and thought about the leaders she realized that almost all of the leaders had lead the group for many years.

Shining Star decided to ask one of her sisters to announce at the Pow-Wow that she was in the running for Tribal Auxiliary leader. The night of the Tribal Auxiliary Pow-Wow came, there was little excitement until the Chief's daughter Little Doe stood and nominated Shining Star for leader. Excitement among the members grew and when it was time to cast their stones by the fire, Shining Star was to be their new leader. Others felt like they would put their name into the different leadership positions to help Shining Star with her dreams for their Tribal Auxiliary.

The April meeting is election month. We do not nominate in March, that is the practice of the VFW. We nominate and elect in April and follow with the installation in May. We have lost too many Auxiliaries in the last few years dues to aging membership or in-fighting with other members or the Post. It's time to find leadership that will put new life into your Auxiliary and revitalize all of your members. Remember that the past ideas are still extremely important to our traditions and the purpose of our organization. As an organization, your members need to learn to mix the new with our old ideas and make them productive.

Congratulations to all new officers for the 2023-2024 year. Always remember that there is help just a phone call or email within your reach and do not hesitate to ask for help before a small item turns into a huge problem.

Wishing you and your family a Happy Easter .

Loyally,

Jeanette Cox

Dept Chief of Staff/Extension & Revitalization Chrm.

