

Tricia Floyd and Jennifer Gray are preparing for Ag Days

By Tony Hooker

Tricia Floyd isn't one to seek out attention from some newspaper guy.

In fact, she was hesitant to even meet with me, at first. But once she started talking about the VFW women's auxiliary and how they help those in need in our community, her enthusiasm really began to shine through. I sat down with Floyd, VFW Auxiliary President, and her Senior Vice President, Jennifer Gray, to discuss the history of the auxiliary's participation in Ag Days, and much more.

How long have you been involved in the auxiliary?

I joined in 2016.

How long have you been the president?

This will be my second year.

How long has the auxiliary participated in Ag Days?

Since Ag Days started, which I believe is 1978. We've had a breakfast since they started it.

How did you come to be involved?

My husband (Ron Floyd) joined after we came back. I debated it for a while, but the ladies finally convinced me, and I just began to participate in all of the activities that the auxiliary puts together.

(Jennifer) We finally broke her down! <both laugh>

How many breakfasts do you think you'll serve on Ag Days?

<JG> I don't think we've ever counted, with carry out and phone orders in addition to the walk-in customers, but I would say over a hundred, for sure.

<TF> The place is usually pretty packed. We have a good turnout, every year.

What's been your biggest challenge for the event?

<JG> I would say our biggest challenge is making sure that we have enough (breakfast items). You don't want to order too much because you can't keep the items for very long. You hate to run out because then you can upset your customers, but you never know how many people are coming, so you do your best and then if you run out, you apologize.

What's been the greatest blessing for you in doing all of this?

<TF> We all love to help the veterans any time we can donate and help with the community. When we were talking about the Ag Days breakfast, we talked about doing something else, but we felt like the community would be disappointed. It's something that we give to the community every year. We enjoy being able to do stuff FOR the community WITH the community. I think a big passion of all of ours is being able to give back and support the post as much as we can. That's why we're in it, to support the post and other veterans.

Is your membership strong?

We have 63 members right now. Membership is always hard. The newer generation doesn't seem to join things as much so we're hoping to get new members all the time.

<JG> We do a lot of 'behind the scenes' work, so a lot of our



Submitted photo.

stuff doesn't get put out there and people don't really know what we do, so they think we just hang out. <laughs> A lot of our donations go to veteran's groups or to things for district that aren't put out there. We are active in taking care of our veterans and doing what we need to do.

63 seems like a good number to me.

<TF> It is. We probably have about 15 active members who actually come to the meetings

and help with everything. We have a lot of members who are older and can't do as much, so it would be good to get younger members involved.

What are your hours going to be on Saturday?

We are serving from 6-10.

Is there anything you would like to add?

Our auxiliary has been here since 1934, which is very good. Some posts are closing, and some don't even have an auxiliary, so I think it says

something that we've been active since 1934. That's huge, you know. We try to donate to a lot of things. We donate to the food pantry every month. We've donated to Camp New Hope, which is a camp for disabled kids. We put out the markers for the auxiliary members and flags for veterans in the cemeteries.

<JG> I'd also like to mention that a lot of our donations do stay in the post. We have to replenish the flags and the mark-

ers for the graves. We used a lot of proceeds from our buddy poppy drive just for flags and markers because we lose a lot of members. You have to put the stuff out there to honor them and that stuff is NOT cheap. Flags get worn out and need replaced over the years.

<TF> We hope everyone comes out. It's part of our contribution to Ag Days! If anyone wants to join, we have applications here at the bar!



Photo courtesy of Ag Days Community Celebration

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