



Poppy
Sandy Wersal ~ Chairman

The Poppy Program has been a cornerstone of the American Legion Auxiliary for close to a century and has continually evolved since its inception. With the 2013 expansion of The American Legion's rules governing the Poppy Program, Auxiliary members have the opportunity to further expand the Poppy Program like never before. Poppy Funds may only be used for:

- The rehabilitation of veterans honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces after April 6, 1917.
- The welfare of the families of veterans of the above named period.
- The rehabilitation of hospitalized military service personnel returning home and awaiting discharge who require treatment in service hospitals.
- The welfare of veterans, active military personnel and families of veterans and active military personnel, and families where financial and medical need is evident.
- For the purpose of poppy kits and supplies used to make symbolic poppies and poppy items that will be distributed for donations to the Poppy Fund.

The red poppy is a nationally recognized symbol of sacrifice worn by Americans since World War I to honor those who served and died for our country in all wars. It reminds Americans of the sacrifices made by our veterans while protecting our freedoms. Wear a poppy to honor those who have worn our nation's uniform.

All donations received will be used by The American Legion Family for their programs that support veterans, the military community, and their families.

Units should promote the Poppy Program this year by working on the Poppy Poster contest, work with local schools. For the Little Miss Poppy in both age categories 6 to 12 and 12 to 18, work hard to increase poppy revenue taken in the this year. What if each unit would report a extra \$100 dollars for our centennial year, that would be so HUGE! Selling candle's for your 100 year cake is a great idea.

The Fall Conference poppy contests will be to decorate a cake and table centerpiece. Rules will be in the unit mailing. Department convention poppy contest will be in future unit mailings. My hope is to make this year's items something you can use at meeting or leave up at the post.

The Department office is requesting poppy orders are due on December 1, 2019. Small poppies are \$20.00 per hundred and large poppies \$18.00 a dozen plus shipping. Order forms were in the unit mailing.

Keep track of hours your unit worked on collecting the donations, as well as the total contributions received from poppy distribution.

I will be working with this year National Poppy Vice Chairman, Sandy Fredrickson from Minnesota. To make this one of the best years for the poppy program as we celebrate 100 years!

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