



Department of Minnesota September 2025 Unit Mailing Poppy

We have the tradition of doing two (2) poppy contests at Fall Conference and Department Convention. I hope to make them fun so everyone will feel like participating. We again will have prizes and people's choice. The fund from the people's choice will go to Department President Robin's project – Honor Flights. Hopefully you will all be inspired to get your junior members involved with one or both contests. I can't wait to see what you all will come up with.

Contest 1 – Poppy Holiday Display

Using the ALA poppy, create a holiday display of your choice. The white tags should be removed from the entry. Be creative! Think outside the box.

Contest 2 – Poppy Craft Project

Using a poppy theme but not using any of our ALA poppies, create a craft project depicting the poppy/poppies. This project can be sewn, knitted, crocheted, embroidered, painted, drawn, diamond dots, etc. – the skies the limit. Let's show that we can promote the poppy without using our precious poppies since we are in such short supply.

1st Place -\$20.00

2nd Place - \$15.00

3rd Place – \$10.00

People's Choice - \$20.00 -with funds going towards President Robin's Project – Honor Flights

Poppy entries must be brought to the Department Fall Conference at the Rivers Edge Convention Center by Friday October 24th, 2025, at 10:00 am. Let's see how many tables we can fill.

Friday Night Fun will be a Poppy Making American Legion Family Competition Team Rematch! This fun event is for the WHOLE American Legion Family. Gather up your best or worst poppy makers and let's see which District's will come out on top. Remember that the veterans will get paid for the poppies they make, it will be very fun.

How this is going to work each team will be made up of sister districts, so five (5) teams total. The teams are 1 & 3, 2 & 7, 4 & 5, 6 & 9 and 8 & 10, they will work together to see which team will come out on top. We are hoping to get a lot of poppies made on Friday night. How many can each team make? Let's see if we can beat last year's numbers. We had 154 participants and a whopping 3,729 Poppies were made.

The Poppy program is the American Legion Auxiliary's major source of income where all the funds must only be used for Veterans, active-duty military and their children.

This year we will work on the following areas to increase poppy revenue:

- ❖ Increase the number of Veteran poppy makers. See info on:
District Poppy Paloosa's Challenge
- ❖ Celebrate National Poppy Day in May -what does your Unit plan on doing.
- ❖ Have units get out in the community to educate them on what the "Poppy" is used for.
 - ✓ Utilization of Poppy funds for Honor Flight
- ❖ Best ways to promote the poppy program to increase revenue.

Same as last year we are down to a few Veteran poppy makers. The last few years we have had to purchase more poppies from other departments. This will cost the department to use funds that would be better spent on our veterans, because that is why we all are here.

SOOOOO

Each District will be challenged to schedule a Poppy Paloosa Class.

(It's Easy)

- ✓ Invite surrounding Posts/Units/Interested Poppy Makers to join us
 - Remember, Veterans get **paid** to make poppies!!
 - ✓ Poppy Snacks / Poppy Trivia / Poppy History / Large & Small Poppy Making
 - ✓ These are just a few of the things we can do.
-
- Each District that hosts a Poppy Paloosa will be placed into a drawing for a gift to be selected by President Robin which will be presented at Department Convention.
 - The District that makes the MOST poppies between (September 1, 2025 – May 31, 2026) will receive a gift selected by President Robin and will be presented at Department Convention. (These are poppies that are made for **our Department** to help us from purchasing from other departments. All poppies made **MUST BE** verified with the Department Poppy Chairman for an accurate count. Call me or email me with your made poppy total that you have sent to Department.)

If you have any questions about the Poppy Paloosa or would like help setting one up, please reach out to me, and I will be happy to help.

Thank you,

Hope Wilson
MN ALA Poppy Chairman
hزابroski@yahoo.com
320-304-0809