

**POPPY REPORT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA**  
**November 2025**

Thank you to all the members for your continued support of this program. In 2023 I took over for Josephine Herrera and put in half a year. Your reports and narratives assisted with putting together the narrative to National for the Department Award which was accepted as a winner. I proudly displayed that plaque from November through June, and asked Patsy Lugo to accept that National Department Plaque and display it at Unit 41.

Yeah!! In 2023-2024 Unit 1 William Bloys won the National Unit Award. Unit 86 had two Poppy Poster National winners. Good Job!!

This year (2024-2025) a power point was placed on the website to assist with this program placing all the national and department awards in one place with other pertinent poppy information. Hopefully this helped those working on this program this year. Unfortunately, the year that started out great had to depend on the initiative and perseverance of the Unit memberships to continue as life had many challenges for me to get through.

A review of the reports provided shows Units worked diligently throughout the year on this program and aided many veterans through monetary donations and in-kind services. There were more units making their own poppies.

Seven Units provided narratives this year. A lot of information was gathered from those narratives and the Unit reports for the submission of the National Department Award. One Unit was chosen for the National Unit Award.

Yeah!!! Arizona did it again!! National Unit winner is Unit 86 Heber Overgaard. Arizona is the National Department winner again!!! Who would have guessed we could do it two years in a row. Kudos, and many thanks to all of you! All I did was compile the information based on what National was asking to be in the report. Units pat yourself on the back, you did all the work.

The Poppy Poster part of this program increased by one Unit, with four Posters sent for national consideration. Unit 86 had three Posters and Unit 32 had one Poster. Shocker!! Unit 32 received a National Poppy Poster Award! Unfortunately, 86 did not place this year.

Again, there were no books sent in from Miss Poppy Juniors for consideration.

My report of the stats for this program was submitted for the Book of Reports.

## **CONVENTION AWARDS**

Marie Townshend Plaque winner – **Unit 86 Carol Stant**  
Runner Up – **Unit 35 Stacy Riebold**

Marie Cooney Memorial Plaque winner – **Unit 86 Carol Stant**  
Runner up – **Unit 62 Jean Ellison**

Nita Kimball Community Poppy Awareness Award winner – **Unit 24 Linda Vanik**

Patriotic Poppy Decoration Plaque winner – **Unit 44**  
Runner Up – **Unit 39**

Poster Contest Winner – **Unit 86 for classes I, II, III Carol Stant**  
**Unit 32 class VI Janice Smith**

Little Miss Poppy Winner – **No entries submitted**

### **Special Hat contest winners**

Silly/Funny winner – **Unit 25**

Bling winner – **Unit 86**  
2<sup>nd</sup> **Unit 25**

Elegant winner – **Unit 19**

Job Specific winner – **Unit 86**

**UPDATE:** Current information concerning the Poster Contest and will be on the website, and at Conference.

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**December 2025**

We attended the Quarterly Zoom Poppy Meeting, and the following is part of the discussion.

Everyone has issues with getting participation in the Poppy Poster and Miss Poppy parts of this Poppy Program. Reasons are not enough Juniors and not enough interest in Miss Poppy and not enough Senior members interested in promoting the Poppy Poster Contest.

Ways of getting participation in both programs was discussed with the most discussion about the Poster Contest. Suggestions to not only contact the schools but to contact Girls and Boys Scouts, churches, and Boys and Girls Clubs for entries.

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Emblem Sales is now printing cards utilizing some of the winning entries so check it out. These could be utilized as incentives to participate in the Poster Contest.

If you are participating in this program the information is available on the Department website under this Program.

In rural areas the Girls State Coordinator promotes Education and scholarships so this might also be added since the coordinator already goes to the high schools.

Miss Poppy has a scrapbook. Now it is digitalized. By promoting that fact Junior interest can be generated. An individualized cover for the scrapbook can be made and then photographed as part of the digital scrapbook.

Rose advised we are short 16,000 poppies. Great news! I have two new civilian poppy makers starting in January and we now have a total of four members working on this, with two more interested. Wendy has contacted the local state prison and has trained ten veterans and the appropriate state personnel. The inmates are now making poppies and on the first day 350 were generated. Great progress for just a few hours! The veteran participation is being tracked by prison personnel and Wendy will be monitoring the progress also. This will be an ongoing program for the inmates selected to participate.

Keep up the good work and encourage others to participate. If you have not started a Poppy Poster Contest, consider starting one in January and start making your contacts now so teachers can make their plans accordingly.

For God and country.

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**POPPY REPORT**  
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**January 2026**

We are in the last part of the fiscal year, and all units are busy with the different programs, some work in coordination with the Poppy Program.

As stated previously, all states in the western division are experiencing less participation in the Miss Poppy and Poppy Poster contest. Although several ways were discussed to encourage participation, it still comes down to Junior participation and getting the community schools involved. Neither is easy with the many school options of sports and liberal arts for students which involve time commitment.

The Miss Poppy participation should be year-round starting in May and ending in April to allow for reporting of events attended.

The Poppy Poster contest can start when school starts or in January. This depends a lot on the school staff and how they decide to work it into their lesson plans. This requires the school to have an end date so the posters can be picked up for local, state and national judging. Perhaps we can generate interest by giving out certificates to the teachers and student local winners. This committee has discussed this and has created some options.

Members wonder why the focus is more on the Poppy Poster Contest than on Miss Poppy. Poppy Poster Contest can be promoted by everyone with more community involvement. Miss Poppy requires a year-long commitment from a Junior. If you have no Junior members, which is the case with several Units, the part of the Poppy Program is not worked by the Unit.

We had two Units promote the Poppy Poster Contest last year and there are three committed this year. I am encouraging more Units to get your community involved. The last few years have produced National winners from Arizona.

The prison workforce has gotten their first batch of poppies through the quality control process and are working diligently to produce more poppies. Thank you, Wendy, for taking the initiative to get this started.

There are other contests at convention, so review the requirements. Next edition will review them in-depth for you.

For God and country.

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