



POPPY AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2026 DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA

Sorry, this is a month late, medical issues and reactions to medications kept me down and being a caregiver during a personal medical crisis sucks.

The President asked for the different committee chairs to introduce ourselves. Prior to the Auxiliary I worked in factories, waitress, bartender, medical, victim witness, psychiatric, law enforcement, and corrections. I was trained in CERT and conducted classes for the county while working for corrections. I was a certified corrections instructor and certified in crisis management. In corrections I worked with investigations, policy and emergency management.

I have served as Department Poppy Chair, Education Chair, Leadership Chair and as National Western Poppy Chair. While fulfilling all these other positions, I served 20 years as Unit President, and three terms as District President. I consistently served as Unit and District Constitution ByLaws Chair and Unit Girls State Chair. I am the founder of a non-profit coordinating the Wreaths Across America drive for my county. I have many personal contacts with businesses, organizations, and government officials associated with both organizations.

My committee consists of Wendy Hackney Unit 32 as co-chair, Leslie Cuning from Unit 32 and Jeannie Booth from Unit 105 as committee members. These ladies will introduce themselves in future editions.

Down to facts. The new resolution dealing with the Poppy Mandate of \$30 for all Units is a great step in the right direction. This will assist the Department with estimates on the budget. Also, it makes it easier for all Units to figure their own budget with a set number to pay. This Mandate relieves the Units from tracking how much they received in donations and figuring that percentage to send. It also allows the Units to order poppies anytime during the year without worrying if the order was submitted by a specified date to be eligible for voting and awards. Yea!!!

POPPY CONTEST UPDATE: This part of the Poppy Program is suffering from poor participation and needs incentives. This program under the Poppy program has 7 age classes of participation where a winner can be selected at the state level for forwarding to the National level. Since Arizona schools and/or students are often in need of school supplies or materials the Department of Arizona will fulfill a \$200 school-related Amazon wish-list for each classroom which has a Department level winner selected. These monetary awards shall be included in future budgets for the Department of Arizona.

MISS POPPY UPDATE: This part of the Poppy Program has participation that stops at the Unit level. This also needs more incentive to participate at the Department and National level. Juniors are encouraged to digitally document their year of Unit poppy participation and answer the simple questions National asks and submit an entry. If chosen by National, expenses for the winner and a chaperone will be paid for two nights at the National Convention. There can be numerous entries from Juniors in the Unit and it is up to the Junior to submit their own entry. It is the responsibility of the Unit members to assist Juniors in this endeavor.

To be an Arizona Department Miss Poppy winner, this digital document should also be forwarded to the Department Chair for committee consideration by the date specified.

POPPY MAKERS: This past year we were short an excessive amount of completed poppies in January. Units came forward with new poppy makers and working as a team we were able to fulfill

the poppies ordered. We are seeking more poppy makers. Remember that the Veterans get paid \$.05 per poppy that they make. Ask them to join your sessions. Some of the poppy makers have used repetitiveness as a way to get through grieving and depression episodes. It is a great way to have coffee with friends. Please reach out to us if you need assistance with learning how to make poppies.

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