

**POPPY REPORT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA**  
**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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