



**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of California
District 28
Poppy Program**

January 2022

Madame President, Officers and Members of the Auxiliary,

It's hard to believe that we are halfway through our year of service. It is flying by and for the Poppy program, our big month is fast approaching. In just a few months, we will be celebrating Poppy Month in May. Now is the time to begin planning and preparing. This chairman heard the call for help and ideas from our Poppy Seeds (Unit Chairman). So, I wanted to take the opportunity to share ways you can prepare for poppy month and grow the program. A poppy mailing is a great way to connect with your Legion family. It can be as simple as a letter that is sent with a poppy and a preaddressed return envelope providing information on poppies and requesting the recipient's support. Or a little more elaborate also including Poppy Seals, the Poppy Story - In Flanders Field, and a Unit business card. A sample is attached to this report to get you started.

Units may also enjoy a more interactive approach. How about creating a your very own Flanders Field full of poppies in your post? You can preprint poppies and encourage supporters to donate to the Poppy program. If you don't have the ability or resources to print off the poppies, this chairman found a Unit in Maryland that used white paper plates and affixed a poppy sticker to it. Either way, you provide "a poppy" on which they can memorialize their veteran by writing their name down. This personalized poppy can then be displayed in the post, creating your very own memorial. Photo samples are attached to this report to provide a better visual of the idea.

There are many other ways to get creative. There is a Facebook group called "American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Program" that has members throughout the nation. They share their ideas and are a great source of inspiration. If you're on Facebook, check them out. It is worth joining the group.

You may recall that last meeting the topic of a poppy shortage was brought to the district's attention. This chairman learned at DEC last weekend that poppy orders this year will be met. However, we need to keep the future in mind as well. Department has asked for all districts to consider helping making poppies for next year. There is only one poppy facility now and it will not be able to fulfill the orders without Auxiliary members helping. I understand some units are small and may not want to add this project to their plate. But I would like to suggest that we as a district come together and make poppies. I am willing to contact Linda Hays for more information, time requirements and expectations. Supplies will be provided, so it's more about manpower and willingness of you all. Is this something we are willing to take on at the district level?

As always, thank you to everyone for their constant support of the program. If you have any questions or would like me to work directly with your unit, please give me a call, (717)810-7321. I'm here to help.

This concludes my report.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Glenny
Poppy Chairman

