



Department of Ohio Plan of Action



POPPY

CITATION OF MERIT

CHAIRMAN
Vicki Monroe



REQUIREMENT

REPORT DUE: April 15, 2026

Department Report Form					
This Form should be attached to each narrative that is submitted for information, Citation of Merit requirements and possible Department award. Please fill out the information as completely and accurately as possible. A Unit must submit this report form with boxes completed and answer the questions below in order to earn the Citation of Merit. Narrative - word count must follow directions given in award guidelines. Simple or elaborate stories will be accepted as a report.					
Please complete the following. Be sure to give the complete name of your Unit:					
District:	Unit #:	Unit Membership Goal:	Unit Membership Total As of Report:		
Name of Person Completing Report:			Unit Chair		Unit Pres
Phone #:	Email:		Membership ID (if available)		
Specific Award Name(if applicable):					

1. Our ALA Service for Veterans/Active-Duty/Reserve Military

Line 6	Number of poppies or poppy items distributed	<i>Unit Records</i>	N/A		
Line 7	Dollars raised from poppies	<i>Unit Records</i>	N/A	\$	\$

Answer the following Questions in your narrative.

Narrative must be typed written in narrative form.
 Narrative must not exceed 1,000 words. (Can be fewer words if program dictates)
 Narrative may include photographs and news articles.

- How many poppies were distributed by your Unit throughout the year and where were these poppies distributed? _____

- What other poppy items were sold throughout the year, and what were these items? _____

- What was the amount of money that was raised by your Unit for the Poppy Fund? _____

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- How did your Unit celebrate National Poppy Day? _____

- How did you share the Poppy Story with the community? _____



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Get Involved

Purpose: The purpose of the Poppy Committee is to educate ALA membership and the public on the significance of the poppy and the program's financial benefit for veterans, military, and their families. *Standing Rules #6, National Committees - Mission Outreach*

Promote the Poppy Program and increase revenue.

- Wear a poppy to promote conversation and interest.
- Educate your community about how funds collected help veterans, servicemembers, and their families.
- Contact local businesses for permission to distribute poppies on their premises. Make sure you have permission for liability purposes; in some instances, permits are required.
- Send a thank you to businesses that allow distribution. Consider using the Poppy Poster thank you cards, [available for purchase](#) through Emblem Sales, for your communication.
- Organize a department poppy drive with The American Legion Family. Encourage The American Legion, Sons of The American Legion, Legion Riders, and ALA Junior members to join poppy distributions in your community.

Educate your community on the meaning and history of the poppy.

- Using the image and story of the Flanders Field poppy to educate people about the sacrifices of our military servicemembers helps us raise awareness of the Legion Family and connects us to our mission in the eyes of the public.
- Promote the ALA Poppy Poster Contest in your local schools and youth groups.
- Promote the Little Miss Poppy Contest to Juniors in your unit.
- Offer to speak at local civic engagements about the meaning and significance of the poppy and how Poppy Funds help veterans, servicemembers, and their families.

Celebrate National Poppy Day

- Wear a red poppy all day and tell everyone why.
- Distribute poppies to friends, co-workers and family and tell everyone why.
- Tell the story on Facebook of who you are wearing your poppy to remember or support on National Poppy Day®. Don't forget to tag us! #PoppyDay #LegionFamily
- Accept a poppy and donate if you see a member of The American Legion Family in your neighborhood distributing poppies.
- Distribute National Poppy Day material and make it available to members.
- Organize a poppy distribution at local Memorial Day Ceremonies. Make sure to wear your Auxiliary branded apparel to help tell everyone who you are.
- Invite a local dignitary to lay a poppy wreath at a memorial in your community and invite unit members to be present. Consider singing patriotic songs or other ways to involve your unit members.
- Contact local legislative offices to announce poppy distribution days, and request proclamations declaring Poppy Days in your community. (Please see Poppy Day Resources above for more information).

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- For more information and resources, visit <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/poppy/poppy-days>

Increase the number of poppy makers in your community.

- Set up meetings with recreational and occupational therapists at local U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers (VAMCs), Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs), or community hospitals to incorporate poppy making into their therapy programs.
- Distribute “How to Recruit New Poppy Makers” promotion information.
- Partner with The American Legion to recruit poppy makers within their post homes and departments.
- Post information on “How Veterans Can Make Money by Making Poppies” in local VA homes, medical centers, clinics, nursing homes, and other community organizations that house and care for veterans.

POPPY RESOURCES

- Poppy National Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALAPoppy>
- ALA National website: <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/poppy>

Year-End Reports

Annual reports reflect the program work of units in the department and may result in a national award for participants if award requirements are met. **Each Unit Poppy chairman is required to submit a narrative report by April 15, 2026, to the Department Poppy Chairman.** (address on front of POA)

NATIONAL AWARD INFORMATION & DEADLINE

Most Outstanding Unit Poppy Program – one per division. The Unit Poppy Award Plaque winner will be sent on to National to compete for this National Award.

Little Miss Poppy – see the criteria listed under Department Award Information & Deadline for specific guidelines and requirements.

Poppy Poster Contest – see the criteria listed under Department Award Information & Deadline for specific guidelines and requirements.

DEPARTMENT AWARD INFORMATION AND DEADLINE

Unit Poppy Award – The Unit Poppy Chairman will submit an entry for judging.

- The Unit Poppy Chairman in each class reporting their Best Unit Poppy Program will receive an award at Department Summer Convention.
- Each entry should cover all phases of the Poppy Program as described in the Plan of Action.
- Each entry must be typewritten in narrative form, not to exceed 1,000 words and include a completed National Cover Sheet. Please include word count.
- Entry to be judged at department level and may be sent to National for further judging.
- Entry is due to the Department Poppy Chairman by **April 15, 2026**.

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Little Miss Poppy Contest – Ages 6-12

Little Miss Poppy award submissions are now electronic to address postage and material cost considerations. Please refer to the rules below for submission requirements and deadline information.

- Participant must be between 6 and 12 years of age as of June 1 and be a Junior member in good standing of the American Legion Auxiliary.
- Promotional activity of the Poppy story must occur through the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, and the community during the timespan of May 1 of the current year to April 30 of the following year.
- For National Little Miss Poppy consideration, participant must submit a Little Miss Poppy award electronic application with supporting documentation.
- All entries are due by 5 p.m. on June 1, 2026.
- In addition to the information on the award application, please include documentation on the criteria below. Accepted formats are Word document, Google Slides, or .pdf. PowerPoint presentations may also be uploaded via Google Slides. For more information on Google Slides, please visit <https://www.google.com/slides/about/>.
- Judging Scrapbook criteria:
 - The memorial poppy must be visible in all promotion and publicity submitted.
 - There is no specific dress code or dress color for Little Miss Poppy.\
 - Promotion of the Poppy Program: What did you share and do?
 - Publicity of poppy activities (newspapers, radio/TV, etc.)
 - Submitted file must include the following information (both pictures and descriptions).
 - What I learned during my time as Little Miss Poppy?
 - How did I share the story of the poppy with my community?
 - What does the poppy mean to me?
 - What activities did I attend to promote the poppy and its meaning?
 - Age-appropriate originality with considerations for neatness and creativity.
- The Department of Ohio will honor all Little Miss Poppys that participate in this program with a certificate. Further information will be included in a future Bulk Mailing.
- If a National winner, Little Miss Poppy is invited to appear at the ALA National Convention, immediately following her selection, and if so chooses, will travel at her own expense.

Poppy Poster Contest

Units shall sponsor contests in local schools. When schools do not conduct activities, other youth groups – including Junior members – may participate under direct supervision of the Unit. The Unit chooses their winning entry and must be sent to Department Poppy Chairman by **April 15, 2026**.

Contest classes are:

Class I	Grades 2 & 3	Class V	Grades 10 & 11
Class II	Grades 4 & 5	Class VI	Grade 12
Class III	Grades 6 & 7	Class VII	Students with *Special Needs
Class IV	Grades 8 & 9		

*Special Needs is defined as:

- Those in special education classes

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- A student recommended for special education classes but who has not been admitted due to waiting list or various other factors.
- A child identified as having a disability, but not in a special education class due to lack of facilities. Identification is contingent upon discretion of school officials.

Poppy Poster Requirements

1. Each poster shall have a fitting slogan not to exceed ten (10) words. The articles “a, and an, the” are ***not to be counted*** as words. The words “buddy” and “buy”, ***cannot*** be used.
2. The words “American Legion Auxiliary” must be used in the design of the poster and will not be counted in the (10) word count.
3. Each poster must include a red poppy.
4. The poster shall be on 11"x14" poster board. (Drawing paper will not be accepted).
5. The United States flag may be used, as long as there are no infractions of the flag code.
6. Posters will be judged using the following criteria:
 - ✓ 50% - Poster Appeal (layout, message, originality)
 - ✓ 40% - Artistic Ability (design and color)
 - ✓ 10% - Neatness
7. Media used shall be watercolor, crayon, powder or oil paint, handmade paper cutouts, ink or textures, acrylics, pencils, or markers.
8. ***Written in ink*** on the back of the poster (not attached) shall be the class in which the entry is submitted, the name, address, age and grade of the contestant and the name of the department. Each Poppy Poster must have the Poppy Contest - Cover Sheet attached and complete with all information and signatures.
9. **Submissions become the property of the American Legion Auxiliary.** Through submission of artwork, contestants and their legal guardians' grant non-exclusive reproduction and publication rights to the works submitted and agree to have their names and artwork published for commercial use without additional compensation or permission.
10. The poster shall be the work of only one individual.
11. The label “In Memoriam” from the veteran-made poppy ***may not be used***.
12. While ALA representatives will do their best to return all posters, it is not guaranteed. We recommend participants take a picture or scan their poster for their records.

The Shelley Riggs Plaque - Best All-Around Poppy Program

- A plaque will be awarded to the Unit who submits a ***SCRAPBOOK*** based on the “Best All-Around Poppy Program.”
- Scrapbook must be 8-1/2” X 11” with cover page to include: Unit name and number, address, District number, creator’s name, and the date. Scrapbook should include photos, articles, newspaper clippings and a 500-word essay on how your Unit promoted the Poppy Program.
- Scrapbooks will be returned at Department Convention or given to the District President.
- Scrapbooks should be sent to the Department Poppy Chairman by **April 15, 2026**.

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Senior Poppy Usage Contest

The Senior Poppy Usage Contest will be held at the Mid-Winter Conference **January TBD**. The entries are designs of your own choosing using official ALA poppies and it may be any of the following nature: wreaths, centerpieces, tray favors, etc. This is an opportunity for you to share with other Units our creative ideas. Attendees at the Conference will vote by a \$1.00 contribution per vote.

- All money collected will go to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.
- A photo of the entry that brought in the most money will be highlighted in the Buckeye Messenger.
- If your Unit has an entry, but no one is coming to Mid-Winter, try to send it with a Unit who is attending.

Senior Poppy Corsage Contest

Get your creative side juices flowing!!!! The Senior Poppy Corsage Contest will be held at the Mid-Winter Conference **January TBD**. The entries are designs of your own choosing using official ALA poppies. Attendees at the Conference will vote by a \$1.00 contribution per vote.

- Each corsage should have the name of the creator, their Unit and District.
- Size: Be approximately 3 ½ x 3 ½ and fit in a standard 4” x 4” corsage box. Any larger will be disqualified.
- Corsages will be used at 2026 Buckeye Girls State Session for the City Mayor’s.
- If your Unit has an entry, but no one is coming to Mid-Winter, try to send it with a Unit who is attending.
- ***Please note: All Poppy corsages will not be returned unless that is noted at the time your entry is received.***

Junior Poppy Usage Contest

The Junior Poppy Usage Contest will be held at the Mid-Winter Conference **January TBD**. The entries are designs of your own choosing using official ALA poppies and it may be any of the following nature: wreaths, centerpieces, tray favors, etc. This is an opportunity for you to share with other Junior Units our creative ideas. Attendees at the Conference will vote by a \$1.00 contribution per vote.

- All money collected will go to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.
- A photo of the entry that brought in the most money will be highlighted in the Buckeye Messenger.
- If your Junior Unit has an entry, but no one is coming to Mid-Winter, try to send it with a Unit who is attending.

Junior Poppy Corsage Contest

The Juniors are also asked to participate in this contest! The Junior entries will be judged separately. This would be a wonderful opportunity to make sure they fully understand what the Poppy represents. The Junior Poppy Corsage Contest will be held at the Mid-Winter Conference **January TBD**. The entries are designs of your own choosing using official ALA poppies. Attendees at the Conference will vote by a \$1.00 contribution per vote.

- Each corsage should have the name of the creator, their Unit and District.
- Size: Be approximately 3 ½ x 3 ½ and fit in a standard 4” x 4” corsage box. Any larger will be disqualified.
- Corsages will be used at 2026 Buckeye Girls State Session for the City Mayor’s.
- If your Unit has an entry, but no one is coming to Mid-Winter, try to send it with a Unit who is attending.
- ***Please note: All Poppy corsages will not be returned unless that is noted at the time your entry is received.***

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POPPY POSTER CONTEST COVER SHEET

Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) sponsors a Poppy Poster Contest for students in grades 2-12, including students with special needs. Grade levels are divided into seven classes. One award in each of the seven classes will be presented in each division. Winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship fund. National winners will be posted at www.ALforVeterans.org after national convention.

Poster Classes:

Class	Grade Level
I	2 and 3
II	4 and 5
III	6 and 7
IV	8 and 9
V	10 and 11
VI	12
VII	students with special needs

Class competing in: _____

Sponsoring ALA unit: _____

Due date for student to return to ALA unit: April 15, 2026

To Be Completed by the Student/Parent:

Student Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

School Name: _____

City/State of School: _____

Parent or Teacher Name and Signature: _____

Auxiliary Use Only (Must be completed for entry to be considered.):

Sponsoring Unit Name/Number: _____

Signature of Unit Poppy Chairman/President: _____

Unit winner due to Department on: May 1, 2026

Department Signature of Department Chairman: _____

*Department winner due to Department Poppy Chairman, Vicki Monroe,
7988 Asbury Hills Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45255*