



## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA POPPY PROGRAM



November 2021 Bulletin

Dear Poppy Bouquets and Poppy Seeds,

As we enter the month of November, I am happy to report most Poppy Orders have been received. Now we need to focus on the Poppy Production Managers and their ability to get the poppy production going strong. This year, we have just one VA facility and one Poppy Production Manager. Poppy Production Manager Lois Cornish, WAVE Clinic San Diego, is doing all she can to recruit veterans into her program to do what she can to pick up some of the slack in the production process. The Long Beach VAMC program has “retired”, hopefully it’s a temporary retirement. Efforts to find another PPM are on-going. The California Veterans Homes at Yountville is not viable this year, but we are working with them to return for the 2022-2023 year.

**We need a strong SURF SURGE** of a few Districts and/or Units to swim to our rescue as soon as possible. As I write this, I am thinking of the Uncle Sam “I Want You” poster. Why? Because we need poppy makers from units/districts now. Per the Poppy Guide, “Auxiliary volunteers may now make poppies if it is necessary due to a shortage of veteran poppy makers, but Auxiliary volunteers are not to be paid. If poppies are not made by veterans, the label should not state “Handmade by Veterans.” We need you NOW, please. Supplies will be provided by Department and will not be an expense out of District and Unit funds. If you can help, contact the Department Chairman ASAP

Poppy Production Managers work hard and volunteer hours and hours of their time making the California Poppy Program successful year after year. The loss of Pat Alvarez, PPM of the Long Beach VAMC program, and Gerda Shupe, PPM of the Yountville program, is a *great loss*. Please join the Department of California Officers and Chairmen in thanking them for their years of hard work and dedication to the veterans who benefitted from making the poppies as well as to the American Legion Auxiliary Department of California Poppy program itself.

*How do you promote the Poppy Program in November?* **Poppy Bouquets** and Poppy Centerpieces can be made for both Veterans Day and Thanksgiving activities. Why not make some centerpieces for your own holiday table using the ALA Poppies? In honor of all our veterans, Unit **Poppy Seeds** along with unit Poppy helpers can hand out Poppies with the Poppy Story (found on the website) while attending local Veterans Day Ceremonies. Create early community awareness of your poppy program.

As we approach the holiday season, I would like to clarify the use of Poppy funds: *“Use of Poppy Funds is allowable for care packages only when it is for a welfare need (such as first aid topical treatment or vital hygiene items), as opposed to a comfort need, and not comfort/leisure items (such as baked goods or books).”* This is not saying that you cannot give them comfort/leisure items, it is only stating that Poppy Funds that are received as donations to your poppy program cannot be used for those items.

Poppy Funds can also be used to help the Junior. Enlisted Service Members with their food insecurities. Each month our Junior Enlisted Service Member’s families do not have enough money to feed their families. They must go to Food Banks for assistance with food *every month*. Every military base has an Armed Services YMCA that helps service members and their families. Our units are strongly encouraged to send poppy money to the following California military installations:

Ms. Samantha Holt, Executive Director  
Armed Services YMCA  
Box 555028  
Camp Pendleton, CA 92055  
*Earmarked for the Jr. enlisted service member food pantry.*

Ms. Sara Beams, Executive Director  
Armed Services YMCA  
PO Box 6002  
Twentynine Palms, CA 92278  
*Earmarked for the Pelican Shop Food Pantry*

The American Legion Auxiliary national headquarters signed a Memorandum of Understanding with all ASYMCA's nationwide to sponsor the food pantries and help the junior enlisted service members and their families.

The Poppy Mid-Year Report is on the website. All unit Poppy Seed Chairmen are asked to submit their mid-year reports no later than December 1 to your District Poppy Bouquet Chairman. District Poppy Bouquet Chairmen, the deadline to submit your mid-year report to the Department Flower Girl (Poppy Chairman) is December 15. Please adhere to the deadlines.

District Chairmen – I will be sending you updates regarding Poppy Orders soon.

I wish each of you a safe and healthy Thanksgiving.

*Thank Our Veterans This Veterans Day By Handing Them a Poppy*

Linda Hayes, Flower Girl  
Department Poppy Chairman  
37737 Giavon Street  
Palmdale, CA 93552  
C: 661-209-4365 Fax: 661-526-7749  
Email: [LJeffery@aol.com](mailto:LJeffery@aol.com)

