

 AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY

Department of California

DEC Poppy Program Report

January 19-21, 2024

Welcome to Sacramento!

I hope all is well with you and yours and you had a safe journey here this weekend.

The Department of Forest Services has been busy cultivating poppies for the spring distribution. I must say, I had no idea the number of poppies that are grown in the state of California. As of this writing, the number of poppies ordered is 113,342. That does not include the Units that did not place orders and will be assessed \$30.00 and sent 100 poppies. Another issue of not being able to provide an accurate count is orders are still coming in. **Yes**, Liz received one just last week. I know some Units have had a change in leadership or chairmen, that is understandable, but here is a deadline of October 1st for a reason. Many of you want to know when you will be receiving your poppies. When we must keep adjusting our numbers, it makes our timeline much more difficult to tie down. I can tell you this, next week after DEC is wrapped up, I will be speaking with Liz to finalize the order, determine when and who will get the shipments and how soon. Please be patient.

I appreciate all those Units who submitted their orders on time and to those Districts who are making poppies. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Now, on to the Poppy Hat contest. Thank you to all who read and followed the directions. President Glenda has/or will choose her favorite. The category of Presidents Theme will be judged by the panel. The third category, most creative use of the Poppy will be judged by you, the members. When you come to the table, you will be given a ballot. You will **ONLY** put the number of the hat you have chosen. PLEASE no ballot stuffing, caucusing with your

Unit/District to load up one entry. We want this to be as fair as possible. If all goes well, I may speak with Madame President about doing this again at convention.

Lastly, thank you to all those who submitted a mid-year update on your activities. It makes it much easier for me to report to Division and National when I have an idea of what has been happening around the state. Please keep up the good work and don't forget to get those end-of-year reports in on time.

This concludes my report~

Robin Falkenberg

ALA Doc Poppy Chairman 2023-2024