



Department of Ohio Plan of Action



CITATION OF MERIT



REQUIREMENT

POPPY

CHAIRMAN

Karen Peel
2216 25th St SW
Akron, Ohio 44314
(330) 962-0738 (cell)

Email – karen.peel@sk2holdings.com

REPORT DUE : April 15, 2021

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 a 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) _____				

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.

Answer the following Questions or include answers in your narrative

- How did your members promote the Poppy Program? _____
- How did your members increase poppy revenue? _____
- How did your unit promote the Poppy Poster Contest? _____
- How did your unit promote Little Miss and Miss Poppy? _____

Program Summation:

Total Number of Volunteers	Total Number of Jr. Volunteers	Total Number of Volunteer Hours	Total Dollars Spent or Raised	Total Number of Patriotic/Veteran Programs/Events
			\$	

The National Cover Sheet is included on the backside of this form.
Please fill out the Unit or Member Portion and send with your Narrative. Send your narrative, this report form and National Cover Sheet to your District or Department Chairman.

Department of Ohio Plan of Action



American Legion Auxiliary National Report and Award Cover Sheet

See the Annual Supplement to the Programs Action Plan to determine where to send this form.
Please note, your report will also be viewed as an award entry if this cover sheet is attached.

Complete the following if you are applying for a member award.

Unit #: _____ Full official unit name: _____

Name of state where you are a member: _____

Member's Full Name: _____ ALA member ID#: _____

Nominating Member (if different from above): _____

Nominator's Phone number: (____) _____

Nominator's Email address: _____

National committee sponsoring award: _____

Name of the award you are applying for: _____

For a unit award or to submit a year-end unit narrative report, please complete this section. Be sure to give the complete name of your unit. The award certificate will be prepared using the information you include below.

Unit #: _____ Full official unit name: _____

Name of department: _____

Unit president/chairman (**circle one**) name: _____

Above listed person's ALA member ID#: _____ Phone number: (____) _____

Email address: _____

For a department award or to submit a year-end department narrative report, please complete this section:

Name of department: _____

Name of department chairman: _____

Chairman's phone number: (____) _____ ALA member ID#: _____

Chairman's email address: _____

Department of Ohio Plan of Action

POPPY

Welcome to our year of serving our Veterans, their families and our communities. No greater *challenge* can we have then to provide the necessary means to *strengthen the bonds* for those who have served and those still serving. It will be our *responsibility* to educate the public in the significance of our Poppy Program.

What is this program, and why do we have it?

Using the image and story of the Flanders Fields Poppy to educate people about the sacrifices of our military service members. This helps us raise awareness of The American Legion Family and links us to our mission in the eyes of the public.

Poppy Contest and Awards Deadlines and Submission Requirements:

Taking the time to share a favorite story about the positive impact you or someone you know has had on our mission is worth doing! It helps us tell the world who we are, what we do, and why we matter. Just three simple steps to add your part to our department/national success story:

- 1) All awards and narratives need to have the National Awards Cover Sheet completed and attached.
- 2) Please follow all instructions as you fill out the Narratives in this Poppy Program Action Plan.
- 3) Provide details/examples about the activity as outlined in the award's materials and guidelines section.
- 4) **Make sure to include your data from 2019-2021 in your report.**

What can you do?

1. Promote the Poppy program and increase poppy revenue.

Ideas:

Member

- 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 through Emblem Sales, for your communication.
- Help local schools organize poppy drives. Make the drive competitive. Give a citation to the class raising the most money during their poppy drive.
- Wear a poppy to promote conversation and interest.

Unit

- Educate your community about how funds collected help veterans.
- Contact local legislative offices to announce poppy distribution days and request proclamation declaring Poppy Days in your community.
- Deliver poppies to local media outlets (television, newspaper and radio) along with facts about where and when poppies will be distributed in your community. Even if they are not visible 'on air' these people tend to be influencers in the community.

Department of Ohio Plan of Action

2. Celebrate National Poppy Day and educate your community on the meaning & the history of the poppy.

Ideas:

Member

- Search Pinterest.com for ideas of items you could distribute alongside red crepe paper poppies, like Spritz cookies.
- Send a bouquet of poppies and bookmarks to school with your child.
- Make a poppy wreath for the door of your home, office or school.
- Collect donations at your workplace/hair salon/doctor's office to donate to the Poppy program.
- Tell your story on Facebook of who your poppy represents or remembers on National Poppy Day. Do not forget to tag with #Poppy Day #Legion Family.

Unit

- Talk to leaders of nearby posts and units to make sure key areas in your community are covered with organizing a poppy distribution at local Memorial Day ceremonies. Make sure to wear your Auxiliary branded apparel.
- 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.

Poppy Reporting:

Mid-Year Reports

Mid-Year reports reflect the program work of units in the department and are intended as an opportunity for mid-year correction. Each Unit Poppy chairman is required to submit a narrative report by **December 15, 2020** to the Department Poppy Chairman, Karen Peel.

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, 2021** to the Department Poppy Chairman Karen Peel.

Department Awards

Senior Poppy Usage Contest

- All Units, the Poppy Usage Contest will be held at the Mid-Winter Conference January 22-23, 2021. 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 with a Unit who is attending.



Department of Ohio Plan of Action

SENIOR POPPY CORSAGE CONTEST

Get your creative side juices flowing!!!!

Each corsage should have the name of the creator, their Unit and District. They should be approximately 3 ½ x 3 ½ and fit in a standard 4" x 4" corsage box. The entries are designs of your own choosing using official ALA poppies Any larger will be disqualified. Attendees pay \$1.00 per vote and the proceeds will go to the National Creative Arts Festival. The corsages will be used at 2021 Buckeye Girls State Session for the City Mayor's. Bring the corsages to Midwinter Conference in January. ***Please note: All Poppy corsages will not be returned unless that is noted at the time your entry is received.***

Junior Poppy Usage Contest

- All Junior Units, the Poppy Usage Contest will be held at the Mid-Winter Conference January 22-23, 2021. 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 Unit has an entry, but no one is coming to Mid-Winter, try to send with a Unit who is attending.
 - Each Unit should have a fundraiser for the Creative Arts Festival with sending those monies collected to Department Headquarters.



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.

Each corsage should have the name of the creator, their Unit and District. They should be approximately 3 ½ x 3 ½ and fit in a standard 4" x 4" corsage box. The entries are designs of your own choosing using official ALA poppies Any larger will be disqualified. Attendees pay \$1.00 per vote and the proceeds will go to the National Creative Arts Festival. The winning corsages will be used at 2021 Buckeye Girls State Session for the City Mayor's. Bring the corsages to Midwinter Conference in January. ***Please note: All Poppy corsages will not be returned unless that is noted at the time your entry is received.***

Unit Poppy Award

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 – ***Most Outstanding Overall Poppy Program.***

Department of Ohio 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.

Narrative Deadline: April 15, 2021. Send to: Karen Peel, Department Poppy Chairman,
2216 25th St. SW, Akron, Ohio 44314

The Shelley Riggs Plaque - *Best All-Around Poppy Program*

- This plaque will be awarded to the Unit who submits a **SCRAPBOOK** based on the 'Best All-Around Poppy Program' with emphasis on the Plan of Action criteria. The plaque will be presented at the Department Summer Convention.
- This **SCRAPBOOK** must be 8-1/2" x 11" with cover page to include Unit name and number, address, District number, Creator's name and date. It should contain photos, articles, newspaper clippings and a 250 word essay on how your Unit promoted 'our' Poppy Program.
- **NOTE:** All **SCRAPBOOKS** will be returned at Department Summer Convention or given to the District President for its safe return.
- Scrapbook with Narrative Deadline: **APRIL 15, 2021.**
- Send to: Karen Peel
Department Poppy Chairman
2216 25th St SW
Akron, Ohio 44314



► Have a great year and take our *challenge* now to have a successful Poppy Program! ◀

Department of Ohio Plan of Action

National Awards

A. Poppy Poster Contest

- Each Unit is asked to sponsor a Poppy Poster Contest in their local schools or with Junior members. The Unit chooses their winning entry and must send it by **April 15, 2021** to:
 - Karen Peel, Department Poppy Chairman, 2216 25th St SW, Akron, Ohio 44314

Contest classes are:

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

* Special needs is defined as:

- Those in special education classes
 - A student recommended for special education classes but who has not been admitted due to a 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 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 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 picture of the red Flanders Field 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. Judging 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.
 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.

Department of Ohio Plan of Action

B. Miss Poppy Contest: Little Miss Poppy (Ages 6-12)

- Participants must be between six and 12 years of age 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.
- Selection of Little Miss Poppy is at the discretion of the Unit.
- A Miss Poppy Scrapbook (8-1/2" x 11" format) must be submitted containing photographs and clippings illustrating how she promoted the American Legion Auxiliary poppy in her community. Only those scrapbooks that contain a self-addressed envelope with postage will be returned. Although every effort will be made to return the scrapbook, accidents do happen, so all entrants must allow for that risk.
- Judging Scrapbook criteria:
 - Scrapbook must be the original work from the Junior Little Miss Poppy. (may have help from an adult)
 - Costume (no specific dress code or particular dress color).
 - Promotion of the Poppy Program - What did you share and do?
 - Publicity of Poppy activities (newspapers, radio/TV, etc.)
 - Narrative report on 'What I Have Learned Being Miss Poppy.'
 - Essay on 'Memorial Poppy' not to exceed 100 words.
 - The memorial poppy must be visible in all promotion and publicity submitted.
 - Neatness and creativity.
 - Cover page to include member name, unit name, state, age division and year.
 - Judging scale will be 1 through 10 for each area of entire entry.
- The Little Miss Poppy (age 6-12) winner will be invited to appear at the ALA National Convention, immediately following her selection, and if she so chooses, will travel at her own expense.
- Winners of the Little Miss Poppy contest will receive a citation plaque.

C. Unit Poppy Program Award

- Refer to the Department Unit Poppy Program Award. A plaque will be presented to a Unit Chairman in each division reporting the "Most Outstanding Overall Poppy Program." Department entry will be the winner from the Unit Poppy Award.

Resources for a GREAT Poppy year.

- ALA Unit Guide Book - Emblem Sales
- ALA Poppy Program Guide - Emblem Sales
- Emblem Sales Catalog - Poppy Supplies/Awards
- How to Sheets through Poppy Page www.alaforveterans.org/Programs/Poppy
 - ▶ How to increase Poppy Revenues
 - ▶ How to promote Membership through Poppy usage
- Poppy seed packets for Poppies Across America can be purchased at [www.American Meadows.com](http://www.AmericanMeadows.com) and/or 877-309-7333 or at a local garden shop.
- The National Poppy Facebook group, search "ALA Poppy."