

2023-2024 Poppy Report

Department of North Dakota

Carol A. Wolf, Department Poppy Co-Chairman

The poppy program is alive and well in North Dakota. The Department of North Dakota distributed approximately 27,000 small and 1,800 large poppies so far this year. We also mailed poppies to three out-of-state units.

Our poppy assembly work nearly ground to a halt after the 2023 death of Alfred Steiger, a veteran and resident of the North Dakota Veterans Home in Lisbon, ND. Alfred assembled poppies for the Department of North Dakota for over 20 years. We estimate that in his time with us he assembled over 500,000 poppies. After some searching, the poppy committee was lucky enough to find a retired auxiliary member to step in to help make poppies and several units have volunteered to assemble their own orders as well.

North Dakota's Poppy Committee reached out to Boy Scout Troops 5214 and 214 of Fargo, ND and invited them to attend a poppy making class in November 2023. The day turned out to be a spectacular day with beautiful weather and about fifty boy scouts and their leaders showing up for the event. Several members of the Harwood and Fargo, ND units assisted as instructors, assembling poppies, and helping serve lunch to the hungry scouts.

In early February 2024, I was contacted by Amber Hazard, Director of the NDSU Field Service office of Forman, ND inquiring how she could assist with poppy assembly. She in turn put a bulletin out to the community of Forman, ND and invited auxiliary members from the Sargent County area to an event held on April 25, 2024. The class was a huge success and in the short time we spent together over 500 poppies were assembled.

The Department Office staff also attended the extension class where we presented the origin of the poem 'In Flanders Field' and how the poppy came to be adopted by the American Legion Auxiliary as a reminder of the sacrifice by our troops during World War I. Poppy bookmarkers and the poppy cookie recipe were distributed to those who attended the event. I shared photos and stories of my recent trip to Belgium where I was able to visit historical war sites and the Flanders Field Museum.

Overall, the Poppy Program is well supported by units across the state of North Dakota and for some units serves as its main fundraiser to support our veterans programs.

*Carol Wolf*, Department Poppy Program Chairman

2024 Poppy Poster Winners

Class I	Makayla Halverson	Carrington	District 4
Class II	Maxwell Veller	Wilton	District 5
Class III	Ashlyn Chavers	Rock Lake	District 3
Class IV	Jenna Homola	Jud	District 4
Class V	Kyla Lybrand	Gackle	District 4
Class VI	Olivia Lange	Gackle	District 4