

## **Department of Illinois Poppy Sales and Production Committee-HQ**

September 28, 2024

The meeting was called to order by VC Todd Latham at 10:04 AM.

Salute to Colors was offered and Prayer was offered by Todd Latham

All members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Division 2-Todd Latham, Division 3 Ron Harkness, Division 5-Dudley Madden

Absent: Division 1-Frank Thompson, Division 4-Denver Phelps

A motion was made by Harkness, with the second by Latham to approve the previous minutes of April 2024- The motion passed.

### **Unfinished Business-**

Discussion occurred on volunteer help and poppy assembly in and outside of veteran's homes.

Division Poppy Seminars should be held to promote our programs, with the Legion and Auxiliary working together to inform, share, and clarify the poppy program.

VC Latham stressed the seminars are also used to distribute prepurchase and poppies for purchase to reduce shipping costs for post, units, and the Department.

The committee would like the Department to provide a list of posts that assembled poppies last year and any credit on file for use with the 24-25 program.

### **New Business-**

The committee reviewed the current Poppy Post Contest Rules and Guidelines. No changes were noted.

The committee was informed that 110,000 poppies were produced and assembled. All equipment works correctly to complete orders. Currently, all equipment is working, and production is on schedule.

Commander Lamber, Sr. Vice Smith, and Adjutant Theilen entered at 10:34 am. The commander stressed that chairs and vice chairs are to make sure end-of-year reports arrive at the department on time. Sr. Vice spoke about the current membership status, and the Adjutant asked that the committee review the website and submit updates to C. Corsello.

Committee member Dudley asked how to improve constant contact to push information out to blue cappers. The adjutant and Membership should be requested to create a list.

They departed at 10:46 am when PNC Conatser arrived and updated the committee that the Department profited \$70,000 and a new \$6,000 machine was purchased to replace an outdated model. Our poppy cloth production went out of business, and enough material was purchased for output into the following year. The department is having an issue finding new clothing that is made of similar material and starch content. PNC Conatser estimated that 140,000 to 160,000 poppies are ready for sale to posts and units, and volunteers and the print room staff have been instrumental. No external assembly is needed at this time, as Manteno, LaSalle, and Danville veterans are assisting.

The committee continued with its unfinished business, reviewing the website for updates. All Division reps are submitting their Poppy Seminar dates. VC Latham agreed to share his training PowerPoint presentation with the rest of the committee to continue training.

Prayer was offered, and a salute to the colors concluded the meeting adjournment at 10:57 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Latham, VC