

I know we struggle to get our Junior members involved in another function along with the many activities in school, FFA, 4-H, and church. I am happy to inform you that William C. Blair Unit 144 in Belfield has found a way.

Claire Coty, the Unit Junior Activities Chairman, started a local Junior Auxiliary Unit the end of 2024. The Officer Installation Ceremony was completed in April of 2025 and currently five Juniors are active members. Their Mission statement is: To support the American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who served/serving. Service, Not Self.

In May of 2025, these young ladies aided in the Poppy Program. On Memorial Day, they sang songs, recited poetry and stories, and handed out flyers and poppies to the audience. This earned them a Poppy Patch.

This group of Juniors held a bake sale to raise funds for the Children of Warriors Patch Program. They are currently working on an Adopt a Soldier project.

These Junior members work alongside the ALA Senior members, assisting them when needed.

Thank you, Claire, for setting such an outstanding example for other North Dakota units to get their Juniors involved in Junior Activities and the Patch Program. Please keep up the good work.

Jane Schoonover

Junior Activities Chairman