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# FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS OF AMERICA

## Pennsylvania State Chapter

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## THE ASSOCIATION

Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) educational association of student members preparing for careers in business or who are just simply interested in learning more about the free enterprise system. The national association has three divisions: FBLA for high school students, PBL for postsecondary students, and a Professional Division for others who would like to affiliate with the association. The FBLA concept was developed in 1937 by Dr. Hamden L. Forkner of Columbia University. In the fall of 1940, official sponsorship of FBLA was accepted by the National Council for Business Education; and on February 3, 1942, the first high school chapter was organized in Johnson City, Tennessee. The Pennsylvania State Chapter of FBLA was founded in 1952. The first high school chapter in Pennsylvania was organized at Blairsville High School in March 1943.

## PURPOSE

FBLA-PBL provides innovative leadership development programs to bring business and education together in a positive working relationship. Participation in FBLA-PBL can have a direct impact on the direction and success of a young person's career. Millions of students have learned through active membership in FBLA-PBL about the world of business and what is expected of them in the workplace. Organizational goals include:

- \* develop competent, aggressive business leadership
- \* strengthen the confidence of students in themselves and their work
- \* create more interest in and understanding of American business enterprise
- \* encourage members in the development of individual projects which contribute to the home, business, and community
- \* develop character, prepare for useful citizenship, and foster patriotism
- \* encourage and practice efficient money management
- \* encourage scholarship and promote school loyalty
- \* assist students in the establishment of occupational goals
- \* facilitate the transition from school to work

## MEMBERSHIP

There are over 250,000 active members in over 12,000 chartered chapters in 50 states, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, U.S. Territories, and Department of Defense Dependent Schools worldwide. In Pennsylvania during the 2010-2011 school year, there were 299 active FBLA chapters organized into 28 different regions with nearly 13,500 members. FBLA membership is open to students in Grades 9-12 while Middle Level membership is open to students in Grades 5-8. Dues are \$12 per member--\$6 state dues and \$6 national dues for students in Grades 9-12. All dues are paid to and processed through the state office.

## CONFERENCES/SEMINARS

**State Leadership Workshop:** a statewide leadership development workshop for local members and advisers that helps prepare them for a successful FBLA year; in 2011, scheduled for October 23-24 at the Host Farm Resort in Lancaster

**Region Leadership Workshop:** a local leadership development workshop sponsored by the local chapters in each of Pennsylvania's 28 regions; usually held in a local high school or college campus during October or November or December

**Region Leadership Conference:** a local activity in which members participate in competitive events to qualify for the State Leadership Conference and to elect region officers for the following school year; held at a local high school or on a participating college/community college/business school campus; usually held in mid December or early to mid January

**State Leadership Conference:** the major event in the PA FBLA year in which qualifying members participate in numerous competitive events, attend leadership development seminars, and campaign for state office; advisers administer the competitive events and participate in professional development sessions; scheduled for April 16-18, 2012, at Hershey Lodge and Convention Center and attended by nearly 3,700 student members and advisers

**National Leadership Conference:** held annually in a major American city in June or July at the conclusion of the year's activities to set the stage for the next school year; qualifying members engage in the competitive events program, participate in leadership development workshops, meet corporate executives, and elect national student officers; in 2011, scheduled for San Antonio, Texas.

## STRUCTURE

FBLA-PBL is headquartered in Reston, Virginia, and is organized on the local, state, and national levels. Local chapters operate with the guidance of educators as advisers. State chapters are guided by executive directors, state advisers, and Department of Education staff members who report to the national organization. A national Board of Directors, composed of professional educators, business leaders, and division presidents, sets policy and appoints a President/CEO who employs a national staff and directs association programs.

Pennsylvania is governed by its own state Board of Directors that sets policy and appoints an executive director, a conference coordinator, a competitive events coordinator, and a state adviser to conduct the state chapter's activities. The state management team is assisted by the PA Department of Education FBLA Facilitator. PA FBLA members elect nine students state officers annually at the state conference. In addition, PA FBLA is organized into 28 different regions, and each is guided by a region adviser elected from among the advisers in that particular region. The complete PA FBLA Policy/Leadership Handbook is available online to advisers and members at [www.pafbla.org](http://www.pafbla.org).

## COMPETITIVE EVENTS PROGRAM

Students have the opportunity to participate in numerous individual, team, chapter, and recognition events as part of the competitive events program. In most cases, competitive events begin on the region level. Qualifiers then advance to the state conference and possibly to the National Leadership Conference. The competitive events are:

Accounting I	Accounting II	American Enterprise Project
Banking & Financial Systems	Business Calculations	Business Communication
Business Ethics	Business Financial Plan	Business Law
Business Math	Business Plan	Business Presentation
Business Procedures	Businessperson of the Year	Client Service
Community Service Project	Computer Applications	Computer Gaming and Simulation Programming
Computer Problem Solving	Cyber Security	Database Design and Applications
Desktop Application Programming	Desktop Publishing	Digital Design and Promotion
Digital Video Production	E-business	Electronic Career Portfolio
Economics	Entrepreneurship	FBLA Principles and Procedures
Global Business	Emerging Business Issues	Help Desk
Health Care Administration	Hospitality Management	Impromptu Speaking
Introduction to Business	Introduction to Business Communication	Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure
Introduction to Technology Concepts	Job Interview	Largest Local Chapter Membership
Largest % Increase in Chapter Membership	Local Chapter Annual Business Report	Local Market Share Award
Management Decision Making	Management Information Systems	Marketing
Mr. Future Business Leader	Ms. Future Business Leader	Multimedia Presentation
Network Design	Networking Concepts	Outstanding Adviser
Outstanding Chapter	Parliamentary Procedure	Partnership with Business Project
Personal Finance	Public Speaking I	Public Speaking II
Sports Management	Spreadsheet Applications	Technology Concepts
Virtual Business Challenge	Web Site Design	Who's Who in PA FBLA
Word Processing I	Word Processing II	

## ADDITIONAL PA FBLA CONTACTS

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**Mrs. Candace Claar**, PA FBLA Co-Competitive Events Coordinator, 8855 William Penn Road, Osterburg, PA 16667, e-mail: [cclaar@pafbla.us](mailto:cclaar@pafbla.us)

**Ms. Stephanie Rowe**, PA FBLA Co-Competitive Events Coordinator, 128 James Street, Elizabethville, PA 17023, e-mail: [srowe@pafbla.us](mailto:srowe@pafbla.us)

## ENDORSEMENTS

FBLA is endorsed by the following organizations: American Management Association, Association for Career and Technical Education, National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Business Education Association, National Management Association, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and U.S. Department of Education.