

# Conference Coordinator's Desk . . . Janet Skiles

**FBLA is the "Gateway to Greatness."**  
(The National Theme for 2011-2012)

## Welcome Back

FBLA is, without a doubt, the "Gateway to Greatness." Through membership in this awesome organization, doorways are opened to so many different experiences, some of which include: traveling, entering challenging competitions, applying for scholarships and winning prizes, developing leadership skills, participating in community service projects, building friendships, and simply having fun!

As you plan your FBLA calendar for this school year, I hope you include the opportunities listed below. Start NOW to set new goals, create an award-winning chapter with an organized Plan of Work, and achieve greatness for each chapter member and for your high school.

The gate is open, com'on and step right in! I can already feel the "greatness" that PA FBLA members are going to experience this year.

## UPCOMING PA FBLA EVENTS

Specific details, registration deadlines, etc., can be found on the [pafbla.org](http://pafbla.org) web site

- **State Leadership Workshop**  
October 23-24, 2011 – Lancaster Host Resort (new venue, new sessions, new attractions) GREAT LOCATION for a Fall Road trip!
- **National Fall leadership Conference**  
November 4-5, 2011 – Philadelphia Philadelphia Marriott Downtown
- **State Leadership Conference**  
April 16-18, 2012 – Hershey Lodge & Convention Center. Early arrival date - April 15
- **National Leadership Conference**  
June 27-July 3, 2012 – San Antonio, Texas Parents may be eligible to be the school's designated chaperone. Families are always welcome. Consider San Antonio for your family vacation next summer.
- **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cruise – Oasis of the Seas**  
July 28-August 4, 2012 – Eastern Caribbean Nassau, St. Thomas, St. Maarten (This cruise is a unique opportunity for the adults of FBLA, their families, and friends. Click the link at the top left side of the main page of the web site for information and the Deposit Form. **Reservations are still being accepted.**)

For those new to FBLA, as conference coordinator, my primary functions are to plan and coordinate all details for the PA FBLA state meetings (State Leadership Workshop and State Leadership Conference), any special meetings—such as the Board of Directors' Meetings, Executive Committee Meetings, the Summits (when applicable), arrange and manage all travel details for the PA delegation to the National Leadership Conference, and plan the 2012 PA FBLA 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cruise.

Please take a few minutes to review the short articles on this newsletter about upcoming PA FBLA opportunities. If you have any questions regarding participation in any of these events, please send me an email. Best wishes for a fantastic school year. I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming PA FBLA event in the near future.

[jskiles@pafbla.us](mailto:jskiles@pafbla.us)

**State Leadership Workshop**  
October 23-24, 2011  
Lancaster Hotel Resort & Conference Center, Lancaster

**"GET READY"**  
for a leadership experience full of high-energy leadership and fast-paced momentum at the 2011 State Leadership Workshop.  
**ONLINE Registration/Lodging is NOW OPEN.**  
**September 23**  
is the final day chapters may register, request lodging, and make payment for the SLW.  
Registration Fee: \$30 pp  
Lodging: \$105.45 per room (Sunday)  
Lodging: \$124.32 per room (Saturday)

**Who may attend:** All high school and ML members. There are no attendance restrictions this year! ☺  
See the **SLW Tentative Schedule of Events** for specific times and program details found in the Downloadable Files at [www.pafbla.org](http://www.pafbla.org).

The 2011 SLW stage is set for FBLA members to enter the "Gateway to Greatness." Whether you want to be a better FBLA officer, an entrepreneur, or improve your communication skills, this year's SLW has over 95+ awesome training sessions from which to choose. The leadership journey you decide to take is up to you.

- Highlights of the 2011 SLW:**
- There are 5 Academies, 8 Tracks, and 60+ Courses offered;
  - Keith Hawkins, one of America's top professional youth speakers will Keynote at the First General Session;
  - The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Dodgeball Tournament with a Pie Throwing contest will be held to raise money for the State Project;
  - Compete for the crown in the Battle of the Chapters;
  - A Basket Auction will be held to raise money for the 2011-12 State Project – American Heart Association;
  - A Region Adviser Forum will be held to discuss the competitive event changes for the RLC/SLC;
  - A New Local Chapter Adviser Academy will be held for advisers with 3 or less years experience as an adviser;
  - A Sports Management Academy will be offered;
  - James Gates, known for his "passion for all things technology" will lead an adviser workshop with a facilitated discussion on Sunday.

The Lancaster Host Resort & Conference Center is the ideal location to hold the SLW. It is a full service resort located in the Heart of Pennsylvania Dutch Country—a perfect retreat for a weekend get-a-way. Questions about the SLW should be directed to Janet Skiles at [jskiles@pafbla.us](mailto:jskiles@pafbla.us). We are looking forward to seeing you there!

**ATTENTION • ATTENTION**  
**"Region Advisers"**  
The 2011 Region Adviser Summit normally scheduled in October has been CANCELED.  
A RA Forum will be held at the SLW. Attendance at the RA Forum is optional.

*PA FBLA is the proud host of this year's NFLC!*  
**National Fall Leadership Conference**  
**PHILADELPHIA, PA**  
*"City of Brotherly Love"*  
**November 4-5, 2011**  
NFLC Registration/Lodging is now OPEN online on the National web site: [www.fbla-pbl.org](http://www.fbla-pbl.org).

The NFLC is another fantastic opportunity for members to gear up for the "Gateway to Greatness." The workshop sessions will offer a variety of topics to help students hone their leadership skills. While in Philadelphia, take time to experience American history, visit the Liberty Bell or the Declaration of Independence. A trip to Philadelphia would not be complete without a famous Philly cheesesteak. Come learn, network, and interact with other FBLA members from across the country. Hope to see you there!

Philadelphia conference rates:

Early Bird	Regular	On-site
\$60.00	\$70.00	\$80.00
Until Oct. 8	Oct. 9-31	Nov 1-onsite

**Hotel reservations deadline: October 8, 2011**  
**Philadelphia Marriott Downtown**  
\$150 Single/Double + 15.2%  
\$160 Triple/Quad + 15.2%  
(24-hour Deposit Refund notice)  
For more information about the Marriott and making reservations: [www.fbla-pbl.org](http://www.fbla-pbl.org)

**61<sup>st</sup> State Leadership Conference**  
**Hershey Lodge/Convention Center**  
**April 16-18, 2012**  
Plans for the 2012 SLC are now underway. Follow the **"2011-12 Schedule of Events"** now posted on the web for important dates. On December 7, SLC online registration/lodging opens. Until then . . .

- **Competitive Event** changes were outlined by Bruce Boncal, in his 9/5 "Quick Overview" email;
- **Topics** for certain events can be found in the downloadables section of the web site; and
- Watch your inbox for important information.

**60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cruise**  
**"Oasis of the Seas"**  
July 28-August 4, 2012  
**Reservations are still being accepted.**  
To make a reservation or gather more information about the cruise, contact Janet Skiles at [Jskiles@pafbla.us](mailto:Jskiles@pafbla.us)