

PENN PAL

SPRING EDITION

Volume XXII, Issue 4

Spring 2007

State Leadership Conference

PA FBLA will open the curtain on its 56th State Leadership Conference to be held April 30 through May 2 at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center.



The Management Team & Board of Directors will reintroduce the keynote speaker at the Opening General Session after a year's absence. I know you will find *Ms. Harriet Turk*, our keynote speaker, dynamic and motivating.

Again this year, everyone will be in the same room for our Opening General Session and our Awards Session, and we have taken steps

to ensure that the sound quality will be better.

In order to reach out to the family, friends, teachers,

and school administrators of our PA FBLA SLC competitors, we will stream the Awards Program "live" on the Internet on Tuesday evening,

May 1, starting at 7:45 p.m. There will be a link on the main page of the PA FBLA site

(www.pafbla.org) to be able to access the Awards Program.

The 2007 State Leadership Conference will see

the intro. of 9 new competitive events, and that will necessitate a major revision and update of our SLC conference schedule.



Lodging has been reserved for Sunday night, April 29, for those who wish to travel to Hershey the night before.

Workshops and tours will now be offered on Sunday and Monday, for all conference attendees.



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Special points of interest:

PA FBLA presents . . .

"FUN SUNDAY"

at

HERSHEY

ATTRACTIONS



Sunday

April 29, 2007

Hope To See You There!

Hershey

The Hershey High School FBLA chapter had an extremely busy and exciting start to 2007. Through the help of Nontraditional Media, our chapter held a Hollywood Film Festival fundraiser on March 9th. Students and teachers were given an opportunity to submit homemade short films, which were then shown in the auditorium in front of hundreds of students,



parents, and teachers. The audience was then given an opportunity to vote on the best actors and films. This was the first event of its kind in our school and took many hours of planning and preparation. We received twelve videos for the event submitted by students and teachers, which exposed the audience to a wide variety of themes and techniques.

Through concessions and ticket admissions, the event generated over seven hundred dollars for our local branch of the American Red Cross. Hopefully, this tradition will continue in future years and students will submit more of their own films to make the event an even greater success.

Jersey Shore

One of Jersey Shore's main goals this year was to find a way to reach and work with people of all ages in the community. After reviewing the work that the members did in the Annual Business Report, a report that holds the information of the chapter's community service, projects, meetings, events, and officer biographies, the chapter felt a feeling of accomplishment.

As it turned out the members found a way to reach that goal last December, by helping spread the Christmas spirit. The members were able to connect with all ages in the community. During the first

week of December, JS FBLA went Christmas Caroling at the local Manor Care in Jersey Shore. The residents welcomed the members with open arms and even made request and sang along. Also, in December the members held their annual Gift for Teens Drive. The members decorated a Christmas tree inside of school with gift ideas for decorations. The gifts that were raised were then donated to the local Lycoming County Children and Youth.

These were two ways that JS FBLA were able to work with the community, not wanting to forget the younger

generation. Jersey Shore held a movie matinee at the senior high with a special showing of the Muppet's Christmas Carol. Children from all over the area were invited and even had a special surprise of Santa.

The members were able to look back on these events due to their participation in the Annual Business Report. JS FBLA feel the report is a good way to evaluate the chapter's performance over the last year and strongly encourages other chapter's to participate in the following years.



Fleetwood

Fleetwood High School's Chapter of FBLA was an active participant in this year's FBLA Week. Fleetwood decorated cardboard boxes and placed them around the school in each first period classroom. These were used as collection boxes for glossy magazines. In addition, jars were also placed in the cafeteria during the lunch periods for students and faculty to



deposit soda tabs. The Fleetwood chapter officers plan to deliver both of these items to the Ronald McDonald House charity in Hershey at the end of March. Both the glossy magazines and tabs are converted into cash for use by the house.

The chapter officers have also

decided to start recruitment efforts earlier this coming school year. So, as of April 1st, the recruitment process will begin. The goal for 2007-2008 is to increase membership by 20%. Members who join before June 7 will receive a \$5.00 discount on their dues. New chapter officers will be elected on May 15.

Stroudsburg

Plans are set for a "Heart Walk" on March 21 to benefit the American Heart Association. Participants must pledge a minimum of \$10 and walk for 30 minutes. Upon completion, every walker will receive a gift bag with heart healthy bottled water, low-fat pretzels and delicious dark chocolate.



"Dodge Ball" was approved – thanks to Andy Burstein and Non-Traditional Media – and is

scheduled for April 19. N.T.M. did such a great job with their Event Management Program Guide, that it was easy to convince Administration that this would be a "safe" event. Stroudsburg hopes for a huge success.

A "Bowling for Babies Night" is scheduled for April 27 at a local bowling alley. All proceeds will be sent to the March of Dimes. Three games will cost \$7.50 and

shoes are free. Transportation will be provided. Not a bad deal.

Last, but not least, a team of 15 FBLA members will be participating in our annual "Stroudsburg Relay for Life" on May 19-20. Money raised will benefit the American Cancer Society. Each FBLA participant is obligated to raise \$100 and camp out for 24 hours. Games and entertainment are always on the agenda and a fun time will be had by all. This year's theme is "Relay Rocks"

Sayre

The Sayre FBLA Chapter is proud to have 11 members attending and competing at the PA FBLA State Leadership Conference for competitive event testing. The competitors are: Jason Gay (Business Math), Michael Setzer (Business Math), Esther Parsons (Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure), Doug Hickey (Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure), Chelsea Button (Word Processing I), Elizabeth Crews (FBLA Principals and Procedures), Max Bennett (Business Procedures), William Vogel (Technology Concepts), Robert Lathrop (Community Service Project), Zachary Northrup

(Community Service Project), and James Biery (Community Service Project and PA FBLA Region 27 Secretary). In addition to these competitors, Luke Skerpon attending as a member of the PA FBLA State Officer Team, as well as PA FBLA Region 27 President. Sayre FBLA is looking forward to being able to represent Sayre HS at the State Leadership Conference.

Also, in February, Sayre FBLA, in conjunction with the Sayre School District Community Relations Board planned and ran the 125th Anniversary Celebration of the Sayre Area School

District. Activities included a dinner/dance, tours of the building given by FBLA members, student presentations, and a ceremonial cake cutting. Around 150 alumni and guests attended this event, which was Sayre FBLA's main community service project for this school year. Sayre FBLA is also getting ready for our spring educational trip, this year to New York City, where students will get to visit the Museum of Natural History, the Empire State Building, and much more!



Peabody

Future Business Leaders of America at Peabody High School have been busy this year. In addition to raising money for the American Red Cross by selling "red crosses" for \$1.00 for a bulletin board display in February, they also have collected money for the American Cancer Society by selling daffodils in bunches of 10 to be distributed in March.

Having won at their regional competition, five Peabody students will also compete at the FBLA State Conference in Hershey, PA from April 29-May 2, 2007, an

entrepreneurship team of Greg Becker, Cassandra Bruce, and Michael Jenkins, Marketing for Joshua Smith, and Public Speaking for Sierra Thurman.

Other FBLA Regional Conference 2007 participants from January 19 include: Argena Olivis in Business Communications, Christine Perry in Impromptu Speaking, Jasmine Youngblood in Business Math and Raymont Youngblood in Web Design. Students chose their competition based on their abilities and competed against other high schools in

Region 10. Veronica Shumba and Jarell Fields along with the other members have raised money for their endeavors through entrepreneurship sales at the basketball concession stand at Peabody games. Other members include Michael Peays and James Titus-Royall. Congratulations to Mrs. Vivian Kirk and Mrs. Marilyn Nizinski, co-sponsors for FBLA, as they encourage their FBLA members to develop projects and leadership qualities that contribute to the improvement of home, business and the East Liberty community of Pittsburgh.

“Many of the donors inquired about CCHS FBLA and were impressed with the fact that a student organization such as Pennsylvania FBLA has donated so much time and effort into assisting a charity such as the American Red Cross “



Central Columbia

Central Columbia High School FBLA sponsored a blood drive on February 18th in a continuation of FBLA-PBL week activities. This blood drive added to the dozens of other blood drives CCHS FBLA has volunteered at or sponsored. In sponsoring the blood drive, CCHS FBLA provided the food for the blood donors and the Red Cross workers, as well as volunteering as greeters, escorts, and canteen workers. Many of the members t h a t



volunteered their time wore t-shirts donated by one of the two chapters of the Red Cross that CCHS FBLA has been assisting throughout the year. The t-shirts display the FBLA symbol and list Central Columbia High School FBLA as sponsoring the American Red Cross. Members of CCHS FBLA who assisted at the blood drive and made baked goods include: Tiana Lukas, Ashely Diltz, Chrissy Mannachio, Heather Nuss, Shanna Ross, Sarah Wagner, Basant Nassar, Lindsey Meter, Shana Hartzell, and Maggie Calkins. Many of the donors inquired about CCHS FBLA

and were impressed with the fact that a student organization such as Pennsylvania FBLA has donated so much time and effort into assisting a charity such as the American Red Cross.



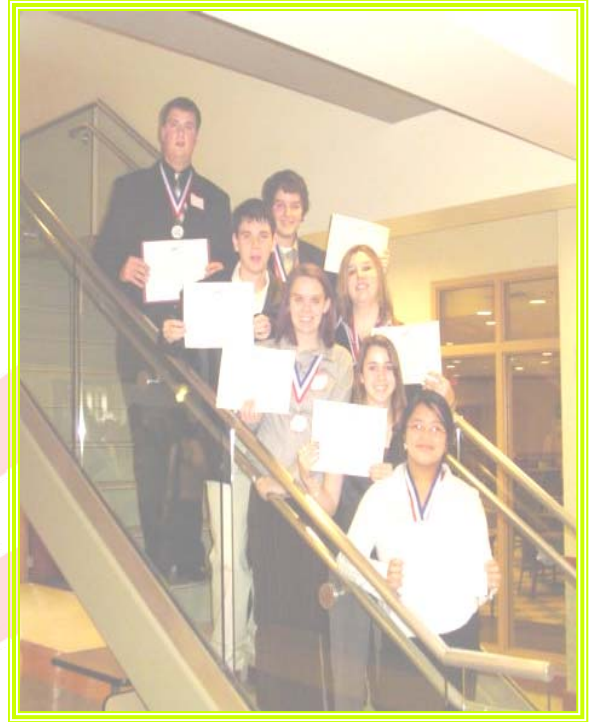
Kennard-Dale

Kennard-Dale High School's FBLA returned this year after a four year hiatus with a new adviser and eleven members. The first two trips for the club this year were to a CPA Passport to Opportunity presentation at Elizabethtown College and to the Region 6 Leadership Workshop at Littlestown High School.

In January, we traveled to Central Penn College for the Region Leadership Competition. All seven members in attendance

placed and received awards. Three of our five members who qualified for the state competition in Hershey have decided to attend.

Our activities for the rest of the school year include charity bowling, a donation to the state project, and a trip to Six Flags for Career Day. Our goal for next year is to double our membership.



Northeastern York

Northeastern High School FBLA Chapter Hosts Benefit Concert

On January 13, 2007, the Northeastern Senior High School FBLA Chapter of Region 13 hosted a benefit concert to raise funds for the American Red Cross. Six local rock bands, including The Secrecy, Cannery Row, Dana Alexandra, Worth the Waste, Rich King Phil and the Swinging Fingers, performed for over



230 audience members. The concert raised \$1212.00 for the American Red Cross.

Combined with funds raised through a strong response to the Chapter's "Casual Fridays for Faculty and Staff" campaign, which netted \$1706.00 for the 2006-07 school year, and a private donation of \$100.00, the NHS Chapter's Red Cross contribution so far this

school year totals \$3,018.00.



American Red Cross

Together, we can save a life

Clearfield

The members of the Clearfield Chapter of FBLA have been working hard to raise funds for the American Red Cross, the PA FBLA state project. Some of the ways in which we have been doing this has been through sponsoring Casual for a Cause (which is where teachers and staff dress in regular street cloths), selling wreaths, Punxsutawney Phil Beanie Babies, hoagies, and scratch-n-help. We also have received donations for the American Red Cross. Another thing that we did was sponsor a dance that we called the Silly Sock Hop. At this dance we charged a fee to get in, so we could then donate the funds to the American Red Cross. We also had a contest to select the best male and female dancer and the silliest socks.

As the spring season slowly begins to dissolve the dreary winter blues, the Peters Township High School FBLA chapter has been melting away the worries of needy families in the Pittsburgh area. Our chapter has collected an abundance of donations for the families residing in Pittsburgh's Ronald McDonald House. The Ronald McDonald house of Pittsburgh provides a "home away from home" for families from around the world with

Clearfield attended many workshops and conferences. We attended the regional leadership workshop, state leadership workshop, and the national fall leadership conference. We also attended the regional leadership conference held at the Dubois Business College in Dubois, Pennsylvania. There were fifteen members in attendance and out of those fifteen members who attended thirteen will go on to states. All Clearfield members managed to place in the top four in the region. Clearfield also brought home the Outstanding Chapter Award for Region 14.

This year for National FBLA Week the Clearfield Chapter has sponsored the following events: professional dress day, blue and gold day, staff

seriously ill children who receive medical treatment at Pittsburgh's phenomenal hospitals. PTHS FBLA was happy to provide these severely ill children and their families with "wish list" items such as baking goods, kitchen supplies, prepackaged snacks, and laundry detergent that the Ronald McDonald House requested. A few of our esteemed members even created St. Patrick's Day treat bags for the families in the house. The Peters Township

appreciation day, out-to-breakfast day, and an evening of bowling. For the staff appreciation day we made treat cups and attached FBLA emblems on them. We then filled them with candy runts to pass out to all the teachers and staff at the Clearfield Area High School. In addition, thanks to McDonalds, each staff member received a coupon for French fries.

These are just some of the things that our local Chapter of FBLA has been doing both in and out of school. We hope to be able to do much more in the future not only in our school but for the community that we represent.

Peters Township



High School FBLA is thrilled to be a part of helping ill children and their families in our hometown lead happier and healthier lives.

Waynesboro

The Waynesboro FBLA is proud to announce the re-opening of its school store. FBLA members open the school store in the morning and during all lunches for all students to enjoy! New products, new layout, and a new name are what have sparked school spirit and excitement for the school store. Big Chief's Trading Post now has T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, school supplies, and many delicious drinks. Our new drinks, which are especially made by FBLA members, are: Cappuccino, Hot Chocolate, RazzMatazz Hot Chocolate, Green Tea, and our hottest product, the Mocha



Frappuccino. Big Chief's Trading Post directly benefits the members of F B L A . Big Chief's is also centrally located in the cafeteria making it an ideal location for all types of money collection. We have collected for several charities. Currently we are raising money for the American Cancer Society. Teachers have cooperated in making it a boy vs. girl competition. If the boys win, female teachers will dye their hair green. Male teachers will dye their hair if the girls win. Green hair will be adorned just in time for St. Patrick's Day.

In February, Big Chief's was the location where students could send candy-grams to their friends. Students could fill out Valentine's cards for their friends and attach a red sucker. Unfortunately the candy-grams were delivered late due to a snow day. The true beneficiary, however, was the American Red Cross who received the proceeds of this fund-raiser.



FBLA

Freedom

The FBLA chapter at Freedom High School recently completed a community service project for the American Red Cross. The chapter decided to help the American Red Cross because it is the organization for the PA FBLA State Project. Organized by Chapter President Shikha Saxena, the chapter collected almost 250 canned food items. The chapter advisor and president

delivered the donations on January 26. The food drive involved the entire Freedom business department, including business teachers, students, FBLA members, and DECA members.

"You really collected a lot of food," remarked Robin Trexler, the Volunteer & Youth Service Specialist at the American Red Cross of the Greater Lehigh Valley.

The Red Cross distributed the food to the Second Harvest Food Bank, which in turn supplies all other food banks in the area. Freedom FBLA was thrilled with the success of their first fundraising effort for the American Red Cross. The chapter hopes to continue holding food drives in the upcoming years



Shikha Saxena, Chapter President, and Robin Trexler, Volunteer & Youth Service Specialist, in front of American Red Cross of the Greater Lehigh Valley



American Red Cross
Celebrating 125 Years of Service



Current State Project Total Raised: \$89,476.53

Please mail all state project contributions to: Mr. Will Dorrance, PA FBLA State Treasurer, Hershey School, PO Box 898, Hershey, PA 17033.

Please make all checks payable to: **PA FBLA State Project.**

----->Checks will continue to be accepted up to and at the State Leadership Conference!

State Officer Farewell

The hardest part about picking a favorite memory is sorting through all the wonderful experiences and picking just one. My two most favorite, though, have to be my experiences at nationals in Denver and Nashville. In Denver, I got my first taste of what FBLA was really all about. I'd never seen anything like it. I'd never been a part of an organization where so many kids my age with my interests were so polite and social. I learned things about professionalism and business that I'd never heard of before, which further piqued my interest. It was that conference that made me want to run for state office. I was so fascinated I needed to get as involved as possible; I needed to be a part of something that amazing.

This past summer, in Nashville, I had the beautiful experience of spending a week with the Pennsylvania delegation and the craziest officer team in the country. I am proud to say that I was able to meet every single person from Pennsylvania and spend time getting to know almost everyone. This was the perfect mix of work and play; competitive events and workshops. It not only inspired me; it motivated me. Spending a week with a fun group of friends who laughed and joked with me and made sure I never had a dull moment—which I

didn't—is something I will always remember!

My favorite part of being a state officer has been the fantastic people. Because of my position, I've had incredible opportunities to meet various people whom I never may have met if I were not a state officer. Whether on the local, state, or national level, I have met and worked with so many members, advisers, etc. who have a great love and admiration for this organization. I hope to keep in touch with them rest of my life.

I will miss everything about FBLA. I'll miss the late night meetings and early morning breakfasts. I'll miss reports and letters and speeches. I'll miss the officers and the members of the management team. I'll miss Ms. Vitovsky and our long car drives. I'll miss my wonderful chapter and their support and comic relief when I'm stressing out. I'll miss selling pins--I really will--because it gave me the opportunity to talk to members and advisers. I will miss everything about FBLA.

FBLA has made me a better student, leader, professional, friend, and the list continues. It taught me to prioritize, and not to procrastinate. It taught me to be more understanding and tolerant and more willing to compromise. It taught me the life lessons that I'm going

Emily Butler



President

to carry around for the rest of my life.

I plan to attend college majoring in either Political Science or Chemical Engineering. I hope to stay involved in FBLA on the professional level, so this isn't the last you'll be seeing of me.

I want PA FBLA to know they are capable of amazing things. We lead the nation on so many levels and that would fall apart without the involvement of each and every member. I'd like to leave FBLA saying that I know that if on this scale, we can do these amazing things, then the future is so bright and beautiful because Pennsylvania alone is going to give the world more success than it can handle.

State Officer Farewell

If I would have to choose, I would say that the most prominent memory of my experience of as a state officer would be Will's explanation of his state project report "Rather than linear, our state project's growth is EXPONENTIAL!"

As a state officer, my favorite aspect would be the opportunity I have had to meet and work with phenomenal students from across the state, not to mention a wonderful state officer team. When I continue on, past my high school career, I will miss all the opportunities that I had to network and learn (and all the Hershey chocolate too!). FBLA has exposed me to facets of leadership that I could not have conceived of in the high school classroom. My experiences over the last four years have instilled in me the confidence to make presentations before my local school board of education, the poise to speak at conferences

attended by 4,000 people, and the professionalism required to interact with officials from the Department of Education and other business professionals.

My future plans are to major in International Relations at either Davidson College or Tufts University. In college I would like to study abroad, then attend Law School, enlist in the Peace Corps, and ultimately work for the U.S. Foreign Service and focus on bringing economic stability and hope to third world nations.

The last thought I would like to leave Pennsylvania FBLA with would be:

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world"

—Mahatma Gandhi

And, of course, watch out for Luke Skerpon!

Daisy Karlson



First Vice-President



State Officer Farewell

When I tell people what position I hold within the PAFBLA State Officer team, they think I have a boring job. "Being a secretary is boring", they say. You see, the truth is that the minutes and the notes might not be extremely exciting, but many of the other situations I encounter are. My position has given me the opportunity to experience new places, meet new people and learn new and interesting ideologies and concepts both within the business world and outside of it. I love to travel, so I'll miss that part of FBLA tremendously. The National Leadership Conference in Nashville last summer was truly an unforgettable experience, and I owe a

huge thank you to PAFBLA for providing me with that opportunity.

My favorite FBLA memory has to be the melon/watermelon/mango polo shirts we wore in Nashville. I don't think I'd ever seen a color similar to it before that conference. As a member of the 2006-2007 State Officer team, I was a part of a group that really made a difference. We set goals that had the potential to seriously benefit charities and organizations including our own. I've learned an enormous amount about FBLA, the business world and myself since the start of my term last year. I've gained self confidence and a greater sense of self that will

Angela Ferrence



Secretary

benefit me throughout my entire life. I really hope that I've impacted PAFBLA a fraction of the way it has impacted me, because if I have, I've left this organization with a huge piece of me and who I am to become.

Memories from
2006 NLC!

Pictured to the right:

Angela Ferrence,
Olivia Webb, &
Kara Spittler



State Officer Farewell

As I sit down to write this article, I realize that I am experiencing a certain feeling that I have never truly felt before: writer's cramp—I have no clue where to begin my farewell to Pennsylvania FBLA. I do not believe this difficulty in writing is due to the usual compositional troubles but rather a realization that my time in this organization is about to end. Throughout the seventeen years of my life, including countless hours writing for our school newspaper, I have never had as hard of a time putting my thoughts to paper. Well, here it goes!

My time in PA FBLA began three years ago, and my involvement has indubitably increased every day since then. In addition to state treasurer, I am the Hershey FBLA co-president and was the local chapter treasurer last school year.

In twenty years, it will not be about the FBLA offices I held; instead, it will be the skills I acquired and arguably more importantly the friendships I formed. To my fellow eight officers, I say thank you, good luck in all of your future endeavors, and I look forward to our life-long friendships.

FBLA has taught me a wide variety of skills, ranging from business knowledge to organization to time management, but without a doubt, the most valued skill that I have acquired is the ability to lead others.

Next year, I will be attending Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, where I plan on majoring in business administration. In time, I hope to enter the business world in the field of corporate law.

That's enough about me! PA FBLA, I say thank you for selecting me to serve you this past year. It truly has been an honor, and I hope that I have lived up to your expectations. I hope I have been able to give back to FBLA because it has given me so much.

To those in the state management team, I appreciate all your hard work and guidance in directing the state officer team. To Miss Ryland, Mrs. Ritchey, and Mr. Gustantino, you have been the best advisers for whom I could have asked. To the Hershey FBLA chapter, thank you for all the good times.

William Dorrance



Treasurer

As I close, good luck PA FBLA on your journey to the number one state in the organization! I look forward to watching you soar...

"Dream as if you'll live forever. Live as if you'll die tomorrow." — James Dean



State Officer Farewell

Through FBLA I have achieved the most accomplishments in my high school career. From my chapter President to State Reporter, the offices I have held remind me of the outstanding opportunities within our organization.

As my term for state office is coming to an end I don't think I could choose just one memory as my favorite. Being State Reporter, has made my entire senior year my favorite year in high school. From redbull and pixie sticks to Emily spaying my eye with chloroseptic before the opening at the SLW. I will never forget one moment of this amazing experience.

Once again I can't just pick one thing about FBLA that I will miss the most. Although I hate to admit this, I will miss those early meetings and late nights getting to

know each other and brainstorming. But, FBLA has shaped me into who I am today and I will miss everything aspect of the organization.

FBLA has taught me professionalism, etiquette, respect, and truly how to have fun and work at the same time.

In the future, I plan to attend Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. While I'm there I plan on majoring in Sports Marketing.

I would like to leave Pennsylvania FBLA with the biggest and most sincere Thank You! From advisors to the awesome kids I met, I will never forget all the advice, funny stories, and pure geniuses of PAFBLA.

Kara Spittler



Reporter

For all the seniors, and the state officer team, I would like to leave you with my favorite quote from Doctor Seuss:

*"Don't cry because it is over,
Smile because it happened."*



State Officer Farewell

Holly Schoch



Vice President at Large

As an FBLA member the only office I have held is State Vice President at Large. Due to the fact that our chapter is so large in size my advisor thought that it would be better if I allowed other students to run for the positions on the local and regional level.

I have had so many amazing memories being involved in FBLA. So many in fact that it is so hard to just pick one. So I'll just rattle off a few ones that probably only a few people will understand. L.E.B's from Orlando had to have been one of the greatest times of my life, learning how to dance in Nashville (extremely embarrassing but fun nevertheless), and pretty much any other

moment spent at one of the FBLA conferences. I would never have thought that this organization could have been so fulfilling in more ways than just academics.

As for being a State Officer, every moment was worthwhile. Although, when at meetings or at any type of conference, we didn't get to sleep AT ALL, it was still amazing. Until you go through it and actually experience being a state officer of such an amazing organization you can't even put yourself in my position. So, overall, my favorite part about being a state officer is just being able to inspire others to dream big and reach higher.

I'm going to miss everything about FBLA but more than anything I'm going to miss the conferences and the opportunities to meet with so many different people across the state and even the nation. I've been to other competitions for other organizations and truly FBLA is one of the best. FBLA has taught me so much in regards to leadership. It has strengthened my work ethic and

made me more responsible. All in all FBLA really has made me a better person.

After I graduate I hope to leave PA FBLA with some great memories. I know that each year the state officer team just gets better and better so I know PA won't have a hard time replacing me but I just hope that in some way, shape, or form I have given PA FBLA just as much as it has given me.

And last but not least I would just like to thank everyone who made this experience as great as it was. Miss Gavio, you're an inspiration to everyone and especially to me. I can never thank you for everything you've done. To the executive committee, Mr. Boncal, and Miss Ryland, thank you for pushing me harder and farther than I've ever been pushed before. And finally, the state officer team, you have become like a second family to me. This year wouldn't have been half as good without you. Thank you for everything and good luck with everything you do in the future.

State Officer Farewell

My favorite FBLA memory is attending the NLC in Nashville this past summer. It was an amazing week long experience, traveling from Pennsylvania to Chattanooga, and to Nashville. Hearing the PA cheers, and seeing the PA FBLA members on stage during the awards program. Between the PA meeting, hanging out in Nashville, touring around Tennessee, at the sessions of cheering for PA over and over, the NLC was a memory that lasts a lifetime.

My favorite part about being a state officer cannot be answered in just one statement. This experience has honestly been an experience of a lifetime. Being able to serve an almost 14,000 member organization as one of nine officers is an experience that you never forget. Also, the people you meet are ones that you have friendships with for a lifetime. Without a doubt, the members of this year's state officer team are people who I will be friends with forever. In addition to the officers, the members of FBLA who I have met throughout this year, I will never forget either. My favorite part of being an officer has definitely been the things that I can take with me the rest of my life to remember this life changing experience.

The thing that I will miss the most is the officers, advisers and the state management team. Emily, Daisy, Ang, Will,

Kara, Holly, Olivia and Leandra – there are memories from this year; yes some of those could have occurred at meetings at 11PM to almost midnight, but amazing none the less, that I will never forget. You all have had an amazing impact on my life, times that I will never forget. Miss Ryland, Mr. Boncal, Mrs. Skiles and the rest of the management team – thank you for everything this year! You all really supported the officer team anytime it was need – we definitely couldn't have done it without you! To Mr. Selleck, my adviser, thank you for everything! There is no way I would have been able to do any of this without your help! PA FBLA – Thank you for allowing me to serve as one of your state officers this year, with out you, I would have never had this opportunity! To anyone who I didn't specifically mention that had an impact on me, or helped me this year, thank you! All of these people have made FBLA an amazing experience, and that is definitely what I will miss the most!

FBLA has taught me so much over the years I have been involved with it, and especially even more this past year serving as a state officer. I have been able to further develop my leadership skills, and even learn more about myself in the process. I have learned more about marketing, management, entrepreneurship, and other items within the business world that without FBLA, I would have

Luke Skerpon



Vice President at Large

never learned or experienced. Especially in regards to this year with our executive committee meetings – those have taught me and shown me how important sleep is, because you certainly don't get a lot of it while you are there, you are so busy working that sleep gets pushed aside! Overall, FBLA has taught me things that have and will continue to impact my life, and I will benefit from these experiences for years to come.

One of my favorite quotes, by Jimmy Valvano is one that I truly want PA FBLA to read and remember. "Don't Give Up, Don't Ever Give Up." This is a quote that I hope everyone remembers at all times. Even though sometimes it may seem like you can't accomplish what you had hoped for, never give up! You can do anything you put your mind to! Best of luck in the future ...

State Officer Farewell

Olivia Webb



Vice President at Large

This past year has been one of the most amazing experiences of my life and the best opportunity that I have ever had a chance to experience. I have served in the offices of FBLA Local Secretary, FBLA State Vice President-At Large, and National Honor Society Vice President. I have many memories from this year, but one of my favorites is the opening session at the 2006 NLC in Nashville. It was so interesting and exciting because there was no longer schools competing against schools like at the SLC, but schools

from the same state joining together to yell, scream, and cheer for their home state. My favorite part of being a state officer was meeting new people and giving speeches in front of hundreds of members. I will miss the other officers and members I've met from across the state, traveling to a new cities and states to attend meetings and conferences, and late nights in the board room with the other officers.

Through attending numerous workshops and conferences, I have strengthened my leadership, communication, networking, and public speaking skills. I have learned that although offices take a lot of time and

hard work, they are well worth the effort. I would like to leave Pennsylvania FBLA with a willingness to continue to strive to reach the goals that the state officers set before them and continue to succeed at a growing membership and earning the most places at the NLC. I encourage any member willing to put forth the time, effort, and responsibility to run for state office because they will never regret their decision.



State Officer Farewell

Leandra Eckman



Parliamentarian

FBLA has too many opportunities for memories. From Nationals to Conferences and Workshops, so many memories are formed. It's almost hard to pick my favorite. However, if I had to pick one, it would have to be the March Executive Committee meeting. By this time we had all grown so close. Even though we were stressed out, tired, and just wanted sleep it was the second to last opportunity we'd have before this year finally came to a close. Hearing all of your farewells brought tears to my eyes. All I could remember is the good times like at nationals and the SLW. It was a lot of fun and a great time to see you all.

Wow, how can anyone sum up an entire year of experiences in just one paragraph? First off, I loved all of the people I met. From other state's officers and leaders to national officers and even the

leaders of our organization, it was so rewarding in that aspect. Then there are all the memories I've made. No one will ever be able to replace them. Next are the amazing opportunities I've had. There is nothing like attending a National conference and experiencing all the sites and people the city has to offer. Finally are the never-ending friendships. No one can ever replace the friendships I've made with people. They truly will be life-long friends. Each and every one of the people I have met has made a lasting impression on my heart and will forever be there.

I have the great experience of not having to leave the organization this year. So really I don't have to miss much about it. There is nothing that can come between me and this organization. However I will miss many of the people that will be graduating at the end of this year. To Emily, Kara, Will, and Daisy, you all have made my experience one I will never forget. Thank you all for being there for me to laugh with, cry with, and even to stay up with until midnight drudging through the question of a state project. Thank you all!

No one can imagine what you learn. There are so many life-lessons you learn that perhaps you may have never come upon until going through this experience. The leadership skills you gain will become indispensable to you

later in life. Then there are the tremendous amounts of confidence you will learn to have. It is greatly intimidating to everyone to have to stand in front of 3000 people and speak without messing up. Next are the speaking skills. You will learn to speak eloquently and have a voice instead of just blending in with the crowd. Finally is the organizational and timeliness that is absolutely necessary in the course of your office. Without organization and being able to plan your time wisely, you might as well say goodbye to having an easy year. It definitely is challenging but I would not change it for the world.

All I can say is never be afraid of accomplishing all of your dreams. Even if the ground is covered in snow and the sky is as gray as smoke, there is always a shovel to get you out and a light to lead the way. You are the hope for our future and with all of you behind this organization, you can accomplish anything you put your mind to. Overall, never give up and always strive to improve. "To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe."
-- [Anatole France](#)

National Leadership Conference



Can you imagine walking into a large ballroom with over 6,000 kids cheering in support of their state? The vibes from their spirit is exactly what you will feel when you attend the NLC this summer in Chicago. At the NLC you will have the opportunity to be the first to hear the new plans of work for the newly elected state officer team. You will also have the chance to participate in leadership development workshops, tour the hosting city, and relax at a baseball game.

