

PA FBLA

# PENN PAL PAL

Volume XXIII, Issue IV

**SPRING ISSUE**

## STATE PROJECT

This years state project was the **American Trauma Society-Pennsylvania Division**. The ATS-PA is dedicated to reducing the devastating toll that trauma takes on the lives of all people. ATS-PA strives to help all Pennsylvanians survive and lead healthier lives through its trauma prevention programs.

Our goal this year was to raise **\$75,000** and donate **60,000** hours of **community service**, and so far we have raised a total of **\$66,306.88**.

PA FBLA members have been busy this year, donating their time to this worthwhile organization. For more information visit on the American Trauma Society-Pennsylvania Division, vist their website at [www.atspa.org](http://www.atspa.org).



*ATSPA Board President John M. Templeton Jr., MD, FACS  
and ATSPA Executive Vice President Julia Cox, RN, MS ED*

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# BOYERTOWN

Every year, Boyertown Area Senior High's chapter of FBLA hosts a Scarf Day. It is held midway through the winter season and is enjoyed by many of the students.

FBLA members design a sticker that is sold for a dollar and allows the person to wear a scarf on the designated day. The proceeds benefit a local charity or goes to the benefit of a local citizen in need.

This year, Boyertown held Scarf Day in honor of one of its own members. Allyssa Landis', whose father has been diagnosed with cancer and is incredibly ill. His sickness has made it impossible for him to work and his medical bills are tremendous. Through Scarf Day, we helped to relieve some of that financial burden and hope to have helped console her family.

The Boyertown community always rallies behind its members, and this event was no exception. The students hurriedly rushed to purchase the stickers and the halls were a sea of wool and knitted wonders on February 8.

Overall, the club earned over \$1,500 dollars which will be donated towards the Tom Landis Cancer Fund. While the scarves helped us to stay cozy, the generosity of the community was the source of the greatest warmth!



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# CENTRAL COLUMBIA

FBLA is an organization that strives to give back to the community. One way our chapter accomplished this was by participating in the fourth annual Central Columbia Elementary School book drive. The book drive's purpose was to collect books for underprivileged children and the books will be delivered in time for Easter.

To make the book drive a success, the members of FBLA placed boxes throughout the high school. On February 20th, all of the books were collected and transported to the elementary school. To further involve the members, two groups went to the elementary school on two different occasions to assist first and third graders. They selected the books in the best condition and also counted all the books that were collected. The grand total was 1135 books.

The final step was to compile all the books and ship them to the headquarters in Danville. With everyone's help, the book drive was a huge success!



*CCHS FBLA Students Laura O'Donnell, Shana Hartzel, and Brittany Fisher assisting with the Book Fair.*

# CHESTNUT RIDGE

On Thursday, November 15 approximately thirty-five members, advisors, and guests celebrated American Enterprise Day with the Chestnut Ridge Chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America, by participating in an etiquette dinner.

This dinner is part of the American Enterprise Project, co-chaired by Leanna Noon and Nick Green. Members and guests were walked through proper dining etiquette during the entire meal, beginning with setting the table. Each person was asked to distinguish a host to the table.

The idea of a business dinner is about networking, not the actual consumption of food. For this reason, the job of the host was to introduce all at the table to one another and maintain conversation among the guests.

Men were taught to seat the ladies and remain standing until all ladies were seated. Salad, main, and dessert courses were served.

Mrs. McDonald, chapter advisor, taught all in attendance different ways to fold a cloth napkin. Brochures, placemats, and packets on dining etiquette were prepared by Leanna Noon, co-chair, to be handed out to those present.

- A business dinner is NOT about the actual consumption of food. Instead, it is about networking with others.
- Never place a used utensil back on the table.
- Pass to the right.
- Never move your plate from where the server places it.

If you need to excuse yourself during a meal, only do so between courses.



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# HERSHEY

Hershey FBLA is proud to hold its second annual Hollywood in Hershey Film Festival. This festival is a chance for students to explore their interest in producing, directing, or acting in a short film. All proceeds of the festival will go to the ATS. The festival will be held on Friday, April 25, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the Hershey High School auditorium. Many film makers and their fans are expected to attend.

This year, the Hershey FBLA advisers, Mrs. Bonnie Ritchey and Mr. Mike Gustantino, as well as the chapter officers and event chairs are working hard to make the film festival a success. In fact, the chapter has already prepared a mini "Oscar" statue to give to the winners on top of various cash prizes and gift certificates.

However, planning the film festival did have its challenges. The date for the festival was especially difficult to choose because the film festival had to be on a night when the facilities were open and when there were not many other social activities occurring.

To increase proceeds, Hershey FBLA is also planning to have a concession with foods donated by members and various other local businesses. All in all, Hershey FBLA is hoping to host a fun and rewarding film festival and contribute as much as possible to the state project, the ATS.



# PINE GROVE

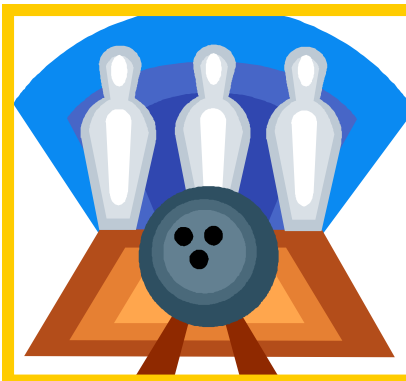
The Pine Grove FBLA chapter has been keeping busy and preparing for the upcoming State Conference. Once again this year we are fundraising to get to the SLC. We will be taking 25 students to the SLC, and we are anxious to head to Hershey again this year. Our members have been taking part in weekly morning meetings to prepare for their events.



goal. We are also looking at going to visit Schoolyard Square to play bingo with the elderly residents. Both are always fun and rewarding for the members and those who are benefiting from the event.

There are several volunteering projects and social outings coming up. Many members volunteered and were assigned to a teacher and their class. The FBLA members go over to the Pine Grove Elementary 1-2 times per week and help students with a variety of tasks. It is always a great experience when the schools can interact and work together to achieve a great

Several students will be participating in the Bowl for Kids Sake at the end of March. We always look for something simple, fun, and easy for everyone to participate in. It is a great time for everyone in the membership to mingle and get together. All who are in attendance end up having fun and probably end up laughing at each other and ourselves.



We are now in the process of picking a date and location for our end of the year banquet. This will be a first for Pine Grove and we are anxious to start a new tradition for our chapter.

# STROUDSBURG

Stroudsburg FBLA has a number of events lined up for the spring of 2008. The second annual Stroudsburg Dodgeball Tournament, their biggest and most anticipated event, is set to take place on Thursday, April 17. Over 30 teams from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade will compete in the tournament. Although Stroudsburg FBLA set the bar high last year, the school and students are charged with such an enthusiasm that it wouldn't be a miracle if last year's tournament was one upped. Along with the



Dodgeball tournament, Stroudsburg FBLA is also busy running the yearly Heart Walk on March 19. This event benefits the American Heart Association and is a longtime tradition of Stroudsburg FBLA.

# WESTERN WAYNE

Hundreds of students in the kindergarten and pre-kindergarten classes throughout the Western Wayne School District celebrated Halloween with traditional goody bags compliments of the members of the school's Future Business Leaders of America chapter.

This annual activity involved the members preparing nearly 350 bags and then delivering these bags to the students in the R. D. Wilson Elementary School, Waymart, and to the Hamlin Elementary Center.



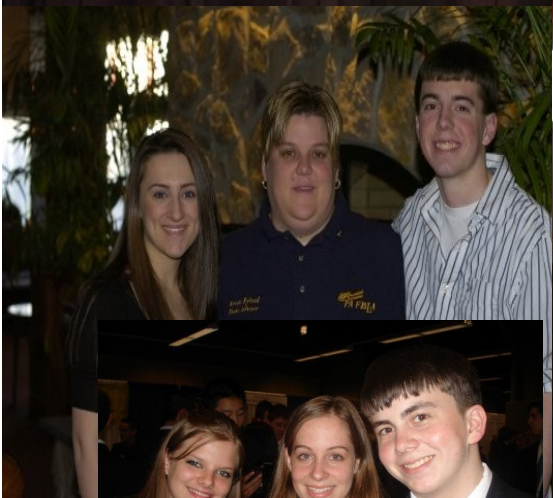
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# STATE OFFICER FAIRWELLS



## 2007-2008 State Officer Team





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# STATE PRESIDENT

## Luke Skerpon

Two years ago, I stood before this delegation starting my first term as a state officer for this amazing organization. Then last year, a second chance came for me to serve you another year, this time as your State President. I cannot express in words the experience this has been, and the memories that have come from it.

Over the past two years, I have made many friends through this organization, and been able to experience many cities, conferences, and other events that without FBLA I would have never had the chance. I have been able to meet many of you over these two years, and have become friends with many of you ... friendships that I hope will continue for years to come.

In order for anyone to have success in a state officer position, or to be able to fully get the true experience to be able to help lead an organization like this, there are many people involved, and whom, as this year comes to a close, must be thanked.

To the PA FBLA Board of Directors and Executive Committee Advisers, thank you for your dedication to this organization. You are willing to help and go the extra mile for the benefit of this organization anytime that it is needed.

The State Management Team - Mrs. Claar, Ms. Zigner, Mrs. Sites - your dedication to the PA FBLA Competitive Events Program and to the Middle Level Division of this organization does not go unnoticed! It takes a special group of people to pull off the tasks you do.

To Mrs. Skiles - you never cease to amaze me with all your planning for our conferences and meetings. Every detail is always taken care of, and you make sure we have everything we need when we need it. You are a very special person and I will miss the time spent at the conferences and events where I know every detail is already taken care of. Thank you, Mrs. Skiles, for all you do and all you have done for me these past two years.

Mr. Boncal - You are the true backbone of this organization. I will miss all the email updates for what is going on around the state, or our random emailing at twelve or one AM when we are both working on FBLA items. You take everything you do for this organization so seriously to make sure it is done correctly - and for that we all owe you a lot. Thanks, Mr. Boncal; it has been a great two years!

I must also say thank you to my school, the Sayre HS FBLA Chapter, my co-adviser Ms. Michelle Jennings, and the Sayre School District Administration, Faculty and Staff. You all have put up with me and my FBLA events, my campaigns, my ridiculous amounts of paper and handouts, and stressing out over awards. Not to mention, the most overly used phrase in Sayre FBLA ... yes James & Katelyn - "its in the handbook!" Thank you for your support these past two years. It takes a supportive administration, staff, and local chapter for any student to have this experience as a state officer.

There is a group of people that have a very special place in my heart. My first state officer team - Kara, Emily, Leandra, Holly, Daisy, Olivia, Will and Angela - you all have made such an impact on my life, in some ways that cannot be described.

Also, I have to thank this year's State Officer Team. Holly, Zach, Patrick, Eliot, Jasmine, Leanna, James and Audi - thank you all for making my second year as a State Officer a memorable one. I wish you all the best of luck in your future.

There are two other advisers who have been with me for the past two years who also I have to thank because they have been right there anytime I needed them. Mrs. Hughes and Miss Gavio, thank you for being there for me whenever I needed it these past two years. You are two people whom I look up to very much, and thank for all you have done, and the lifelong friendships you have given to me these past two years.

Miss Ryland - our state adviser. I'm not really sure where to begin. You have been there with me, and the rest of this team through everything - the late nights, the early mornings, the meetings that seem to last forever - and through all of this, you have been someone who we could go to anytime we needed it. Your dedication to this team and this organization is one that everyone should be appreciative of! I cannot say thank you enough for everything you have done for me these past two years. Since there is no other way to describe it --- *thank you!*

Mom and Dad -- You have put up with a lot these past two years, and for that matter these past eighteen years. Whether it was me never being home, stashing stuff all over the house, or when I am home constantly working on something - you have always been there to support me, and for that I cannot say enough! Thank you for always being there for me through everything. I love you.

Last but certainly not least, I must thank my adviser, Mr. Derek Selleck. You have made this experience for me these past two years truly amazing. From our long car trips listening, and sometimes singing along to music, to the late nights at school working on something FBLA related, to you putting up with everything I bring to these conferences, I cannot say thank you enough. You truly are an exceptional person who I owe a lot of gratitude for all that you have done for me. Thank you, thank you!

Finally, to the members and advisers of Pennsylvania FBLA - truthfully without you I would not have had this experience and opportunity to help lead you. Two years ago you gave me a first chance at this experience of a lifetime, and now two years later, I cannot say thank you enough. I hope that in some way, I have helped make your experience as an FBLA member one that you will remember forever. It has been an amazing experience to be able to meet so many of you and work with many of you. However, just because this year is coming to a close -- it does not end here. I challenge each of you to continue the excellence of this organization for years to come. Participate in as many FBLA related programs as you can. With all of your help, PA FBLA will continue to rise until we are the number one state in this organization.

Thank you PA FBLA for this experience to lead you. It has truly been an honor!

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# STATE SECRETARY

## Patrick Landers

The past four years as a member of FBLA have had an enormous impact on my life and future, and serving as a state officer this past year was an essential part of my FBLA experience. FBLA, and the state chapter of Pennsylvania in particular, possess many opportunities for members and I would highly recommend any interested member to run for state office. You will not regret the decision, whether you win or lose since the campaign process is so exhaustive.

My first memory from this year is meeting the entire state officer team and their advisers at the June Executive Committee meeting. Bonding with the other officers allowed me to meet other driven students who bring so many positive qualities to the table. Thank you Luke, Holly, Leanna, James, Jasmine, Zachary, Audriana, and Eliot for the many great memories we now share.

One thing I especially appreciate is the opportunity as a state officer to choose the state project, theme, goals, and plans of work and then striving to fulfill these goals. This is the part of the state officer experience that provides the greatest leadership growth.

Leading state conferences and representing PA FBLA at national conferences has given me a special sense of pride in PA FBLA. In particular, competing on the winning Battle of the States team at the Cincinnati NFLC is a memory that will stick with me. It was the fulfillment of many hours over four years spent researching FBLA and learning as much as possible about this great organization. Members of PA FBLA should be proud of the fact that they are part of the greatest state chapter of the greatest student organization in the country.

Another great part of serving as a state officer is the opportunity to meet members of the Board of Directors and State Management team. Notably, Mrs. Skiles, Mr. Boncal, and Miss Ryland all give so much to this organization and I'd like to thank them for their contributions. In particular, Miss Ryland as State Adviser has served as a wonderful mentor this past year.

A poignant quote I would like to leave the members of PA FBLA is by Mahatma Gandhi. "You must be the change you want to see in the world." As members of FBLA you are afforded the opportunities to grow. I hope to take the lessons I have learned and apply them throughout my life, and I encourage all members to do the same and get the most out of their FBLA experience.

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# STATE TREASURER

## James Rowe

It has been another great year for PA FBLA. Beginning with a record number of state awards at the National Leadership Conference, we have gone on to raise thousands of dollars and completed thousands of community service hours for the American Trauma Society. In addition, this year's State Leadership Conference was the largest one to date. It has been a great honor to serve as State Treasurer for a phenomenal organization in an exceptional year. I wish that I could meet every one of you and thank you for giving me the opportunity to be part of what makes this organization so amazing.

Unfortunately, meeting over 13,000 people scattered across the state might be a little difficult, so I'll settle for thanking you here in the Penn Pal. There are, however, some people that I would like to personally and publicly thank for everything they have done for me over the past year to assist while I served as State Treasurer. First all the State Officers. Luke, Holly, Patrick, Jasmine, Eliot, Audriana, Zach, and Leanna, have all done amazing things. As I look back over the last year, I am somewhat thankful for my straightforward job of counting thousands of dollars in checks. The next person I would like to thank is Miss Kristi Ryland, the State Advisor. She does more than anyone else to ensure the State Officers have a successful year, and I think that she can be proud of this year's accomplishments. I would also like to thank the Board of Directors of PA FBLA. Up until this year, I had no idea how much work goes into planning all the events throughout the year, and the entire board did a terrific job once again. I have no idea how they do it, but I am certainly thankful that they do. In specific, there is one person on the Board who deserves some extra recognition, and that is our Executive Director, Mr. Bruce Boncal. He has done more for this organization than anyone else, and it shows.

I would like to thank my chapter, Hershey High School, for the support it has given me this year. Being a State Officer meant a lot of arriving early and leaving late to events, and I haven't heard any complaints and my chapter was always there to support me whenever assistance was needed.

Last, but most importantly, Mrs. Bonnie Ritchey and Mr. Mike Gustantino, my advisors. They both did more for me than I will ever understand, and I am eternally grateful to them for that. Words really can't express how thankful I am, so I'm just going to settle for a simple "Thank you."

In farewell, I wish all of you in PA FBLA the best of luck in whatever you decide to do in the future, whether its college, the military, a job, or some other endeavor. I know that all of you are prepared for whatever lies ahead, and hopefully, I'll run into many of you in the future. Take care, PA FBLA. I'm expecting great things from you.

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# STATE REPORTER

## Jasmine Williams

As I look back on this year, I realize how fast a year really goes. I remember being extremely nervous when stepping on the stage for the first time at the 2007 SLC. I am grateful that you, the members allowed me this once in a lifetime opportunity. Being a member in this organization for the past four years, has taught me discipline, acceptance, management, and leadership.

I would like to thank the officer team this year. Luke, Holly, James, Leanna, Patrick, Audi, Zach, and Eliot, thank you for the great memories that this year had to offer. I know that all of you will go on to become very successful and I am glad that I can call all of you my friends.

Mrs. Doherty and Mrs. Miller- Thank you for the best four years. You are the best advisors that anyone could have and I will miss you!

My local chapter- HH FBLA, thank you for all of your hard work and dedication. I will miss all of you when this year ends, but I know you will continue to strive for the best. JC have a good year as a state officer!

State Management Team- Mr. Boncal, Mrs., Skiles, Mrs. Claar, Ms. Zigner, Board of Directors, and Executive Committee, thank you for all of your hard work. Without your expertise, PA FBLA would not be what it is today. I feel honored to have worked with some of you this year and I will never forget all that I have gained from each and every one of you.

Ms. Ryland- As the state advisor you go above and beyond for the state officer team. I have learned so much from you this past year, and I know that you are proud of what we have accomplished this year. I will miss you dearly!

To the members and advisors- I encourage you to become more and more active in FBLA each year, because you never know how life takes you. Without our members and advisors, PA FBLA would not be 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation! I am expecting PA FBLA to continue to excel and I wish everyone luck in their future endeavors.

**Keep Smiling :)**

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# STATE VICE PRESIDENT AT LARGE #1

## Audriana Negrón

As a three year member of FBLA I continue to be impressed by the organization, its members, and its contribution to the state of Pennsylvania. It takes plenty of effort and organization to make PA FBLA as successful as it is.

I would never have experienced this aspect of FBLA without the votes from the voting delegates at the 2007 SLC. I am very appreciative of this once in a life time learning experience. As a member of the officer team I had the opportunity to work with the excellent and wise staff members, so again, thank you from the bottom of my heart for electing me as your State Vice President at Large.

I met so many wonderful future leaders that prove that our country is, of course, in very good hands. Keep striving for that number one spot in competitions; you never know what the results will be, or what doors will open up!

For me, being a part of the group that chooses the state project was incredibly rewarding. Being able to choose which organization we would be helping this year was life changing. Charity work is stressed and so many people are touched by the effort put into a project. The American Trauma Society was an organization that we really had the chance to help, and we have.

From personal experience running for a state officer position and receiving that honor will be the most unforgettable and rewarding. I encourage you to take hold of your future and considering becoming a state officer candidate in future years. You will enjoy it and certainly won't forget it.

Once again thank you for a wonderful year and never give up. Put your heart and mind into all that you do, because your work is a reflection of you as a person and as a leader.

# STATE VICE PRESIDENT AT LARGE #2

## Zachary Roberts

This past year has been full of amazing experiences. I would like to thank Mr. Boncal, Miss Ryland, and Mrs. Skiles for all the hard work and long hours they have put into this organization. With out each of you, none of what we do could be possible. I would like to thank my advisor, Mr. Liechty for all the help and support he has given me this past year. To my parents I would like to say thank you for all the last minute preparations for my campaigns and conferences. And finally I thank you PA FBLA members for the confidence and trust you had in me to run this organization. Your dedication to Pennsylvania FBLA has made me proud to be one of your state officers.





# STATE VICE PRESIDENT AT LARGE #3

## Eliot White

Well, it's hard to believe it's been a little over a year ago since I was nervously awaiting my turn to give my campaign speech to over 3000 members at the 2007 SLC. The sight of seeing all of those members gathered together to share for one reason, the pursuit of success and happiness was truly awe-inspiring. From that moment on, I knew how much of an amazing experience I would have.

At the NLC, shortly after being elected I experienced the success of FBLA on the national stage as I cheered on our competitors and waved proudly the giant Pennsylvania flag. At the SLW, I had many opportunities to network with other members and advisors, as well as help kick off our fundraising during the White-Out, Charity Walk, Pledge Program, and Basket Auction. Taking part in presenting the SLC this year was truly the peak of our FBLA year and my officer experience. Filled with fun, intense competition, friends, and a few lessons learned, the 2008 SLC was going out with a "Bang!", and for that I want to thank all of you. As I have seen PA FBLA from a state officer angle I was truly able to appreciate all that we have to offer, more than I could have ever before!

The pride instilled the experience and knowledge gained, and the relationships forged have not only better equipped me for future success, but has made me a better version of me. PA FBLA is our excellent organization that we all help to make a success! I am proud to say that I am a member of PA FBLA, and it, along with all of you, will certainly have a place in my heart always.



# STATE PARLIAMENTARIAN

## Leanna Noon

As I write this article, I am saddened with the thought that my time with FBLA is coming to an end. FBLA has been the single most influential organization that I have ever had the privilege of being a member. My years with FBLA were filled with exciting workshops, entertaining keynote speakers, fierce competition, travel, long nights and early morning work sessions.

As a state officer I had the chance to meet and network with hundreds of members from across the state and nation that share my same passion for this student organization. I have created friendships that will transcend through my years in college and hopefully even further. These friendships are among the most valuable aspects of my time with FBLA. I would like to thank all the state officers for the times in executive committee. All eight of the officers are exceptionally intelligent and talented individuals. Good luck to each of you in all your future plans, although I know luck is not needed in your case.

To the officers of my local chapter, I sincerely thank you for all the hard work and time you have poured into ensuring that our chapter will be a success. Rachel, Olivia, Leandra, and Nick, all the amazing times will remain in my memories. The NFLC in Cincinnati will remain as one of the best times of my senior year.

Mrs. McDonald, you have been with me during every step of growth in FBLA. You were there when I signed up as a lowly freshman and you remain as my mentor within the organization. Thank you for pushing me to first compete and then delve into the organization as a local, regional, and state officer. It is with your guidance that our Parliamentary Procedures Team was able to place seventh in the nation at the NLC.

Thank you, Miss Ryland, for pushing our state officer team to do something new. This year we chose a state project that would challenge our membership. We also faced new obstacles, and together I believe we came out on top.

Most importantly, thank you, members of PA FBLA for allowing me the privilege of serving you as a state officer. The officer team came together at the beginning of the year to set goals for PA FBLA, but without your involvement and support we never would have become as successful as we are today. Serving as a state officer is truly a humbling experience and I would encourage any member to serve in the same capacity.

I extend my best wishes to all chapters in Pennsylvania and the newly elected State Officer Team. Continue to grow and serve to the best of your abilities. Remember, "If you're not living on the edge, you're taking up too much space."