

Penn Pal

VOLUME XXIV, ISSUE I

SEPTEMBER 2008

Pennsylvania FBLA:

I hope everyone had an exciting summer! Let's get ready to start another great year for Pennsylvania FBLA!

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Winners

PA FBLA had great success this past summer at the National Leadership Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. As a state, we brought home 50 individual, team, and chapter awards, in addition to multiple open event and state awards. We also claimed a new record of 12 first place awards. With over 300 attending we definitely made a huge impression. Congratulations to all our winners, and thank you for making PA FBLA proud!

In the upcoming year, there are many ways that you can learn to "Get the Edge"!!

I encourage each of you to participate in a competitive event this year. This is a great way to become involved in all levels of PA FBLA. In addition, there are many goals and plans of work that your state officer team has set to help continue the PA FBLA tradition of excellence!

Our state project this year, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, has many opportunities for monetary and community service donations. I would like to encourage each of you to explore the opportunities this organization has to offer.

Finally, to further enhance your 2008-09 PA FBLA year, I hope you will attend the conferences and workshops available to you. Get other chapter members involved as well at your respective RLW and RLC. Also, don't forget about the SLW in State College in October, and the NFLC in Washington D.C. in November.

Make the most of this upcoming year! I can assure you, your time spent participating in FBLA activities, with other members from across your region, state, and nation will create lifetime memories and opportunities!

Best of luck in the year ahead!

Sincerely,

Zachary Roberts, President Pennsylvania FBLA

Get to know your State Officers!



State Officers with the wreath they laid on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. From Left to Right: Kelly Vaganhas, Thinh Nguyen, Stacie Beegle, Katie Willard, Zach Gosling, Zach Roberts, Justin Coleman, Fallon Shaffer, and Curtis Voelker.

My name is **Zach Roberts** from Athens Area High School! I'm currently a senior and this will be my third year in FBLA and my second year as a state officer. My favorite past times are reading, skiing, and boating. After high school I plan to attend Temple or Villanova University to study corporate law.

Hi, I am **Thinh Nguyen**, a senior at Cumberland Valley High School. I am currently serving as the First Vice President of PA FBLA. In addition, I am also serving as the President of Region 26 and the President of my chapter's FBLA. Since freshman year I have been an active member of FBLA. Besides FBLA I am also involved in the Technology Student Association, Science Olympiad, National Honor Society, and Chess Club. I am ambitious, open-minded, and curious. In my spare time I enjoy playing tennis, basketball, reading about technology and business news, meeting new people, and learning new things. In college I plan to major in Computer Engineering with a minor in Business.

Hello PA FBLA members, I'm Fallon Shaffer your State Secretary from Chestnut Ridge High School. This will be my fourth and final year in FBLA and I'm sad to see it go. In addition to serving as your State Secretary, I am also my local secretary and the Region 17 secretary. Apart from FBLA I am my school's local NHS secretary, I play clarinet and bass clarinet for band, I twirl rifle and saber with the color guard, and I work at a local ice cream stand called the Cow. After high school I plan to attend either Geneva, Gettysburg or Juniata College for my bachelor degree in Chemistry and then move on to further my education by completing my doctorate.

I'm Curtis "Superman" Voelker. I was Littlestown's chapter Treasurer and am serving as President of the Littlestown chapter for my second year in a row. I am also serving as Region 6 President for my second year in a row. I have participated in football for 6 years. I have been an active member of Student Council from being Freshman Class President to being a 4 time class representative while also doing the schools announcements which are broadcasted on a live video feed throughout the school, and serving on the Nutrition Committee for 4 years. I am going into my second year as Littlestown's DECA President; I have been Sons of the American Legion Sergeant at Arms. I am a 2 time member of the Carls Perkins Board and staff reporter for my school newspaper "The Echo". In the past I was invited to speak to Pennsylvania Lawmakers at the State Capitol on the passing of House Bill 302. I plan on entering the military after high school most likely into the Air Force or the Marines. I am also a college football fan and a fan of the weight room, thanks to my football coaches.

Hello Pennsylvania, I'm Katie Willard, your Reporter from Waynesboro Area Senior High School. I'm a Senior and this is my fourth year as a member of FBLA. Activities I'm involved in include playing indoor and outdoor field hockey, announcing for WASHS JV and Varsity baseball teams, writing for the school newspaper and also Waynesboro's local newspaper, and Girl Scouting. My interests include attending Baltimore Orioles games, being Brian Roberts' biggest fan, traveling, shopping, watching movies, working out, and spending time with my friends and family. After High School I plan to major in Sports Communications so that I can pursue a career as a Major League Baseball announcer or reporter.

Hello, my name is Justin Coleman and I am your 2008 - 2009 Vice President at Large from Hatboro-Horsham High School. I have been around the FBLA community all my life because Josh Coleman, who is my brother, was a national officer in his senior year after being a state officer multiple times throughout his high school career. Josh is the man that got me interested in FBLA in the 8th grade where I started our middle schools FBLA chapter. I then went to high school and became a state officer this year, so I am now working on my 3rd year in FBLA. My hobbies consist of snowboarding, skateboarding, surfing, skim boarding, and sometimes playing on the computer. I have skim boarded and snowboarded now for 9 years. I used to skateboard all the time, but now I have somewhat given that up and put more time into the other three extreme sports. Although in my opinion surfing is not as much fun as skim boarding, I still sit out there on my board to be with my brothers. I hope you guys find me as exciting as my life really is!

Hey I'm **Zach Gosling** from Cocalico High School. I'm currently serving as one of PA FBLA's Vice President's at Large. Some activities and interests of mine include FBLA, football, the World Wide Web, snow and water skiing, music, business, hanging out with friends, and motorcycling. In addition I have developed and maintain GozBay.com which is an internet auction website (setup to compete with eBay) that receives in excess to 5 million hits each month.

I'm Kelly Vaghenas from Stroudsburg High School. I've been in FBLA two years and am one of PA FBLA's Vice President's at Large. Activities I'm involved in include FBLA, Model Congress, Model United Nations, Dance Teams, Show Choir, Tennis Team, School Musical, and French Club. Dancing is my passion. I am trained in many styles of dance. My other hobbies include singing, painting, reading, making and selling jewelry. After High School I plan to attend college and study business, foreign languages, and dance. I will audition to be a Radio City Rockette. I absolutely love to travel, so I hope to journey to new places around the world.

I'm Stacie Beegle from Chestnut Ridge and this year I am going to be a senior and will be going into my 4th year as a member of FBLA. Other than FBLA I am enrolled in NHS, Spanish Honor Society, Student Council, Model UN, and my school's tennis team. Outside of school, I enjoy cooking, reading, music, going to movies, Chinese food, and just about anything that involves my friends. After graduating high school, I plan on attending a private college in Pennsylvania and majoring in pre-med science. I then plan to attend medical school where I will decide what type of medicine I want to specialize in.

Goals and Plans of Work

By: Zach Gosling, VP at Large

STATE GOALS State Project:

The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

Theme:

Committing Ourselves to the Breath of Tomorrow

Fundraising Goal:

Raise \$65,000 for The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

Community Service:

Donate 65,000 community service hours over 2 years

Membership & Promotion:

Develop Region Officer Involvement Increase Membership to 14,000 members, 300 high school and 13 middle level chapters 2 Professional Division Members Per Chapter Initiate Corporate Sponsors

<u>Incentives & Promotions</u> Membership Incentives on ALL Levels

<u>Individual:</u> Membership Madness / Membership Mania (Entered into a drawing for prizes, like an iPod or Digital Camera)

<u>Chapter:</u> +9 in `09 (Each participating chapter will be eligible to bring a "member-at-large" to the SLC)

Region: +9 in `09 (Eligible Regions will receive Reserved Seating near the front of the Great American Hall at the SLC)

Promotional Video Competitions

<u>Membership Recruitment:</u> The producers of the winning video will be eligible to attend the SLC, recognized on stage for their achievement, and have their video shown during the Opening Session.

<u>Corporate Sponsorship</u>: The producers of the winning video will be receive recognition at the SLC (this competition DOES NOT qualify and individual or team for the SLC).

SLC T-Shirt Design Competition:

Winning design individual or team will be recognized at the SLC.

PLANS OF WORK

Keystone Leadership Award

— Zachary Roberts

Big 33 Community Service Awareness

— Zachary Roberts

Region Officer Information Brochure

— Thinh Nguyen

Professional Division Recruitment

— Thinh Nguyen

Membership Video Contest

— Thinh Nguyen

Business Achievement Awards

- Fallon Shaffer

Local Chapter Recruitment

— Fallon Schaffer

Power of the Pledge Program

— Curtis Voelker

Putting The Fun Back in Fundraising

- Curtis Voelker

Penn Pal

— Katie Willard

Middle Level Calendar of Events

— Katie Willard

+9 in '09 Membership Incentive Program

— Justin Coleman

SLW Sea-of-Blue T-Shirt Sale

— Zachary Gosling

SLC T-Shirt Design Contest & SLC T-Shirt Sale

— Zachary Gosling

SLW Charity Walk

- Kelly Vaghenas

State Leadership Workshop Basket Auction

— Stacie Beegle

2008-2009 State Project

By: Curtis Voelker, Treasurer

ennsylvania Future Business Leaders of America is widely known as one of the most successful state chapters in the nation. In fact, it stands fourth in the nation for membership and was ranked as one of the top chapters at the 2008 NLC.

Every year, the state officer team has the pleasure of selecting PA FBLA's state project. This organization and PA FBLA work together to ensure the success of both organizations. In June, the state officers met to choose the state project.

Three prospective state projects were chosen as finalists. These organizations came and made a presentation as to why they should be chosen as this year's state project.

The organizations were:

- The Multiple Sclerosis Foundation
- Easter Seals Foundation
- Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

After a lengthy discussion, the officers eagerly announced the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation the PA FBLA state project for the 2008-2009 school year. The theme for this years partnership is "Committing ourselves to the Breath of Tomorrow."

A fundraising goal of \$65,000 was established for this year and chapters throughout the state are encouraged to focus on working with and raising money for this years state project. If you wish to make a donation to Cystic Fibrosis Foundation checks should be made payable to "PA FBLA State Project" and mailed to:

Curtis Voelker PA FBLA Treasurer Littlestown High School 200 East Myrtle Street Littlestown, PA 17340

To find out how your chapter can get involved with The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, simply go to the PA FBLA website — www.pafbla.org and navigate to the State Project section. There you will find the Tool Kit that has been created to assist with your fundraising and community service needs.



...adding tomorrows every day.

State Leadership Conference Recap

By: Justin Coleman, VP at Large

n Sunday, March 30th thousands of Pennsylvania's top regional competitors arrived with thoughts of a week filled with fun and excitement.

Starting Monday, all speaking events began their preliminary rounds and students showed off their work that had been prepared for months. Competitors all had the dream to be on stage during the closing ceremony, but after the first rounds of their event, they knew this would not be an easy feat to overcome.

That night was the famous opening ceremony where the official kick off of the 2008 State Leadership Conference took place. There were high hopes and tons of excitement as members cheered and screamed during the ceremony. During this same ceremony, 17 potential state officers gave speeches and later campaigned for only 9 offices. We also had an awesome inspirational speaker, Justin Boudreau, come and talk to our whole organization.

Tuesday started early for almost all competitors. Finals began with the speaking events and the test events began their first and only rounds. Many members that had been studying hard for the past few months got to show what they do best during this day. It is better to study hard and know the answers than to not study enough and struggle the whole way. All though this day was full of competition, there was also a friendly and fun atmosphere for those that were not competing at that second. Many groups were seen enjoying themselves in the lobby or separate hotel rooms throughout the day.

Tuesday night was the closing ceremony and thousands of anxious competitors showed up to see if the nights of studying or practicing their speeches would put them on the stage. All night hundreds of names were called as excited winners ran to the stage to accept their awards. The ceremony closed with the good-byes of the previous state officers and the induction of the 08-09 officers. In the end the winners were:

State president

Zachary Roberts

State Ist Vice President
Thinh Nguyen

State Secretary

Fallon Shaffer

State Treasurer

Curtis Voelker

State Reporter

Katie Willard

State Vice President at Large 1, 2, and 3

Justin Coleman Zachary Goslin Kelly Vaghenas

State Parliamentarian

Stacie Beegle

Congratulations to our new officers!

Wednesday was the final day of the 2008 SLC. Many competitors who won left with awards in their hands, while those who did not make it to the stage left with the will and drive to make it next year. As a state officer, I am looking forward to seeing you all in 2009!

Executive Committee Summer Activities

By: Stacie Beegle, Parliamentarian

his year, the June Executive Committee Meeting was held in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on June 11th. It was here that the officers were given the opportunity to get to know one another as well as to discuss plans for the upcoming year. The team devoted numerous hours to choosing these plans, but the trip did not consist just of hard work.

On Friday, June 13th, state officers, advisors, and board members embarked on a journey to our nation's capitol. Our first stop of the outing was none other than the White House, where we were given the opportunity to tour a beautiful building rich with our nation's political history. We then traveled a short distance to the Lincoln Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Here everyone was able to walk around and experience all that these two great places had to offer. The history did not stop there, but continued at the World War Il Memorial, a picture perfect place with a beautiful fountain surrounded by huge pillars engraved with the names of all of the states.







After this stop, it was back onto the bus and headed in the direction of Arlington National Cemetery. The cemetery is such a peaceful place, but it evoked many emotions. Actually being able to see the rows and rows of tombstones seemed surreal. This gave all of us insight as to how many soldiers actually lost their lives in battle for our country. In gratitude for all of the soldiers that have given their lives for our country, Pennsylvania FBLA was given the opportunity to lay a beautiful wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Four of the officers took part in the sacred ceremony of laying the wreath, while others observed the ceremony from close by.

Washington D.C. and Arlington had a lot to offer, but there was one last stop none more fitting than FBLA's national headquarters in Reston, Virginia. We were able to talk to the small group of people who work there, as well as meet the president and CEO of FBLA, Jean Buckley.

The stop at Reston concluded our leisurely trip, but there is nothing to be forgotten of a day full of excitement, history, and a look into the heart of FBLA.

State Leadership Workshop Preview By: Thinh Nguyen

ning of a new school year, FBLA is once again in session, and as the premier student business organization, FBLA is all about giving its members the skill-sets and opportunities needed to succeed. This is why we are again hosting the annual State Leadership Workshop at the Penn Stater Conference Center from Sunday, October 26 to Monday, October 27. This is an opportunity for members to hone their leadership skills and to "Get the Edge" in becoming the next generation of business leaders.

In repeating with past traditions, there will be numerous helpful and informative workshops presented by Tri-Leadership Trainers. Some of these workshops include: Personal Success, Entrepreneurship, Commu-



nication, and Teambuilding.

Other repeating events include the Charity Walk and the Charity Auction. All chapters attending the SLW are encouraged to make a basket to be auctioned off at the SLW. This year, how-

ever, instead of having al White Out, where members can buy white SLW T-shirts to wear at the conclusion of the workshop, the T-Shirts will be blue in recognition of Cystic Fibrosis. It will now be known as "The C of Blue." The money raised from all these events will go to support our State Project this year, The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Of course, we will once again be conducting the Battle of the Chapters, so get your team ready to compete! The SLW is going to be great fun and it will help you "Get the Edge." We, the State Officers, will be there and we hope you can be there to join us!

National Leadership Conference 2008 By: Kelly Vaganhas

his past June, the PA FBLA delegation traveled to the busy city of Atlanta to be a part of the 2008 National Leadership Conference! After a year of putting "Leadership in Action," approximately 300 PA FBLA members and advisers had the opportunity to experience an amazing week of nonstop activity!

Not long after arriving in the Atlanta airport on June 24, they were whisked away and bussed to Stone Mountain - the world's largest exposed granite monolith!



Stone Mountain Park

Those who wanted a closer look could take a scenic sky ride to the top of the mountain! Down below was a unique amusement park open to everyone.

At the Railroad Pavilion just outside the park, members and advisers enjoyed an American cookout as well as games and entertainment. Some spent the evening at Turner Field, rooting for the Atlanta Braves! Others got settled early in the spectacular 1,569-room, 50-story Marriot Marquis hotel.

NLC continued

People belonging to the PA FBLA delegation were easy to spot on June 25. Dressed for success in their apple green jerseys, members and advisers woke up early to attend the PA meeting, where the state officer team demonstrated



"Pennsylvania proud" cheers. A special preview of the 2008-2009 PA FBLA year was presented when the upcoming state project, its theme, and the corresponding goals were announced. The day was off to a great start, and it only got better!

The next event on the agenda was a tour of the New World of Coca-Cola, which holds the world's largest collection of Coke memorabilia! A breathtaking "pop culture" gallery featured many artistic crea-



tions that highlighted the magic of Coca-Cola, and a modern 4-D theater show - that is, a 3-D movie with moving seats - was quite impressive! The grand finale of the tour was a taste test

experience! Members and advisers had over 60 Coca-Cola products to sample, and they quickly found their favorites! The universal message of the New World of Coca-Cola is to appreciate diversity. The delegation learned that just as people from around the world are brought together by their love of Coca-Cola, people at the NLC are joined in celebration of FBLA!

Then the Georgia Aquarium welcomed PA FBLA to its underwater empire. From African penguins to baby beluga whales, PA FBLA saw it all!



Members and advisers had been saving their appetites for dinner at the famous Brazilian steakhouse, Fogo de Chão. With 15 different cuts of meat, plenty of savory side dishes, a delectable buffet of gourmet salads, and a heavenly array of desserts, this restaurant definitely satisfied our FBLA members! The "continuous service" system kept the Gaucho chefs on their toes.

June 26 began with a half-day guided tour of Atlanta. This sightseeing adventure included a visit to the Martin Luther King Center and lunch at The Varsity - the world's largest drive-in restaurant! The official kickoff of the NLC was the Opening Session in the grandiose Georgia

World Congress Center later that night. Campaign speeches were delivered by the new candidates for national office, and a motivational speech was made by Heather Schulz, the dynamic keynote speaker.

The competition started to heat up over the next two days; however, PA FBLA members kept their cool. During free time, competitors had the chance to attend business-related workshops and to journey through the maze of campaign and exhibit booths!

June 29 brought the highly anticipated Awards of Excellence Program. PA proved to be one of the superpowers of FBLA as its state competitors continued to be called to the stage! PA FBLA tied a record by collecting 50 awards altogether, but broke another record by earning 12 first-place awards!



State Officers at the NLC in Atlanta, Georgia.

PA FBLA knows the way to end a perfect evening. To top it all off, the PA delegation indulged in a Maggie Moo's ice cream party! Countless memories were created at this year's NLC. The PA leaders flew home on June 30, treasuring those memories in their hearts and minds while looking ahead to the future.

NLC Award Winners By: Fallon Shaffer

Congratulations PA FBLA on another amazing year! We tied our record of wins by receiving 50 wins at the Awards of Excellence program at nationals and broke our record of first place wins by bringing home an astounding 12 first places. Here are your winners Pennsylvania FBLA. Be sure to congratulate them as you see them!

First Place Winners:

Business Communication: Max Wang, Great Valley High School

Business Law: Ethan Marshall, Bayard Rustin High School

Business Math: Kevin Day, Garnet Valley High School Business Plan: Josh Neatrour, Chestnut Ridge High School

Cyber Security: John Martinelli, The Kiski School

Database Design/Applications: Robert Watson, Jersey Shore Area High School Electronic Career Portfolio: Mitchell Kowalchick, Western Wayne High School

Intro. to Parliamentary Procedure: James Sun, Wissahickon High School

Network Design: Justin Gamble, Zach Leuschner, William Trinker, Easton Area High School Parliamentary Procedure: Stacie Beegle, Leanna Noon, Seth Shaffer, Olivia Webb; Chestnut

Ridge High School

Public Speaking I: Marci Crawford, Claysburg-Kimmel High School

Second Place Winners:

Cyber Security: Jesse Taylor, Abington High School

Digital Video Production: Kristen Murray, Jose Nery, John Yang Hazleton Area High School

Intro. to Business Communication: Kelly Vaghenas, Stroudsburg High School Intro. to Parliamentary Procedure: Katie Quinn, Western Wayne High School

Technology Concepts: Angelo LaRocca, Hazleton Area High School

Third Place Winners:

Client Service: Sam Belsterling, Delaware Valley High School

Network Design: Noah Purdy, Brandon Sherry, Collin Thomas Forbes Road Parliamentary Procedure: Kelsey Diltz, Patrick Landers, Tiana Lukas, Basant Nassar,

Kiersten; Young Central Columbia High School

Personal Finance: Kevin Hixson, Emmaus High School

Web Site Development: James Burke, Nancy Ng, Alicia Salvadeo Stroudsburg High School

Word Processing II: Dana Griesback, Pleasant Valley High School

Fourth Place Winners:

Client Service: Stacy McClellan, Bishop Canevin High School

E-business: Matt Carty, Zach Gosling, Andrew Prevoznik Cocalico High School

Management Decision Making: Nathan Blandino, Tyler Grubbs Pine-Richland High School Web Site Development: Alicia Baltusavich, Joe Barush, Matt Basta; Wyoming Area High School

Word Processing II: Samantha Hrbek, Pleasant Valley High School

Fifth Place Winners:

Digital Video Production: Mike Carrrea, Justin Chun, Jonno Rattman; Stroudsburg High School Networking Concepts: Brian Wyant, Easton Area High School

Sixth Place Winners:

Business Math: Brian Chang, Unionville High School Cyber Security: Andrew Sauber, Wissahickon High School Economics: Michael Pierce, Pleasant Valley High School

NLC Award Winners Continued

Seventh Place Winners:

Business Calculations: Stephen McDonald, Sullivan County High School

Business Financial Plan: Julisa Basak, Amy Chen; Prima Das Upper Darby High School

FBLA Principles/Procedures: Chloe Karnick, Western Wayne High School Intro. to Business Communication: Lisa Xiu, Bayard Rustin High School

Networking Concepts: Edward Tworek, Forbes Road AVTS

Spreadsheet Applications: Andrew Smolarski, Boyertown Area High School

Eighth Place Winners:

Business Presentation: Chynna Bragg, Michael Callahan, Mitchell Vitovsky;

Western Wayne High School

FBLA Principles/Procedures: Jenevieve Clauss, Western Wayne High School

Global Business: Todd Bauer, Colton Bower, Matthew Campbell;

Boyertown Area High School

Virtual Business Challenge: Lily Newton, Jersey Shore Area High School

Ninth Place Winner:

Business Procedures: Nathan Guaglionone, Wissahickon High School

Tenth Place Winners:

Business Communication: Shikha Saxena, Freedom High School

Intro. to Parliamentary Procedure: Renee Reeke, Western Wayne High School

Partnership with Business Project: Fleetwood Area High School Spreadsheet Applications: Kristy Jackson, Central High School

Virtual Business Challenge: Seth Lengel, Cortney Rishel; Jersey Shore Area High School

Special Recognition:

Who's Who in FBLA: Luke Skerpon, Sayre Area High School

Outstanding Adviser: Renee Hughes, Pine Grove Area High School

National Adviser Wall of Fame Additions:

Brenda DeWire, Central Columbia High School

Renee Hughes, Pine Grove Area High School

Janet Skiles, Bentworth High School

Other Pennsylvania Awards:

State Recruitment of Chapters: Pennsylvania (18 new/reactivated chapters)

Largest State Chapter Membership in the Eastern Region: Pennsylvania

Largest Local Chapter Membership in the Eastern Region: Hazleton Area High School

State Recruitment of Chapters in Eastern Region: Pennsylvania

(18 new/reactivated chapters)

Local Market Share Award in Eastern Region: Bishop Canevin High School

Largest Professional Division in Eastern Region: Pennsylvania

Largest State Chapter Membership: Pennsylvania (13,184 members)

Congratulations once again Pennsylvania FBLA! Keep up the good work and help to make next year even better!



Pennsylvania Award Winners at the National Leadership Conference held in Atlanta, Georgia.

Articles for the November issue are due to Katie Willard no later than October 15th.

Please submit by emailing to:

reporter0809@pafbla.org

Or by mail:

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