

# Penn Pal



**Inside this Edition:**

- SLC Preview
- Profiles
- Local Chapter Activities
- Go Green!

## State Leadership Conference Preview

By: Katie Willard, Reporter

A stay at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center will certainly satisfy not only your chocolate dreams, but also your hopes for an exciting FBLA State Leadership Conference! The lucky competitors from across the state, who placed at regions, will be in the sweet little town of Hershey from March 30 through April 1. If this is your first time attending the event, be sure to look out for the giant Hershey Kiss decorations attached to the streetlights as your school bus rolls down the lane leading to the lodge.

There will be a dynamic opening session during which you will hear the wise words of a keynote speaker as well as the speeches from the candidates campaigning to be a part of next year's PA FBLA

state officer team. In your free time, check out the exhibit booths in the Great American Hall Lobby. There, you will find information about colleges, businesses, student organizations, etc. and will most likely walk away with quite a few free giveaways!

A variety of workshops will inform and inspire you, as you will have the opportunity to attend everything from Business Etiquette to How to Become a Millionaire!

Before you know it, the Awards of Excellence program will be the next event on the agenda. A grand check will be presented to a representative from this year's state charity, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. The newly elected state officers will be installed. Competitive event

winners will be announced and will proudly walk across the stage to receive their awards.

The best of PA's best will make it to the National Leadership Conference, which will be held this June in Anaheim California. Good luck with your events!

Award-winners or not, you will all return home from the State Leadership Conference with a sense of achievement - and a whole lot of memories.



# PA FBLA State Management Team

## Bruce Boncal: Executive Director

Mr. Bruce E. Boncal is the current Executive Director of Pennsylvania FBLA and it comes with a lot of responsibilities. Some of these items include handling membership, taking care of FBLA finances, maintaining the FBLA web site, enforcing FBLA policies, and providing support to local chapter advisors.

He became a part of Pennsylvania FBLA in 1980 when he became the adviser at Jersey Shore Area High School. This means he is going into his 29<sup>th</sup> year of working with PA FBLA, but if you count the years that he was with Phi Beta Lambda, it would be a total of 31 years that he has been affiliated with FBLA-PBL organization. He was a part of Phi Beta Lambda while attending Bloomsburg University of PA. He obtained a B.S. in Business Education, a M.Ed. in Business Education and a M.S. in Instructional Technology.

He has been active in our organization so long because he enjoys giving students an opportunity to build leadership skills, doing community service, and having them demonstrate their academic achievement in FBLA-related

competitive events. He also enjoys hearing from former members about how FBLA has helped them become successful.

Besides FBLA, his favorite hobbies are computer-related activities, caring for his cats, decorating for Christmas, and walking the Rails to Trails that is available in his area. His favorite book is *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff....and It's All Small Stuff*. This is a book about how to live a less stressful life by not getting so caught up in the trivial details of life. Instead, a person should focus more on doing what "makes us or our loved ones happy."

## Janet Skiles: Conference Coordinator

Who has been an FBLA advisor for 31 years at Bentworth High School? How about, who started FBLA at Bentworth High School in 1978? The answer to both of these questions is Mrs. Janet Skiles.

Mrs. Skiles has created an honorable and noteworthy career in FBLA. Since 1987 she has been Region 4 advisor and a member of the PA FBLA Executive Committee since 1991. Mrs. Skiles FBLA resume does not stop there though. From 1993-2003 she was the PA state advisor, has been on the PA FBLA Board of Directors since

1991, has been PA FBLA's Conference Coordinator since 1992 and in 2008 she was nominated and accepted to the FBLA Advisor's National Wall of Fame!

So is there anything else you could say about her career? The answer to that question is yes! Mrs. Skiles has helped produce 8 state officers since 1992, has advised 4 National winners and has attended 18 National Leadership Conference's since 1987!

With everything in FBLA Mrs. Skiles has done, what does she like to do in her free time? First on her list of what she likes to do for fun, really shows her dedication to the organization.... FBLA! Besides FBLA Mrs. Skiles enjoys traveling, playing golf, caddying for her husband in tournaments, cooking and baking, shopping, spending time with her family, and helping others.

With what Mrs. Skiles has done thus far, it is hard to find out what else she can do, she practically has done it all! One thing is for sure, the students at Bentworth High School are very lucky to have had an advisor like Mrs. Skiles.

## Kristi Ryland: State Adviser

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Miss Kristi Ryland has been serving as the PA FBLA State Adviser since the spring of 2006. Her duties include: providing leadership training to the newly elected State Officer Team each year; assisting the state officers in setting their goals, and developing their plans of work to achieve those goals; to prepare the opening and closing session of the State Leadership Workshop; and assist in developing the opening session, the business session and the awards of excellence program at the State Leadership Conference.

Prior to taking over as state adviser she served as a local chapter FBLA advisor for five years and for four of those years she was an advisor to a state officer.

Miss Ryland is a 1990 graduate of Eastern Lebanon County High School. She went on to get her bachelor's degree in Business Education from Shippensburg University in 1995 and her master's degree in teaching and curriculum from Penn State University in 2001. Miss Ryland's teaching experience began in 1996 when she taught elementary computer to kindergarten through sixth graders at Linglestown Elementary in the Central Dauphin school district. After three years she transferred to Central Dauphin East High School where she taught a variety of business classes. After enjoying three years at Central Dauphin East she decided to find a teaching position a little bit closer to home. Through her years as an FBLA advisor at Central Dauphin East High school she

learned that Cocalico High School had a very successful FBLA program and she applied for a business education position when it opened in the summer of 2002. Miss Ryland has been a business teacher and FBLA advisor at Cocalico ever since.

When Miss Ryland is not devoting her time to FBLA she enjoys walking her yellow lab, Gibbs, as well as spending time with her nine year old nephew Chad. She also is very active in her church where she is currently serving her tenth year as the youth group leader. Some of her hobbies include: four-wheeling, photography, hiking and reading.

When asked Miss Ryland will tell you that she enjoys her role as state adviser which has enabled her the opportunity to get to know numerous fine, young individuals and to travel to various conferences and workshops around the country.

## Candace Claar: Co-Competitive Events Coordinator

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The State Leadership Conference is a big event that cannot be managed alone. There are many hands that go into making this conference as exceptional as it is. Mrs. Candace Claar, one of two competitive events coordinators, has played a key role in Pennsylvania FBLA over the years. As a competitive events coordinator, she arranges all judges, prepares performance event materials, and informs local and region advisors of changes in competitive events, along with many other important tasks.

Other than FBLA, Mrs. Claar is a teacher at Central High School in Martinsburg, PA, where she teaches Business Education and Cooperative Education. As a teacher, she tries to keep classes up-to-date, strives to give educational opportunities, and always keeps in mind what is best for the students.

Back in high school, Mrs. Claar was an active member in FBLA, and now she is a dedicated chapter advisor who enjoys seeing students who believe in themselves and feels that students will always be the stepping stones in education. Through being a member and advisor, she has learned the value of being prepared, organized, and patient. Some of her best memories include watching her students succeed and gain new experiences through an organization such as FBLA.

Despite the numerous hours spent in her classroom and devoted to FBLA, Mrs. Claar still finds time to watch movies, scrapbook, cook, golf, and read, as well as tend to her Rottweiler, Oden, and big fuzzy cat, Izzy.

Mrs. Claar is a dedicated individual who has made a positive impact on Pennsylvania FBLA. She has given much of her time and effort to FBLA, so if you see her at the State Leadership Conference do not be afraid to give her a simple wave, smile, or "you go girl."

## PA FBLA State Management Team (cont.)

### Stephanie Zigner: Co-Competitive Events Coordinator

Stephanie Rowe began her teaching career 7 years ago. Three months after starting to teach, the current FBLA advisor went on maternity leave and Mrs. Rowe became the advisor of a club with approximately 90 members. That year, three of her members qualified for Nationals! After being exposed to FBLA at the regional, state and national level, Mrs. Rowe realized what a great student organization

FBLA is, and consequently was elected to a seat on the Board of Directors.

In January 2004, Mrs. Rowe changed school districts. Although she was teaching middle school, she still decided to become the co-advisor of the districts high school FBLA chapter. For the last three years, Mrs. Rowe has served as co-advisor and advisor for Region 15 FBLA.

In October 2006 Mrs. Rowe became a Co-Competitive Events Coordinator for PA FBLA. In this position she shares responsibility for coor-

inating test writers, securing judges for school site tests and chapter events, and organizing the competitive event component of the State Leadership Conference.

Mrs. Rowe is the mother of two sons, Adam a senior in high school and Benjamin a sophomore. This year Adam will be attending the SLC with his high school, competing in Desktop Publishing. In her spare time, Mrs. Rowe enjoys attending her sons' sporting events, boating, four-wheeling, and traveling.

## Battle of the Chapter Champions

Western Wayne juniors Chloe Karnick, Katie Quinn and Renee Reeke emerged victorious in the Battle of the Chapters competition at the annual FBLA State Leadership Workshop held on the campus of Penn State University.

These members are no stranger to competition; each one has participated and placed in



the top 10 at a National Leadership Conference in FBLA Principles & Procedures and/or Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure.

This oral competition covers information about FBLA history, bylaws, competitive

events, etc. on the state and national level as well as parliamentary procedure and current events. Each chapter may enter a team of two or three members.

Western Wayne High School and arch-rival Chestnut Ridge High School squared off in the final round.



## Pleasant Valley Holds Denim Day

Once a month the Future Business Leaders of America at Pleasant Valley High School hold a Denim Day throughout the school district. On Denim Day teachers throughout the school district have the opportunity to pay \$3.00 to dress-down and wear a pair of jeans. Denim Day is held one Friday each month.

Each Denim Day benefits a different cause chosen and all proceeds are donated to it. This

past Denim Day was held on January 9, 2009. All money raised benefited the March of Dimes. Future Business Leaders of America have previously donated proceeds to other causes such as The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Breast Cancer, United Way, and Touch of Home. Denim Day is always very successful throughout Pleasant Valley and it will continue throughout the rest of the year.

## Many Fundraising Opportunities for Muncy

This year, Muncy High School's chapter of FBLA has been working to really "Get the Edge!" They are off to a great start with 63 members, and have high hopes for this school year, with new fundraising and community service projects.

Their first fundraiser this year was held at Muncy's Indianfest, where they sold Haywood's barbecue and mild wings for lunch. The fundraiser was an even bigger success than it has been in previous years. They also sold Little Caesar's Pizza kits to start raising money for the State Leadership Conference. In addition, they sold candy canes which were distributed to students, mimicking the well-known fundraiser from the film Mean

Girls! The proceeds of this fundraiser will go towards the state project, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Also for the state project, they held a Bowl-a-thon to raise money by taking pledges for games bowled.

Muncy FBLA's first volunteering project of the school year was with the local Salvation Army. A group of members helped with their Christmas toy shop, where they bagged and sorted gifts to be distributed to needy families for the holidays. The students look forward to taking part in more volunteer projects to come this year.

The officers also attended the State Leadership Workshop, where they took part in workshops and learned a lot about new



ideas to try with their local chapter this year. At this year's Regional Leadership Conference Muncy finished with twenty-three members—five of which were first place—qualifying for the State Leadership Conference to be held in Hershey, PA. With over one-third of their members qualifying, they have a lot to be proud of!

Overall, Muncy has been extremely active the first half of this school year, and look forward to continuing to "Get the Edge" and make the most of this year!

## Liberty High School Shows Success

Liberty High School has had a successful start so far. The chapter has a membership of 17 students, most of who were newly recruited this year. In the fall, the chapter members organized a dress-down fundraiser in which the teachers donated money to dress casually. However, unlike most dress-

down events, the Liberty members decided to dress professionally in their business attire in order to show their appreciation for the teachers. The money raised was donated to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Liberty also attended the Region 28 Leadership Conference held on January 6 at

Lehigh County Community College. At the conference, junior Puja Shah was elected the Region 28 Secretary. Senior Shikha Saxena placed first in her event, Marketing. Liberty FBLA is now looking forward to the State Leadership Conference!

## Forbes Road Assists at Retirement Home

The Forbes Road CTC FBLA Chapter in Region 11 has a holiday tradition which happens to be a community service project as well. Each year, members “Celebrate the Holidays” by sharing their time and talents with the folks at a local retirement facility. This year the students visited The Golden Living Center in Murrysville, PA, where they sang carols and played bingo with some of the residents. Santa and Mrs. Claus, as well as two of his elves were among the students attending!

The visit allowed the students to get a glimpse of life in such a facility and to brighten the day for some of the folks that live there. They paired up with residents who were unable to watch their own bingo cards and took great delight when their partner won a prize. Prizes were donated by students, advisors and other teachers at Forbes Road.



The students gained an insight to life in a retirement home and the residents, many of whom do not have regular visitors, got the chance to chat with the students, sing some carols and “Celebrate the Holidays!”

## Cocalico FBLA & Yearbook Staff ... ... A Perfect Partnership

Cocalico High School is buzzing about the partnership being formed between its FBLA chapter and Yearbook staff. The FBLA chapter is working with the Yearbook staff to market the “Fifty Years in Cocalico Sports” book that the Yearbook Staff has been hard at work producing.

The partnership came about when Mr. Joe Vulopas, Yearbook Advisor, approached Miss Kristi Ryland, FBLA Advisor, about the project and how he thought it would be a great opportunity for the two organizations to form a successful partner-

ship. Mr. Vulopas immediately thought of partnering with FBLA because there are several members of FBLA on the Yearbook Staff, including two officers, Matt Carty, Reporter and Andrew Prevoznik, Webmaster. Upon meeting to discuss the details, it was agreed to move forward. The goals for the FBLA members are to:

- 1) Market the book to Cocalico community members and
- 2) Make connections with local businesses that are willing to display and take orders for the books.

It has been an educational experience for all parties involved. The Cocalico FBLA members are learning marketing skills and techniques and are then both sharing them with the Yearbook staff members but also using them to promote the sale of the book. The Yearbook staff members are learning lessons in business and how it ties into numerous aspects of their projects. In addition, the advisors are learning the “ins and outs” of each others organizations. This partnership is a work in progress

## Waynesboro Plans Dance

As Waynesboro High School FBLA’s newest project, they will be hosting a non-formal Winter Dance. The Winter Dance has been a tradition for FBLA for many years now but this will be different from past years. This year, instead of a formal dance they are having a non-formal flashback dance. The dance will be held on Feb-

ruary 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009 from 7:00pm-10:00pm. In order to have the dance they will need to sell 100 tickets at 5 dollars a ticket. Since this isn’t a big dance, people would not be apt to buy new clothes for the dance, so instead, we thought of the fun idea of a flashback dance. Students can dress from any era, 70’s, 80’s or whatever they would like.

School rules however will be enforced, so the outfits can’t be inappropriate. This dance was made possible by the sophomore members of Waynesboro FBLA because they organized the whole dance in hopes of raising money for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.



## Chestnut Ridge Jumped Rope Into the New Year

Chestnut Ridge FBLA has focused on fitness as part of their community service efforts this year. As one component, the chapter invited a jump rope expert and inventor to speak to the entire high school. On December 19, 2008, Chestnut Ridge FBLA invited jump rope expert, Shane Douglas, inventor of Life Rope, to demonstrate the benefits of jump roping. The assembly was held in the gymnasium, and all high school students were invited to participate. Mr. Douglas has been performing his jump rope routine professionally for seventeen years and has performed at half-time shows and on television. He has also created his own line of jump ropes that are specifically designed to different heights.

Mr. Douglas displayed various jump roping techniques using his jump ropes and then invited the students to try. Other than showing students how to properly jump rope, Mr. Douglas provided the students with rules to remember when leading a healthy life. He said that the number one objective is to get proper sleep. The second step was to eat a proper diet. Eating a proper diet helps the body functions to operate properly. The final rule that Mr. Shane Douglas shared with Chestnut Ridge was to exercise. He also noted that this third rule was most easily attained when the first two rules are properly followed.

Along with giving the students a great jump rope show, Shane Douglas kindly donated seventeen jump ropes to Chestnut Ridge's fitness teachers and athletic programs. The presentation was part of a "Get Fit" program designed and implemented by Chestnut Ridge FBLA. This project is co-chaired by Darcie Shaffer and Stacie Beegle. The assembly was a huge success and students left for the holidays exhilarated and ready to get out there and start jump roping.



### JUST A REMINDER!

The last submission for this school years Penn Pal is due March 16th, 2009.

Credit for submissions after February 20th will be honored for next school year according to the Outstanding Chapter Criteria.



## Sayre Helps Community

Sayre FBLA is very busy with activities in the community. Recently, they collected over thirteen thousand cans for a local community pantry. This fundraiser is an annual tradition with a neighboring school district, and with the help of the FBLA, Sayre won for the second year in a row. The chapter receives most of its donations from students of the high school, who participate in a school-wide contest to see which grade collects the most. Overall, this fundraiser took a lot of hard work and careful planning, which included a dodge ball tournament that raised money to buy cans.

To make the tournament a reality, they had to organize a date and a location, and had to spread the word using posters, newspaper articles, and daily announcements. They had teams of 6 sign up for the event, and created an elimination knock-out bracket. This fundraiser created school spirit, competitiveness, and profit for the tournament. It was very successful and helped us win the food drive.

During the month of December, members of the Sayre chapter also went to local elementary schools to teach a class for the day with their own lesson

plans. Students read stories to children, made crafts, and even taught them some songs. The FBLA also went to the mall to wrap presents for the American Cancer Society. Through helping the community Sayre FBLA hopes to keep moving forward with its journey to "Get the Edge".



## Stroudsburg Enjoys Activities

Visiting our nation's capital for the NFLC was a highlight of the year for members of Stroudsburg FBLA. The conference gave many students a chance to experience the sights and sounds of Washington DC who had never had that opportunity. They took in the Smithsonian Mall area and dinner at the Hard Rock Café before the Opening Session of the conference. A very exciting element was having the President of China as a guest at the same hotel



as FBLA. Watching the Secret Service do their jobs up close was something new also.

The Region 21 Leadership Conference was held at a new venue this year. The event was held at East Stroudsburg University and went off without any problems. The Weather Gods were smiling since it was held on the one and only day of the week that wasn't snowing. All of Region 21's chapters were thrilled at the big change.

## A Message from the National President

This year FBLA is unveiling a brand new project idea and competition for your chapter-- the Go Green project. This project was initiated to allow our members to take part in the Green movement that is sweeping the country. Go Green is a chapter project consisting of two different parts. The first part provides the chapter with a list of 15 different activities in which they can participate. Some example activities are planting trees, carpooling to schools, and installing fluorescent light bulbs. Of these 15 activities each chapter will choose 9. In addition to these activities, each chapter will also come up with their own unique, signature project. This project will be the main focus of the competitions. At the end of the year, you will compile all of your work and submit it in a report to the national office in March. The national office will then select one winner from each of the five regions, and the winners will be announced at NLC in Anaheim. Be sure to ask your local or state adviser about the information on this project if you do not have it already. They can provide you with a project guide, which explains the project in great detail, and the guide will help direct you on how to successfully complete your projects.

I also encourage you to use your Go Green project to help increase your membership and raise money for your chapter. As for membership, I have found that many students who might not otherwise be interested in FBLA are drawn by the possibility of participating in the Go Green projects. Many students are extremely passionate about environmental and energy issues and will join FBLA just because of the Go Green project. As for fundraising, local utility companies often have substantial amounts of money that they can give away to charities. In fact, every year our science club receives almost \$2,000 or \$3,000 because of the work we do with energy and environmental projects. Go Green fits the definition of energy conservation and environmental awareness perfectly, and you have an excellent chance of obtaining money from your utility board or from other energy providers if you successfully complete your Go Green project.

These are just a few ideas, and they may or may not work in your chapter. However, I encourage you to use Go Green to advance the goals of your chapter in some way. If you have any further questions, you may contact your state officers, your state adviser, or myself at [fblapres@fbla.org](mailto:fblapres@fbla.org). Thank you for all of the work you do for our organization, and I look forward to a great year together.

Sincerely,

Joseph Riley  
National FBLA President



# FBLA "Go Green" Project