

## PA FBLA--Bruce Boncal

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**From:** Pennsylvania FBLA <kryland=pafbla.us@mail26.atl71.mcdlv.net> on behalf of Pennsylvania FBLA <kryland@pafbla.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2017 2:14 PM  
**To:** PA FBLA--Bruce Boncal  
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Pennsylvania FBLA Penn Pal 2016-2017

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# PA FBLA PENN PAL



**FEATURED IN THIS  
EDITION:**

STATE OFFICER  
FAREWELLS

STATE OFFICE GOALS

CHAPTER NEWS

**2016-2017**

**Volume XXXI |  
Fourth Edition**

Published by Allison McGeehan, PA FBLA Reporter  
([reporter@pafbla.us](mailto:reporter@pafbla.us))

**2016-2017**

## **A Legacy of Leadership**

Members and Advisors,

It's pretty hard to believe that we are less than a month away from this year's SLC! As this "FBLA season" comes to a close, I would first like to thank every chapter that has left their own "Legacy of Leadership" by submitting an article to the Penn Pal. It has been a privilege to read all about the amazing things members across Pennsylvania have done and share them with the rest of the state. I am confident that all of your futures will be bright ones

and I am so grateful for the opportunity to have served as your 2016-2017 state reporter. I can't wait to connect with many of you in Hershey in just a few short weeks and I wish you the best of luck in your competitive events!

Sincerely,

Allison McGeehan  
PA FBLA Reporter

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## STATE OFFICER FAREWELLS

### **Sarah Hohman - President**

Over the last four years I have been blessed with countless opportunities, a new world of experiences, and a second family of over 13,000 as a PA FBLA member and state officer. I've stood on many stages, traveled the country, competed, learned more than I could have ever imagined, and every day was inspired to reach higher and dream bigger thanks to every single person I met and the countless individuals who made it possible.

To Mr. Boncal, Miss Ryland, Mrs. Skiles, Mr. Skerpon, and Mr. Selleck, thank you for all you do for PA FBLA, and all you have done for me. None of you ever lost sight of the leadership strengths you saw in me, and never gave up on making them even stronger. You have an unparalleled passion and dedication for this organization and I am so grateful to have been a part of it.

To my adviser, Ms. Kieser, not a second of my journey would have been possible without you. Thank you for making my dreams a reality, and for all of the stops at Starbucks over the years. You give your all to ensuring that your members thrive, and I absolutely could not be more grateful to have been one of the lucky ones that had

you as their adviser.

To my fellow officer team; the seven of you have given so much time and energy to this organization, and I have you to thank for being the ones that made my last year the best possible. I will miss the late nights (not so much the early mornings), all the laughter, and every single one of our memories.

I could never forget the organization that changed the course of my future, and I could never forget the members that helped me achieve it all. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for allowing me to share in these experiences, so long for now, PA FBLA.

## **Kaitlyn Carrelli - Secretary**

It is crazy to think that in a few short months I will be graduating high school and leaving FBLA. They really do mean it when they say senior year goes by quickly. Thank you to Mr. Bonsal, Mrs. Skiles, Mr. Selleck, Mrs. Angle, Mr. Skerpon and Miss Ryland for all of the incredible work you do for Pennsylvania FBLA. While sometimes it may go unnoticed, your hard work and immense dedication is part of the reason why Pennsylvania FBLA has been so successful. The skills and memories you have all given me are priceless experiences that I am so grateful to have learned and they will truly help to guide me in my future endeavors.

To my advisor Mrs. Westerlund: you have encouraged me to thrive not only as a state officer, but as an individual. You have inspired me to work incredibly hard and I have only come close to the amount of tasks you flawlessly juggle on a daily basis. I appreciate the tremendous amount of time and energy you have dedicated toward our achievements and the success of our chapter. To my fellow state officers: we have become closer than merely best friends, but a true family. Looking back on my year some of my best memories were shared with each and everyone of you. I love you all so much and wish you all the best in the future. To my fellow seniors I will be sure to visit you all in college, and to my underclassmen I am confident in your ability to do amazing jobs as State Offices and FBLA members. I will most definitely keep in touch with you all.

Finally, to the members of Pennsylvania FBLA: I thank you for being a part of such an amazing organization and hope it has furthered each and every one of you as young business professionals. I hope that you all have taken in your experiences as a

PA FBLA members to the fullest and had fun along the way. I truly cherished the time I had as your State Secretary and am forever grateful for the opportunity to lead and grow with you all. May your memories in FBLA be as sweet as mine were.

## **Ram Palanati - Treasurer**

At my first State Leadership Conference three years ago, I recall seeing the State Officers on stage and thinking to myself, “I want to become that one day.” While I was unaware at the time, it is clear now that FBLA inspired something special inside me. It pushed me to accomplish things I never thought I would be able to, and serving as your state treasurer has truly been one of the best experiences of my life.

First and foremost, this year would not have been the same without the help of my advisers and the PA FBLA management team. With the help of Mr. Boncal, Ms. Ryland, Mr. Skerpon, and Mrs. Skiles, PA FBLA made great strides in carrying out its goal to empower students passionate about business. Seeing their work from behind the scenes has made me forever grateful for all they have done and accomplished for PA FBLA. However, no one has impacted me in a greater way than my adviser, Mr. McCloskey. From our long road trip discussions to hanging out in your room during school, Cloak has become a true role model from whom I have learned countless life lessons. I appreciate everything he has done for me.

But without you, the members of PA FBLA, our incredible organization would mean nothing. I would like to congratulate all of you on yet another year of making strong connections at conferences, fundraising for the state project, and bonding over our love for business education. For those of you graduating, I wish you all the best in your future endeavors, as I know you will continue to achieve great success by applying the skills we learned together in this organization. For the rest of you, I implore you to become even more involved in PA FBLA, whether it be through the Business Achievement Awards, the State Project, or even as a State Officer.

If there's one thing I learned this year, it is that leadership is not dependent upon a title—rather it is within us all. As such, it is our duty as the Future Business Leaders of America to find out how we can be leaders within our own lives. I know that as I go on to bigger and better things, I will never forget this important truth, along with many others, as the everlasting impact this incredible organization has left

on me. Thank you PA FBLA!

## **Allison McGeehan - Reporter**

As a great intellectual, Winnie the Pooh, once said, “How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.” My past four years in FBLA have been the highlight of my high school experience and have truly changed me as a person. What makes FBLA so extremely special and different from every club in the world, however, are you, the members. I cannot express how grateful I am to have met and spoke in front of hundreds of passionate, motivated students who I know will one day change the world. You constantly impress me with your hearts, brains, and talents, pushing me to be the best version of myself. I would be remiss without mentioning my amazing officer team, or more accurately put, second family. I don’t think I have ever survived on such little sleep or laughed as much as I do when we are together. In fact, if we were with each other 24/7, I may have had much more defined abs by now. You inspire me and I can’t wait to see what you all accomplish as our lives now take us down separate paths.

To my advisor, Mrs. Zucco- I still don’t know how you manage to do all of the things that you do. Over the past four years, you have not only been a teacher to me, but also a friend and mentor. I wouldn’t trade our long drives and conversations for the world, even those that involve a few wrong turns. Thank you for always believing in me and teaching me so much, from major life lessons to how to properly order espresso shots- an FBLA conference must. To the entire state management team, thank you for dedicating so much of your time and energy into the futures of thousands of students and for truly believing in us. I am amazed by the amount of work you do, and it most definitely does not go unnoticed.

As my time in FBLA comes to an end, my sadness is matched by an excitement to bring what I have learned through the club with me to both college and the real world. Serving as your state reporter has been one of the most amazing and memorable experiences of my life, one that, thanks to all of you, I will remember forever.

## **Shane Fagan - Vice President at Large**

Serving as your Vice President at Large has been the single greatest honor of my high school career. I have had the privilege to travel, speak, and network with thousands of people, developing myself into the person I am today. To the state management team, Miss Ryland, Mr. Skerpon, Mrs. Skiles and Mr. Boncal, thank you so much for honing my professionalism and being the driving force of this organization. To my adviser, Mrs. Maura Angle, thank you for your continued support and having such a significant impact on me, as I am proud to call you a second mom. To my fellow officer team, thank you for being the extended family I never had. We really have come so close in what seemed like such a short amount of time, and I know I can always count on you all in the future to achieve your dreams. Lastly, to the members, thank you for giving me the opportunity to stand before you today. I am forever indebted to you all, the backbone of Pennsylvania FBLA, and I cannot wait to see what's in store ahead.

## **Gabriel Kessler - Vice President at Large**

Pennsylvania FBLA has not only provided a platform for me to grow and prosper as a student and as a leader, but it is also home to some of the most inspiring and influential people I have ever met.

Words cannot describe how proud I am to be able to wear the Pennsylvania FBLA patch, representing all of you who aspire to lead and do incredible things in the future. I never take for granted the sheer privilege that I have to be able to serve on behalf of all of you, and I can't thank you enough for the support you have all given me throughout this journey.

Without a doubt, I wouldn't be standing here if it weren't for my truly incredible, selfless advisers, Mrs. Mulroy and Mrs. Kern. I can't thank you enough for the sacrifices you've made to get to me to where I am now, and I truly appreciate the help and guidance you've always provided without any hesitation.

To Mr. Boncal, Mrs. Skiles, Ms. Ryland, Mr. Skerpon, and Mr. Selleck - your commitment and dedication to PA FBLA are unparalleled. Witnessing first-hand the hard work and care you all put into this organization is genuinely awe-inspiring, and I can't thank you enough for all that you do to make this organization so great.

To the state-officer team, You have become some of my closest friends and I couldn't have asked for a better group to be alongside me in this journey. I can't wait to see the incredible things you will do in the future, and I am truly grateful for all the memories and friendships.

Thank you PA FBLA for an unforgettable year. I wish all of you outstanding people the best of luck in everything you pursue, and I can't wait to see the amazing things you will go on to do.

## **Adam Sands - Vice President at Large**

As this year in office comes to a close, I just want to look back on what an amazing opportunity it was. I want everyone to know how much of an honor it was to serve for all of you. Thank you for believing in my ability; I hope I did not let you down. I want to say how thankful I am to be able to represent PA on the national level. I would not be here if it was not for all of your support. And to all the friends I was able to make this year, I cannot wait to see what the future holds.

To continue in my thanks, I also want to give a special thanks to the state management team, my administrators, my state officer team, my parents, and my advisors. To start, Mr. Selleck, thank you for bringing the flag to Atlanta for me. To Mrs. Skiles, thank you for teaching me the purpose of the 10 pieces of silverware when we go out to eat. To Mr. Skerpon, thank you for keeping me tech savvy and in-line. To Mr. Boncal, thank you so much for making this possible for not only me, but all of the nearly 14,000 members. To Miss Ryland, where do I start... Thank you for accepting me with open arms and accepting all my jokes. To all my administration, thank you from the bottom of my heart for believing in me and letting me represent our school. To all the officers, you are all my best friends and I do not know what I would do without you all. To my parents, thanks you for giving me courage on all my endeavors and always being there for me. To Mrs. Edwards, thank you for molding me into the young man I am becoming today. And finally, to Mrs. Monte, where do I even being... Thank you for spending many weekends away from home with me, and thanks for always having an open door and open arms for anything I may need. You are truly priceless in my life and I do not know what I would do without you. Thank you.

## **Vineeth Voruganti - Parliamentarian**

FBLA has done so much for me throughout high school and especially this year. It has allowed me to develop myself as a leader and as an individual. I have been able to meet so many wonderful people and learn so many different skills. I have made everlasting friends through my journey and I deeply thank this organization for that. When I was convinced to join this club in my freshman year of high school I could not have imagined that it would be such a large and influential force on my life. I've learned that there is not one type of person or lifestyle that leads to success but rather simply working hard to reach your potential and build your strengths will work and make you into a unique excellent leader who will excel wherever you go.

I would like to thank the entire State management team for their work to make PA FBLA such a wonderful experience. I would also like to thank my own school and my local Chapter Adviser Mrs. Tomlinson for helping me to experience it all. The decision of running for State Officer is definitely one that I will never regret. I hope that each one of you is also able to experience this wonderful organization for all it is and face the same amount of serendipity.





**PA FBLA**  
**2016-2017 STATE GOALS**

*State Project: National Kidney Foundation*

*Slogan: Reach Out, Give a PAT on the Back*

### MEMBERSHIP

- **14,000** Total High School Members
- **30** Chapters
- **50** Virtual Chapters
- **700** Total Middle-Level Members

### FUNDRAISING

- **\$45,000** to Support the National Kidney Foundation

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

- **33,000** Hours of Service Logged

### OTHER GOALS

- Increase BAA Award Participation
- Increase Chapter Participation in Outstanding Chapter Recognition
- Increase Social Media Presence and Involvement
- Promote Philadelphia Membership Expansion
- Increase National Business Honors Society Submissions

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## CHAPTER NEWS

## Small Chapter Pride

*Submitted by: Daniel Boone High School*

The Daniel Boone Area High School Chapter of Region 8 of the PA FBLA is a small but proud chapter. The chapter has worked over the past four years to establish a calendar of events beginning with the fall recruitment drive on freshman move up days. The group travelled to the RLW and visited a local business. In October, the group reached out to the community as part of the Safe Trick or Treat campaign offering an alternative to street trick or treating and invited the mayor to speak. November and December brought opportunities to reach within the school community offering an assembly for all business students while preparing for the RLC. Students enjoyed their participation in the district family sponsorship guaranteeing that all families were able to celebrate the holidays with gifts. Students competed in the regional competitions and ran for regional offices. The winter months brought volunteering at the winter concession stands in support of the school winter sports program. To celebrate FBLA-PBL Week and CTE month, members invited the State Representative to speak. Continuing the community support, members created a living bulletin board highlighting local businesses. With preparation for the SLC underway, students began their first book drive and reading day to the elementary school children. “Small but loud and proud” has become the mantra of the Daniel Boone FBLA.



# Business Partnership

*Submitted by: Pine Grove Area High School*

The last several years, our chapter has been working on a partnership with business, “American Red Cross.” On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, our chapter members, with co-chairmen Kirby White and Gina Zimmerman, organized a school-wide blood drive for our high school students, faculty, and staff.

During our drive we collected 38 pints on a 36 goal or 106% of goal. This very valuable school project helped save up to 114 patient lives. This was awesome, not only for our project, but for our community! Our members are now launching our community outreach program on March 16, 2017, with a community blood drive at the Pine Grove Ambulance building.

During the upcoming weeks, we will be sending out flyers to all our parents from Kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade, writing articles to put in our local newspaper, and posting promotional flyers in local businesses. During the blood drive, we will be working with the American Red Cross to register donors, escort donors from beds to canteen, and helping to work at the canteen after blood donations are collected. After the blood drive, we will be helping to clean up and thank everyone for their participation.

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# Recognizing State Competitors

*Submitted by: Easton Area High School*

Competition is a big part of the FBLA scene. From Regionals to States and all the way to Nationals, Easton FBLA proudly sends competitors every year. Competitors gain great experience in their fields of interest whether they place or not and we strongly encourage all of our members to select an event and give it their best shot. This season we are ecstatic to send eight of our members to Hershey! Congratulations to the following Easton FBLA members on their advancement to the state competition: Adrien Abreu, Gabriela Alves, Mattie Cyphers, Jeremy Gackenbach, Tiffany Vilanova, Brian Salazar, Kaitlin Torres and

Marissa DeCamp. Good luck to all on their way to Hershey and beyond!



## Valentine's Day Flower Sale

*Submitted by: Jersey Shore Area High School*

Jersey Shore FBLA members recently hosted a Valentine's Day Flower Sale at the Jersey Shore Area Senior High School. Roses and carnations were sold to students and were delivered by FBLA members. The drive benefited the National Kidney Foundation, this year's Pennsylvania FBLA state project. Students at the high school greatly enjoyed the opportunity to purchase a gift for their friend or special someone and the project enjoyed great success at the high school. Leader of the project, Gage Mann, FBLA sophomore vice president, said "It was a great fundraiser because of the willingness of students to give to charity and the work that student volunteers put in to help sell flowers."



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## Celebrating FBLA Week

*Submitted by: Jersey Shore Area High School*

Jersey Shore Senior High School FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) celebrated FBLA Week. Monday, February 13, was Member Appreciation Day. There were cupcakes and Kahoot in the cafeteria. On Tuesday, students were invited to wear red or pink and donate a dollar to support the National Kidney Foundation to be entered in a gift card giveaway. Wednesday was a Professional Dress Day: students and teachers who dress in business attire were entered to win \$25 dollars. The last day of the celebration, Thursday, was FBLA Spirit Day. Wearing FBLA shirts got members entered to win a gift card. Thursday was Adviser Appreciation Day. Throughout the week, there were more gift card giveaways by the Freshmen FBLA.

This FBLA week is a great way for all the students to show school and FBLA pride. It also allows students who aren't involved in FBLA to be more exposed to it. This week hopefully helped to recruit more members and provide a great way to celebrate FBLA.



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## Connecting With Other Chapters

*Submitted by: Claysburg-Kimmel High School*

Members of Chestnut Ridge and Claysburg-Kimmel FBLA held a lunch meeting with business owner Tisia Maxwell, of the Tisia Maxwell Agency/Farmers Insurance. The two neighboring chapters met at the local Denny's on Saturday, February 4 at noon. Members promoted FBLA and discussed fundraising, competitive events, and chapter management. The Tisia Maxwell Agency helps to support our State Leadership Conference awards each year.



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## Adopting a Chapter

*Submitted by: Jersey Shore Area High School*

Jersey Shore FBLA welcomed Penn's Valley into their chapter meeting as part of the Adopted Chapter program. They were given a tour throughout the business department of



the high school and their questions were answered on how to successfully run an FBLA chapter. All Jersey Shore FBLA members were asked to attend the meeting, in which ice cream was offered and a Kahoot game on FBLA trivia was played. Jersey Shore FBLA was happy to share their advices to a developing chapter.



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## Regional Workshop Recap

*Submitted by: Waynesboro Area Senior High School*

On December 6, 2016, along with other schools in FBLA Region 26, some of Waynesboro's FBLA students attended the Region 26 Workshops at Wilson College. After entering the college and getting registered, the students entered the auditorium to say the FBLA Pledge and attend an Emblem Ceremony. After the Ceremony Keynote speaker Shaquill Smith shared his story of his sickness and made everyone learn the lesson, "Nothing is impossible". At 10:20, the students began attending their workshops, which could have included "Campus Tours" by the Admission Office, "College How-To's" by the Admission Office, "Successfully Get a Job" by Cherri Kearney, "Scholarships/FAFSA, Oh My" by Tim Smith, "Dress for Success" by Paul Owens and M. Homonowski, "Communication Nation" by Christina Yoder and Tyler Rock, and "Taking The Lead" by WASHS students, Tatyanna

Valentin, Kiley George, and Madison Gift. After the workshops, the students attended an Awards Ceremony, presented by Jake Naugle, and the Installation of New Officers, in which WASHS Freshman Ciara Brown became FBLA Region 26's Secretary and WASHS Sophomore Kiley George became FBLA Region 26's President. During the Awards Ceremony, 12 WASHS students ranked high enough in their competitive event to qualify for the State Competition in April. After Adjournment and Lunch, the students returned to school at around 2:20. The students had learned a lot at the Workshops and were excited to see the results of their competition. Special thank you to Wilson College, their presenters, and Judges and Advisors for putting the Workshops together. The students had a lot of fun!

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## Ring in Christmas

*Submitted by: Stroudsburg Area High School*

Continuing its yearly tradition, Stroudsburg High School completed its annual wreath sales. Students sold fresh wreaths with decorative, colorful ribbons to family, friends, and teachers. The fresh pine smell permeated through the halls on delivery day. Profits benefited the state project, the National Kidney Foundation. Also to help those in need, members helped the Salvation Army by ringing bells to benefit their annual holiday collection pails. Members dressed up and were happy to get into the Christmas spirit to help support the Salvation Army. In two-hour shifts, members went to the local Kmart to try and raise money for the Salvation Army's worthy cause.



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## **PA FBLA IS NOW ON INSTAGRAM!**

Attention all members:  
Pennsylvania FBLA is pleased to announce that it has  
officially joined Instagram!

Follow us @PennsylvaniaFBLA

Be sure to tag us in your FBLA related pictures for a  
chance to be featured on the page!



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