



Penn Pal

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State Officer Farewells



Chapter Spotlights



State Officer Farewells

Morgan Stahr, President

It seems like just yesterday I was giving a recap of my overall experience as a Vice President at Large, and here I am again as State President. I remember last year I was sitting in my English class and was asked to write about something that made me happy. I, of course, chose FBLA. Fast forward a year later, and I find myself still constantly writing about FBLA on all of my college applications. This organization has largely impacted my life the past four years. Ever since my first State Leadership Conference in ninth grade, I wanted to come back to Hershey and be more involved in FBLA. Then, I decided to run for state office, which was one of the best decisions of my life thus far. My leadership abilities and confidence have been greatly strengthened through this organization. I have had various opportunities to enhance my knowledge and form great relationships. For me, I really enjoyed meeting the members and getting to know many of them. I have also loved having the honor of representing our members. Being State President was a major responsibility, and I always strived to do my best. It really was an experience unlike any other. I have learned what it takes to become a great leader. Being that FBLA has been such a huge part of my life, I have some people I would like to thank.



First to my team, I could not think of better people to end my FBLA career with. This year we formed a solid friendship and will leave each other with great memories. I know walking away from this experience I have gained eight amazing friends. Not only my team but the entire executive committee has been so great to me this year. The executive committee has all taught me lessons this year and helped me grow as a person. I want to thank Mr. Skerpon for his admirable attitude and commitment to FBLA. Also, I would like to thank Mrs. Skiles for always teaching all the officers the importance of manners and respect. To our State Adviser, Miss Ryland, thank you for being the glue that holds this team together. We could not have had such a successful year without you. Finally, thank you to Mr. Boncal; you are the reason why PA FBLA is as successful as it is. Every person on the executive committee has been a crucial part to my growth. However, I could not imagine this experience without my local chapter adviser, Mrs. Barletta, at my side. She is extremely passionate about FBLA and inspires me to become a better leader and person. Mrs. Barletta, I cannot thank you enough.

Being involved in several activities in my high school, when I reflect, one stands out to me, FBLA. I know I will be walking away from the best experience in my life thus far. I've had a ton of memories, laughs, and learning experiences that I will forever remember. I want to wish my fellow officers the best of luck in their future endeavors as well as the members of PA FBLA.



State Officer Farewells

Steven Blumberg, First Vice President

As a member who was fortunate enough to become a leader of FBLA, I continue to be inspired by this organization, its members, and its contribution to the state of Pennsylvania. The hard work we have all put in this year has affirmed my belief that we truly are the Future Business Leaders of America. I am so thankful for everyone who believed in me enough to vote for me so that I could serve as the First Vice President this past year. As members of this organization, we work to become the best in every activity in which we participate. As we all move on from our FBLA careers (some sooner than others), make sure to keep striving forward; you have to make every effort to be the best to become the best. FBLA is only the beginning to our journey of unlimited success.

For me, supporting the state project, Donate Life Pennsylvania, was our greatest accomplishment. The money we raised, hours we volunteered, and friends we signed up to become organ donors will have long lasting positive effects that will go far beyond our time as members.

I encourage you to take hold of your future and consider becoming a leader within FBLA and your own local community. The greatest assets of my life have come through service to others, and I hope that you can also enjoy the benefits these experiences will offer. A quote which has been a guiding force for me throughout my life: "Be the Change you wish to see in the World." – Gandhi. There are many things we can contribute to this organization, but the first step in a better FBLA comes from you! Thank you, and good luck in becoming a true Business Leader of America.

Sharika Bamezai, Secretary

The past year serving as your Pennsylvania FBLA State Secretary has truly been an unforgettable experience. The leadership skills that I have developed as well as the confidence I have gained to publically speak in front of large crowds will be invaluable as I pursue future leadership roles. From whale watching off the coast of Newport Beach to exploring the River Walk in San Antonio, this organization has exposed me to a network of motivated student leaders.

Although the year has gone by so quickly, I have cherished every moment with the state officers and the executive committee. From Anaheim to Hershey I will always remember the countless memories I have of the last year. In addition, working closely with this dedicated and passionate group of executive members, advisors, and state officers inspires me to give back to those who have a similar dedication to changing the world through service and leadership. I would also like to thank Mrs. Tomlinson for supporting me from the beginning. She has seen me grow from a shy ninth grade student to a more confident individual.

Most importantly, my term as State Secretary has taught me that stepping out of my comfort zone can lead to incredible and memorable experiences. I feel blessed to have been able to serve all the Pennsylvania FBLA members.



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Shela Wu, Treasurer

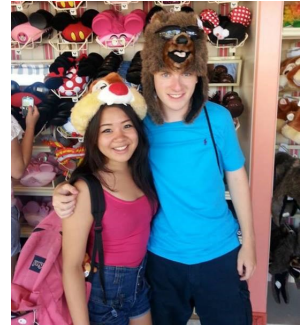
Most of our life is a series of images. They pass us by like towns on the highway. But sometimes, a moment stuns us as it happens. And we know that this instant is more than a fleeting image. We know that this moment will leave a mark.

That moment, for me, was becoming an FBLA State Officer. Not only was I given the opportunity to visit California for the first time, but also I had the privilege of meeting so many inspiring young adults. I would like to thank my family for supporting me through my high school career, my friends for keeping me levelheaded, Miss Ryland and Mr. Skerpon for being unbelievably great state advisers, Mr. Boncal and Mrs. Skiles for holding PA FBLA together and providing the sturdy foundation on which it was built, and the state officer team for working so well together and always encouraging me to reach higher.

But most importantly, I'd like to thank my adviser, Mrs. Sundling. With a newly born healthy little boy, Brayden Patrick Sundling, an extremely hectic school schedule, and lacrosse, I don't know how you do it. I guess that's why Upper Dublin High knows you as Super Sundling! Thank you for being there for me every step of the way; anytime I stumbled across a bump in the road, you were able to keep me moving forward.



As for my fellow FBLA-ers, don't be afraid to make mistakes, to stumble and fall, because most of the time the greatest rewards come from doing the things that scare you the most. Maybe you'll get everything you wish for. Maybe you'll get more than you ever could have imagined. Who knows where life will take you. The road is long, and in the end, the journey is the destination. I wish you all the best of luck, and I know you will all do great things.



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Rachel Walter, Reporter

It does not seem like a year has passed since I was elected as the Pennsylvania FBLA State Reporter. Ever since I became a member of FBLA, I watched the officers at the State Leadership Conference, wanting to be one of them. Once I made it to Nationals my sophomore year, I decided that I was going to make that dream come true.

Serving Pennsylvania FBLA has been more than a dream come true. Being a state officer has shaped who I am today, and during this process, I have grown so much as a person. Without FBLA, I would not be the strong, confident person I am today. This past year, I have grown as a leader, but more importantly, I have grown as a team member. I could not have asked for better people to spend my state officer experience with. My fellow officers have been amazing, and I want to thank them all for the memories I will take with me everywhere I go. Our bond as a team was so strong, and I will cherish that forever. I wish you all the best of luck with everything you do!

Not only did my fellow officers make this an unforgettable experience, but I also couldn't have done it without the help of the entire management team. I want to thank Mr. Boncal and Mrs. Skiles for their continuous hard work throughout the entire year. Miss Ryland and Mr. Skerpon, I know that I could not have gone through this experience without you pushing me to constantly do my very best. More than anyone, I want to thank my local chapter adviser, Mr. Walter, for everything he has ever done for me. Without him, I wouldn't be where I am today, and even though I may have been hard to handle at times, he always put up with me. His encouragement and words of wisdom are invaluable. I will never be able to thank him enough.

Finally to you all, the members, thank you for believing in me and setting me on this unforgettable journey. Pennsylvania FBLA would not be the same without each and every one of you, and remember never to give up on your dreams!



Kimberly Bischof, Parliamentarian

PA FBLA, I cannot believe that another year has come and gone. It seems like just yesterday I was honored to be appointed your State Parliamentarian. This past year has been nothing short of amazing, maybe a little crazy at times, but still amazing. I have my fellow officers and chapter members to thank for that. You guys never fail to make me smile. I would also like to thank the executive board for everything you have taught me. Mrs. McDonald, you have been my rock through the good times and the bad. Thank you for believing in me even when I didn't believe in myself. Mom and Dad, thanks for supporting me and all the crazy things I do. PA FBLA members, I want to wish all of you the best of luck in and outside of FBLA, and remember to always show your excellence in action!

State Officer Farewells

Sam Kessler, Vice President at Large

My past year as a state officer has given me more than I could have ever hoped. Through this experience, I have gained invaluable leadership skills that I don't think I could have gotten anywhere else. I've learned how to plan fundraisers, organize events, and speak in front of thousands of people. Being a state officer for PA FBLA has enabled me to hone my leadership skills by giving me practice on a larger scale than I've ever had the opportunity to experience in the past. In addition to learning and developing through my state officership, I've also gained some incredible friends that I know I will keep in contact with long after our terms come to a close. I am appreciative to each of this year's officers for being great teammates and even greater friends, and I'm honored to have had the opportunity to work with them.

Of course, this experience would not have been possible without the help of Mr. Boncal, Mrs. Skiles, Miss Ryland, and Mr. Skerpon, who dedicate their time to PA FBLA in order to ensure that all members get the greatest possible benefit from this organization. Additionally, I could not have gotten anywhere without the support of my local advisors. Mrs. Mulroy and Mrs. Kern have an unparalleled dedication to their students, making sure that we all reach our highest potential. Also, I'd like to thank all of FBLA's members; without you, this organization would not be what it is.

Overall, this has been a fun and rewarding experience that I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to be a part of.



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Justin Miller, Vice President at Large

What a pleasure and honor it has been! This experience that we, the members, call FBLA is unlike anything I have ever experienced. Throughout the past year countless friendships have been made and memories created for an eternity. Together PA FBLA has continued to reach new heights. This whole experience would not have been possible without those who give countless hours of dedication to a great organization. From my local advisor, Mrs. Cynthia Gill, to our state advisor, Ms. Kristi Ryland, and to all of the individuals on the executive committee team, I thank you for your support. Being able to work with such a dedicated and driven team has made me realize to only expect the best out of people. I thank the members of Pennsylvania for this experience, and I know that we will be able to rely on one another in the competitive business age our generation is about to enter.



Cory Perry, Vice President at Large

Even though I don't get a whole year's experience as a state officer, the few months I had were absolutely amazing! From the minute that we all met backstage at the awards ceremony, I knew that we'd become great friends. It was so nice to communicate and really get to know each other in the weeks before our first executive meeting because it made it feel so much more family like. The craziest week of my life was spending the week in California for the NLC. All the different things from a beach picnic, touring Hollywood, and going to Disney Land, made one of the largest memories of my life. I am honored to be a part of an amazing organization such as PA FBLA, where the life skills and great memories will continue to grow. As I continue to fight cancer, I am hoping to be ready to compete in time for next year's SLC. I would like to thank all of you, the members, who continue to support me because I wouldn't be able to do it without you. Also, I would like to thank my advisors Mr. Selleck and Mrs. Ryland for supporting and believing in me to accomplish my goals even though it took some time to get there. And finally, I would like to thank PA FBLA and the rest of the state officer team for being outstanding to me and giving me one awesome year!



Fleetwood FBLA Partners with Businesses

YMCA Toy Drive

During the fall months the Partnership with Business project representatives held a toy drive to benefit the children enrolled with our local YMCA. Toy donations were accepted over a span of a week in various classrooms across the high school building, the cafeteria, and the high school office. Our chapter was pleased that many chapter members, students, and faculty all participated and donated to the YMCA. There were a total of three full boxes of toys that were able to be donated to the YMCA Child Care Center.

YMCA Tours

As part of the Partnership with Business project this year, tours were organized at both the YMCA Main Center in the Willow Creek Elementary School and the Child Care Center located in the old Fleetwood Elementary School. At the Child Care Center, chapter members were shown the daily operations of the organization, which entailed members interacting with the children at the center. The tour guide explained all of the details that are involved with opening and effectively running an organization like the YMCA Child Care Center. Chapter members then held activities for the children within the day care center. After activities were completed, the tour of the facility commenced. A tour was also held at the YMCA Main Center, which is most commonly known as the fitness center. There, the tour guide explained all of the activities that are offered and the daily duties that her job entails. These tours gave our members a better understanding about what it takes to run such an organization. Through both tours of the YMCA, chapter members gained a better understanding of how the nonprofit organization operates at so many different facilities and with so many different activities.

Soda Tab Collection

Once again our chapter collected soda tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in Hershey, Pennsylvania. This collection drive was held during FBLA Week and the week after due to many snow days affecting the drive. The collection drive consisted of a competition between first period classrooms. Each classroom was given a plastic bag with information about the Ronald McDonald House. The first period classroom that collected the most tabs will be treated to a healthy breakfast in the coming weeks. Chapter members will also take a trip to the Ronald McDonald House in the spring to learn more about their programs and donate the tabs.

Easton Area FBLA Has Been Busy All Year!



It has been a busy year for Easton FBLA. We manned FBLA tables to promote our club at Freshman Orientation the first week of school, at Back-to-School Night, and at our Club Fair. We held our annual Dodge Ball Tournament at the high school in October. We had 11 tough teams, 3 hours of tough play, and one tough champion. It is a major fundraiser for our club, and everyone had a blast. In December, we wrapped presents at our local mall for 2 nights. All the monies raised through donations will go to Donate Life PA.

A group of students attended a Financial Literacy Workshop held at Widener University in November. It was hosted by the university's Department of Business Education. FBLA members learned about the Business Programs, toured the campus, had a complimentary lunch, attended a workshop on Personal Finance, and challenged others schools in Financial Football. It is highly recommended for other FBLA clubs to contact Widener and get on their mailing list for future workshops.

Easton FBLA also attended the State Leadership Workshop at Penn State Conference Center in November. What a trip! It was fun, informational, and provided a great opportunity to network with other FBLA students.



We hold meetings every other week. Not only do we provide our members with information on the many activities we have planned, but bring in guest speakers to talk to our members on many different topics. Mr. Murdocc Saunders, from Lincoln Tech, and last year's FBLA Employer Partner of the Year, gave a presentation on Business Etiquette. Ms. Sharon Trinker, owner of Nosh-A-Bar Protein Bars, came in to tell our students about owning your own business. She discussed possible plans to partner with our club with regards to many marketing initiatives she has in mind.

One of the biggest events for Easton FBLA was preparing for the annual Regional Leadership Conference held at Lehigh Carbon Community College in December. Seventeen of our competitors have qualified for the State Leadership conference in April!

With non-stop leadership and professional development activities and fun for our members, Easton FBLA still has more to come this year!

North Penn FBLA Serves Dinner at Philadelphia Gift of Life House

What would you do if you or your relative needed an organ transplant? What would you do if you wanted to donate an organ to a relative? What would you do if you lived hours from the hospital and had to be there on numerous days for doctors' appointments, tests, and procedures? Gift of Life Family House provides a "home away from home" for transplant patients and their families. Located within walking distance of Hahnemann Hospital in Philadelphia, Gift of Life Family House offers transplant patients and their families rooms to stay in at an unbelievably low cost. They also operate a Home Cooked Heroes Program, where groups can come in and prepare meals for the residents. The residents then get a hot, home-cooked meal for free.

North Penn FBLA provided the dinner meal for the residents of the Gift of Life Family House on Wednesday, February 19. FBLA students planned the menu, made a grocery list, and purchased the items needed to cook the meal. The menu the students came up with was: baked breaded chicken strips, buttered noodles, cucumber and tomato salad, steamed broccoli, buttered carrots, biscuits, apple pie, and pecan pie. They also provided a variety of drinks for the 55 residents. Some students volunteered to make some of the items ahead of time; other items were cooked fresh at the house. We arrived at 4:00 p.m. and had to have dinner ready to serve by 6:00. They had four spacious, fully equipped kitchens for us to work in. Everyone was happy getting to prepare a meal for the residents of the Gift of Life Family House!

Muncy FBLA Enjoys Success

On January 9, Muncy High School FBLA attended the Region 7 conference. Our chapter was pleased to announce that last year's membership total of 86 was increased to 103 this year – over a third of our high school's student population grades 9-12! Out of those 103 members, 33 determined individuals have qualified for the SLC in Hershey.

Muncy started with just seven members and is now elated with the progress our club is making, with a 1,371.43% increase over our 12 active years! At last year's SLC, 26 members represented Muncy High School and brought home several awards. We have already accomplished one of this year's goals of having more state qualifiers and are aiming to further our successes by qualifying for the NLC in June.

This school year has been filled with various projects and community service work, which has ignited a spark in the students who will continue Muncy's legacy for years to come. Muncy's main mission is to continue our esteemed FBLA reputation and represent our school with pride.

Now begins the preparation for state competition – Muncy High School is ready! Good luck to all participants in this year's State Leadership Conference.

Stroudsburg FBLA Helps Donate Life

Stroudsburg FBLA promoted awareness for organ donation with prepared sign-up sheets and an information desk about Donate Life. Pledges were signed by Stroudsburg's student body to become organ donors. Community members also signed pledges to become donors. Those that were already organ donors added their name to a list to show their support for this great cause.

In addition, Stroudsburg is currently planning a Dodge Ball tournament to raise money for Donate Life Pennsylvania. We are having weekly meetings to organize all aspects of the event. Our goal is to raise \$2,500 for Donate Life, PA.



Western Wayne FBLA Attends Workshops

King's College



Seven students representing the Western Wayne High School's Future Business Leaders of America chapter and its business program recently participated in an Entrepreneurial Challenge at Settler's Inn, Hawley. Also competing on this day were students from Carbondale Area, Forest City, Honesdale, and Wallenpaupack Area.

Sponsored by EconomicsPennsylvania, the purpose of this day was to provide interested students with a unique opportunity to develop a viable business idea followed by a business plan. Professor Robert Williams of Misericordia University brought his knowledge and quick wit to the day as he taught the students the ins and outs of starting a business.

The students will once again gather in March at Carbondale Area High School to present their business ideas in a "Shark Tank" setting.

Participating in the day were Scott Walck, Matt Russo, Jacob Gillis, Kayla Bolduc, Abby Hemmler, Bethany Giombetti and Cassie Reeke. Ms. Theresa Lubash, high school business teacher, accompanied the students.

Entrepreneur Workshop

Seven students from Western Wayne High School recently attended the annual Accounting Career Day held on the campus of Kings College, Wilkes-Barre. The students had the opportunity to learn about careers in both public and private accounting as well as forensic accounting.

One of the highlights of the day was a panel discussion consisting of Kings College accounting majors. Students were able to ask questions of these college students and learn what a typical day in the life of a college student is like.

Nick Caucci, Matt Lombardi, Carey Thorpe, Brandon Lamberton, Mike Valvano, Bryan Gagliardi and Steven Troiano along with Ms. Theresa Lubash participated in these informative sessions. These students are FBLA members who are enrolled in the Accounting II course at Western Wayne.



Waynesboro FBLA Experiences Business First-Hand



On February 24, 2014, a group of Waynesboro students attended a marketing field trip in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. These students went to the Wells Fargo Center to speak with the professional basketball team, 76ers' own marketing employees. The marketing team gave the students of many schools a marketing challenge. The marketing challenge was supposed to be viewed as if it was a real-life situation. The other schools that attended the 76ers' Student Day were Bordentown Regional High School, Fair Lawn Schools, Lower Cape May Regional High School, Warrior Run High School, Franklin Learning Center, Big Spring High School, Moorestown High School, Eastern Lebanon County High School, and Bloomfield High School.

The marketing task was to create a theme night for the 76ers to hold during the season that would bring in many people throughout Philadelphia to attend the game. The Waynesboro students had to research Philadelphia's demographics to choose five groups to target for their theme night. The students then turned in their plan to the marketing team for a competition amongst the schools to determine the best theme night idea.

After the marketing challenge, the students attended a Marketing Seminar with the 76ers marketing employees. The employees explained their history and how they managed to get into the business world in the city of Philadelphia. After the seminar the Waynesboro students walked over to the Citizens Bank Park. The students had the opportunity to tour the stadium. The tour guide explained the many ways the Phillies baseball team brings in income with the help of sponsors. The tour guide also discussed how the Phillies market their team. After the tour, the students were able to experience what a city was like by having the opportunity to walk around the inner city of Philadelphia. At the end of the day the students were able to attend a professional basketball game and experience all the hard work, first hand, that the marketing team puts into the basketball game. The trip to Philadelphia was a huge success! The students experienced, in many ways, the business world all in one day.