

## PA FBLA--Bruce Boncal

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Pennsylvania Future Business Leaders of America

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## **Penn Pal -- Fall 2015**

**Volume XXXI | Edition 1**

Welcome to the new digital PA FBLA Penn Pal!

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

## **Welcome Back PA FBLA!**

PA FBLA, this year's FBLA Slogan/Theme is CONNECT! How many ways can you connect through FBLA this year? Can you recruit new members to your local chapter and help them get connected? How about by supporting our state project, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Pennsylvania? What about finding a way to connect with the members of your community through a commitment to community

service. Finally connect with members from across the state by networking at a conference or workshop, like your Regional Leadership Workshop, State Leadership Workshop, Regional Leadership Conference, and State Leadership Conference. On behalf of the new state officer team, I would like to thank everyone involved in PA FBLA for his or her hard work and dedication. I cannot wait to see our newfound success in the 2015-2016 year.

- Annabelle Williams, State Reporter



## NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

*Written by Sarah Hohman, PA FBLA Vice President at Large*

The National Leadership Conference in Chicago, Illinois was one for the books for PA FBLA this year, bringing home 58 awards including 8 first place finishes, a tie for our highest number of winners ever!

Please see pages 6-9 for a complete list of winners from Pennsylvania FBLA. A complete list of winners from Pennsylvania FBLA can be found later in this publication.

In addition to performing so well in their competitive events, the 425 members of the PA delegation enjoyed a memory filled week, which included: touring the beautiful Windy City, eating delicious food, and even a dinner cruise on Lake Michigan that included dancing, magnificent views and concluded with fireworks over Lake Michigan.

A massive congratulations goes out to our newly elected Eastern Region Vice President, Hirsh Sisodia, from Souderton Area High School!

We are definitely Pennsylvania Proud after this year's strong NLC showing. Congratulations to the award winners as well as to all who competed!

[Click Here for the 2015 PA Winners List from the NLC!](#)



# STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE RECAP

*Written by Samantha Medasie, PA FBLA State Secretary*

Qualifying members and advisers traveled from all across the state to attend Pennsylvania FBLA's 64<sup>th</sup> annual State Leadership Conference held at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, Pennsylvania. The four-day conference, held from April 12<sup>th</sup> to April 15<sup>th</sup>, was full of networking, friendship building, competition, leadership training, and excitement.

Upon arrival on Sunday, many members and advisers took advantage of several nearby tourist attractions, including Hershey Park and Hershey's Chocolate World. Even though the park's closing at 6 o'clock sent members back to their hotels, the fun didn't stop there! On Sunday night, Pennsylvania FBLA hosted a game night in the Hershey Lodge's Chocolate Ballroom.

On Monday morning, those in attendance at this year's SLC awoke bright and early and began competing in over fifty events. Throughout the day, workshops on a variety of topics were also available for members to attend. Later that evening, the Opening Session, an exciting "kick-off" to the conference, was held in the Great American Hall, with near 4,500 people in attendance. Members and advisers had the privilege of hearing from keynote speaker Mike Smith, who encouraged Pennsylvania FBLA to strive to become more than just an ordinary face in the crowd.

Also during this session, the candidates for state office ascended the stage to deliver their campaign speeches. To conclude the day's activities, campaign booths were opened and each chapter's voting delegates were able to speak with the candidates one-on-one.

Tuesday was another eventful day! That morning, members excelled in the final rounds of their competitive events, and later in the day, they attended the Business Session. At this session, region officers were introduced and several state awards were distributed. Before the adjournment of this meeting, the 2015-2016 state officer team results were also announced. At the Awards of Excellence later that

night, the top ten from each event were brought to the stage to be recognized for their efforts in the competitive events.

Pennsylvania FBLA’s members and advisers made the entire state “Pennsylvania Proud” at this year’s State Leadership Conference.



Relive the 2015 SLC Awards of Excellence Program!

## PA FBLA GOALS 2015-2016

**State Project:** *Ronald McDonald House Charities of Pennsylvania*

**Slogan:** *Connecting Families...Changing Lives*

MEMBERSHIP GOALS	
High School	13,750 members, 315 chapters
Middle Level	500 members, 30 chapters
Virtual Chapter	50 members
Western District Membership	Increase by 100 members

OTHER GOALS
Promote participation in Penn Pal
Increase collaboration/communication between state, region, and local officers/advisers

Facilitate the transition from school to work

State project awareness

Increase participation in state recognition events/awards

**FUNDRAISING GOAL**

\$45,000 to support Ronald McDonald House Charities of Pennsylvania

**COMMUNITY SERVICE GOAL**

33,000 hours of community service logged by PA FBLA members



**STATE PROJECT CHARITY SPOTLIGHT**

*Written by: Morgan Boyd, PA FBLA Treasurer*

With the start of the new school year, PA FBLA has selected our next state project charity. The Ronald McDonald House Charities of Pennsylvania (RMHC) has been serving members of communities around the United States since its founding in the city of Philadelphia on October 15, 1974.

This wonderful organization services families who have members undergoing treatment at local hospitals by providing these families with food and housing for the duration of their loved one's stay. Five houses exist in Pennsylvania, in Pittsburgh, Hershey, Philadelphia, Scranton, and Danville. Your chapter will be given the opportunity to choose which House they wish their donations to go towards and will also be able to provide that House with the manpower necessary for running such a large scale charity.

We urge our chapters to get involved with the Ronald McDonald House Charities by reaching out to your nearest House and establishing a local connection. In doing so, you will become better informed of your individual House's needs and service opportunities. By reaching out to your local House, your chapter can help connect Pennsylvanian families and, while doing so, just may change a life.

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## MEET YOUR 2015-16 PA FBLA STATE OFFICER TEAM



**COLE SMITH, PRESIDENT**  
**Neshannock High School**

Favorite Quote: "Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are."  
-John Wooden

Favorite Thing about FBLA: Coming from a smaller school in the Western region, I do not have many people who share the same level of interest in business. FBLA has given me the opportunity to connect with relatable people, and for that I am extremely grateful.

**PRANITHA POTHURI, FIRST VICE  
PRESIDENT  
Stroudsburg High School**



Favorite Quote: Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light.

-Albus Dumbledore

Favorite thing about FBLA: Opportunity to meet with people who have similar interests from all over the country and learning more about myself through new experiences!



**SAMANTHA MEDASIE, SECRETARY  
PA FBLA Virtual Chapter**

Favorite Quote: "What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals"

-Zig Ziglar

Favorite Thing About FBLA: The diversity! While some FBLA members love working with numbers, others are passionate about video production or public speaking. These members of varying interests are brought together and can relate through their love of FBLA.

**MORGAN BOYD, TREASURER**  
**Wilmington Area High School**



Favorite Quote: “Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people.”

– Eleanor Roosevelt

Favorite thing about FBLA: Without a doubt, the best part of FBLA is meeting and interacting with members of all different backgrounds from around Pennsylvania.



**ANNABELLE WILLIAMS, REPORTER**  
**Downingtown STEM Academy**

Favorite Quote: “New knowledge is the most valuable commodity on earth. The more truth we have, the richer we become.” - Kurt Vonnegut

Favorite Thing About FBLA: FBLA prepares students for the future with practical, career-oriented knowledge.

**SKYLEE PALICKA, PARLIAMENTARIAN**  
**Chestnut Ridge High School**



Favorite quote: "Success is the ability to go from one failure to the next with no loss of enthusiasm" -Sir Winston Churchill

Favorite thing about FBLA: One of the things that I love about FBLA is the way that this organization gives all members countless opportunities to improve themselves.



**SARAH HOHMAN, VP AT LARGE #1  
North Penn-Mansfield High School**

Favorite Quote: “Working hard is important. But there is something that matters even more: believing in yourself.  
-Harry Potter

Favorite Things About FBLA: Opportunities and connections. FBLA truly is anyone’s organization, with all of its competitive event and community service opportunities, while also providing the very best way to create networks for your future.

**MICAH PORTIS, VP AT LARGE #2  
Abington High School**

Favorite Quote: “Make sure you have good knees when joining FBLA because you will be stepping up a lot.”



Favorite thing about FBLA: My favorite thing about FBLA is that the club rewards anyone who

works hard and is brave enough to put themselves out there, and is a way teenagers can really show leadership before the working world.”



**TATYANA VALENTIN, VP AT LARGE #3  
Waynesboro Area High School**

Favorite Quote: “Striving for Success is only the beginning of becoming a leader” –Anonymous

Favorite thing about FBLA: My favorite thing about FBLA is the way it helps students gain the confidence in leading and acquiring key essential business skills.

**HIRSH SISODIA, NATIONAL EASTERN REGION  
VP  
PA FBLA ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MEMBER  
Souderton Area High School**



Favorite Quote: “Of course it is happening inside your head, Harry, but why on earth should that mean that it is not real?” – Albus Dumbledore

Favorite thing about FBLA: The family our organization is. No matter how new or old, no matter how involved or not, every corner of FBLA

is as welcoming as the other, and every chapter, region, and state does their part to make sure every person feels like a contributing member. Getting to know members at each level and around the nation, especially Pennsylvania, has truly been one of the greatest privileges of the last three years. As simple as the theme “Connect” is, that’s truly my goal for the coming year – to continue getting to know as many members in our organization as possible.



## **HIRSH SISODIA: EASTERN REGION VP CAMPAIGN RECAP**

*Written by: Hirsh Sisodia, PA FBLA Associate  
Exec. Cmte. Member & National ERVP*



My campaign for Eastern Region Vice President this past June was one of the most rewarding and exhilarating experiences of my life – if not for how utterly exhausting the ride was, then most definitely for how gratifying it was to see and meet FBLA members from across our state and nation. The twelve hours spent talking to members about their experiences in and out of our organization, what motivated them, and what they wanted to see out of their organization in the future were

some of the most informative and enlightening hours I've spent in FBLA in all three of my years as a member. While giving a speech and answering questions on the spot in front of the Eastern Region were slightly daunting, by the time the Awards Ceremonies had rolled around I knew I had had an experience that didn't rely on its final result to be one of the best of my life. I am truly grateful to the PA FBLA members for their support and look forward to a fantastic year serving as your Eastern Region VP.



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