

PA FBLA--Bruce Boncal

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Pennsylvania Future Business Leaders of America

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Penn Pal: 2015-16 **Volume XXXI | Edition 2**

Published by Annabelle Williams, PA FBLA Reporter (reporter@pafbla.us)

FEATURED IN THIS EDITION

SLW RECAP | VIRTUAL CHAPTER NEWS | VIRTUAL CAREER PRESENTATIONS
CHAPTER NEWS

Thank You PA FBLA!

Hello, Pennsylvania Future Business Leaders of America!

I hope everyone is enjoying the start of their school year and getting excited about connecting with PA FBLA! On behalf of your state officer team, I would like to extend a personal thank you to each and every member and adviser of PA FBLA for not only your phenomenal engagement at the State Leadership Workshop in State College this October but also your continued support of our state goals and state project, the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Pennsylvania. Truly, it's thanks to you that PA FBLA can not only grow but also thrive!

Please make sure to continue pushing membership recruitment initiatives in your local chapters and regions so we can expand the scope of this organization and spread the PA PRIDE all around this great state.

Thank you so much to everyone for a great SLW; I look forward to seeing what this year's group can accomplish at not only the SLC and NLC but also at the local and regional level.

Best wishes,

Annabelle Williams

2015-2016 PA FBLA State Reporter



October 25-26, 2015:

PA FBLA State Leadership Workshop

Led by the exuberant Mr. Ryan Underwood, TRI Leadership helped PA FBLA put on a fantastic SLW themed around the idea of “Heroic Leadership.” From the comics to the speakers centering around Big Hero 6 and other superheroes, this theme set the tone for a phenomenal SLW. Other speakers included the inspiring and articulate Ms. Hayley Henderson as well as the engaging and touching Mr. Kent Julian. Thank you so much to TRI for helping us put on a phenomenal conference.



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PA FBLA Members Get One Step Closer to Fundraising Goal

Not only were PA FBLA members given the opportunity to network and gain valuable leadership skills at the State Leadership Workshop, they also became one step closer to their fundraising goal. The state officers have set a goal of \$45,000 for the state project, the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Pennsylvania. Over the course of the two days, we were able to raise over \$4,500 through the Dodgeball Tournament, Basket Auction and T-Shirt sales. Also, we discussed opportunities to volunteer at the different houses and the collection of aluminum can tabs. Not only were we able to raise money, but we were also able to meet with a representative from the organization. Ashley Johnson, a representative from RMH Scranton, came to speak with us about her experiences with the house and the amazing benefits it provides to its families. The profound impact that her words had on us will hopefully push us to make more great strides towards our fundraising goals.

Dodgeball and Battle of the Chapters Are as Hype as Ever

At this year's State Leadership Workshop, Bellefonte High School graciously played host to many PA FBLA members who participated in the Battle of the Chapters, a trivia competition featuring FBLA facts coupled with current events, and the famous dodgeball tournament, which pitted school against school in a fierce battle for domination that also raised money for the Ronald McDonald House. In Battle of the Chapters, it came down to Souderton vs. Waynesboro, but Souderton pulled out the win. Our dodgeball winners for this year were from

South Williamsport! This event raised \$2,230 for the Ronald McDonald House. A big thank you to all advisers and participants!



Shark Tank Comes to a Cutthroat Conclusion



Mr. Jason Lucash, entrepreneur, founder of OrigAudio, and winner of Shark Tank, graciously ran the entrepreneurship track at this year's SLW. Mr. Lucash, as he has for the past three years, continued the tradition of showcasing the Shark Tank winners on stage at the closing session and subjecting them to questions from the judges' panel and crowd after they present their startups. This year, top honors went to Collect Couture, run by students from Upper Dublin High School, who were remarkably poised under pressure and able to articulate their vision for a fashion app. Great job to all who pitched!



Gateway to *Virtual* Greatness



PA FBLA *Virtual* Chapter Member

If you know someone who wants to get involved in FBLA, but his or her school doesn't currently have an active chapter, PA FBLA has a solution! The Pennsylvania FBLA Virtual Chapter, in its fifth year of existence, will allow any student enrolled at a school without an active FBLA chapter or any home-school student to join. Students whose school already has an active FBLA

chapter are not permitted to join the Virtual Chapter.

Virtual Chapter membership is surprisingly similar to regular chapter membership! The chapter hosts online monthly meetings, and its members are able to attend all conferences and workshops, compete in every competitive event that FBLA offers, and can even run for state office!

Last year, The Virtual Chapter sent members to the State Leadership Workshop, the State Leadership Conference, and even the National Leadership Conference. Also, for the first time ever, a Virtual Chapter member was even elected as a state officer!

The Virtual Chapter has set several goals for the 2015-2016 school year, which include: increasing membership, increasing conference and workshop attendance, participating in the various optional recognition events such as Big 33 and the BAAs, donating to the state project, and electing a full chapter officer team.

For more information on the Virtual Chapter, go to www.pafbلا.org, and click on the "[Virtual Chapter](#)" tab on the left side of the page!

Submitted by Samantha Medasie, PA FBLA Secretary & Virtual Chapter Member

Virtual Career Presentation Podcasts

This year, Pennsylvania FBLA will be launching a brand new program called Virtual Career Presentations! Each month, we will be posting a podcast on our website as well as our social media outlets. These podcasts will include the daily life of someone's career as well as how they may have advanced to their current position. He or she may also discuss interesting information about how to become

an entrepreneur, move up the corporate ladder, and more! Check with your school, as this may even qualify as a graduation requirement or a job shadow.

If you are working on the Keystone Leadership Award, all you have to do is complete a description of the podcast after listening to receive credit! Our first speaker's podcast should be posted soon, so make sure to keep up with Pennsylvania FBLA on Twitter and Facebook. Get together as a chapter, or listen individually!

Submitted by Cole Smith, PA FBLA President

Adopt-a-Chapter Mentoring Program

Is your chapter large, successful, and full of great ideas? Has your chapter just been established with small member numbers and is in need of some advice? Your state officers have created a plan for you! This brand new "Adopt-a-Chapter" Mentoring Program has exciting opportunities for both situations you may have answered "yes" to in the questions above! Chapters who participate can even earn Outstanding Chapter Criteria Points under item #65, another opportunity to get recognized as a chapter. "Little" or Mentee chapters should have less than 50 members and be interested in gaining information on how to better their chapter in ways such as recruitment, community service activities, or chapter management. "Big" or Mentor chapters should have 50 or more members and be interested in sharing their success stories and ideas with new or struggling chapters. All chapters have the ability to become better, use this opportunity to do just that. Already three chapters have stepped up to the challenge to either mentor or be mentees, join them today!

Use this new and valuable opportunity to CONNECT with more members across the state, LEARN from other chapters what it's like to improve, and EARN rewards.....sign up today at <https://pafbla.wufoo.com/forms/pdklfh018yiyq2/>!

Submitted by Sarah Hohman, PA FBLA Vice President At Large

CHAPTER NEWS

To have your chapter featured in an upcoming edition of the Penn Pal, submit an article and photo to Annabelle Williams, PA FBLA State Reporter at this [link](#).



Chestnut Ridge FBLA Hosts Annual Food Drive

New Paris, PA—During Homecoming Week of September 21-25, the members of Chestnut Ridge Future Business Leaders of America hosted their annual food drive to benefit the New Paris Food Bank. This year, over 1000 non-perishable food items were collected, thanks in large part to the efforts Middle School students as well as the FBLA members.

Students raided their pantries and cupboards to help the local food bank prepare for the upcoming winter months. The two homerooms that collect the largest number of canned food items will be awarded a party during the month of October. The winning homerooms were Mrs. Lafferty and Mr. Weyant. Additionally, FBLA members volunteer each month during the distribution day and help distribute and carry items to people's cars.

FBLA also collected money at the Homecoming football game on September 25. Over \$250 was collected prior to the start of the game. The items and money will be delivered to the food bank during the month of October.

The Future Business Leaders of America urge the community to give generously to their local food bank. Many of our friends and neighbors are recipients of our generosity.

Submitted by Mrs. Melissa McDonald, Chestnut Ridge FBLA Adviser

Claysburg Kimmel and Chestnut Ridge FBLA Pop Tab Competition

The Claysburg-Kimmel FBLA and Chestnut Ridge FBLA have teamed up to raise awareness and “tabs” to benefit the Pennsylvania Future Business Leaders of America’s State Project, the Ronald McDonald Houses of Pennsylvania. The Ronald McDonald Houses offer free to low cost lodging for family members who have someone in the hospital.

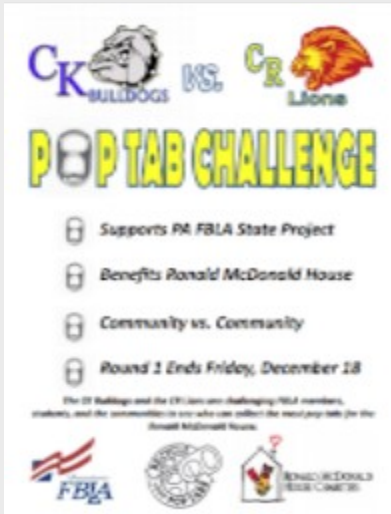
Why Collect Tabs?

- The tabs are made of a high quality aluminum that is more valuable by weight than the can itself.
- Plus, the tabs are smaller and cleaner than the can, so they're easier and more sanitary to store.
- The program is an easy way for people of all ages to support RMHC and know they are making a difference for families and children.

From now until December 18, each school is striving to see who can collect the largest number of soda tabs! Both schools are urging the community, businesses, and other groups to help us raise the most. Please drop off tabs

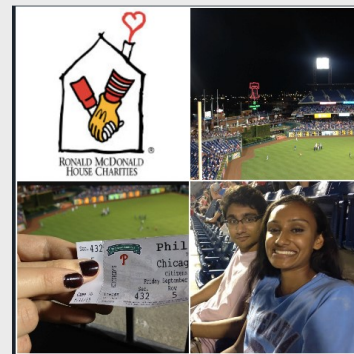
at either high school. The winning community and FBLA chapter will be announced in December.

Submitted by Mr. Steve Walter, Claysburg-Kimmel FBLA Adviser



Downingtown STEM Academy Supports RMH at Phillies Game!

On September 11, the Downingtown STEM Academy's chapter of FBLA embarked on a trip to Citizens Bank Park to attend the Phillies game to benefit the Ronald McDonald House. 30 students purchased a ticket package through the Ronald McDonald House, with a percentage of the sales revenue going towards the state project. This initiative helped to benefit the Ronald McDonald House and to raise awareness about the



organization and its mission within the
Downingtown STEM Academy.

While at the event, FBLA members from STEM
watched the game and had a great time, secure
in the knowledge that they were supporting the
Ronald McDonald House! The Downingtown
STEM Academy chapter is excited to promote
other trips and endeavors to benefit RMH this
year, including a wishlist drive coming up around
the holiday season!

*Submitted by Nihaar Naryan, Downingtown
STEM Academy FBLA VP*



Stroudsburg FBLA Volunteers at Ronald McDonald House Walk/Run

On Sunday September 27th, 2015, Stroudsburg FBLA volunteered at the
29th Annual Ronald McDonald 5k Run/Walk. My chapter and I directed

walkers and runners along the race track as well as handed out food and water. Also, we registered children for the KIDS FUN RUN and decorated the track for these. We were really able to see the family atmosphere that the Ronald McDonald House creates for its families and volunteers alike. Upon arriving at the grounds for the race track, we were all given red and white striped long socks and t-shirts to wear, so people would know we were volunteers. Many families brought their children and it was amazing to see how thankful they were to the RMH house and how positively their lives were impacted by this amazing organization. We were able to make great personal connections with families who had stayed or were staying in the RMH house and house volunteers. This has motivated our chapter to fundraise even more and plan a day to cook a meal at the house in the near future. At the end of the day, all the volunteers posed for a picture with their striped socks in hopes of breaking a world record. I don't know if the record was broken, but I do know our time has created a life-changing impact on us.

Submitted by Pranitha Pothuri, PA FBLA First VP & Stroudsburg FBLA Member



Waynesboro FBLA: A Great Start to the Year

Over the summer, Waynesboro FBLA chapter participated in Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week (PFEW), Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), National Student Leadership Conference (NSLC), and hours of community service. Students who attended PFEW participated in a business simulation. Those who attended RYLA created a community service project. At the

NSLC; students participated in business workshops.

To start off the school year, Waynesboro FBLA started a middle level in their chapter. Student Katie Arestad is the Middle level coordinator. The coordinator's job is to share information between the high school and the middle school. Waynesboro hopes to continue the Middle level in future years so that students at that level can become better prepared for FBLA at the High School level.

Waynesboro has been participating in various community service events. Renfrew Pumpkin Festival was one of these events. Partnering with Renfrew Park on this event, students arrived in the morning and worked a shift during the day in certain areas such as pumpkin carving, scarecrow building, children's games, food service, etc. Each student involved in this event was a great contribution to the success of the festival.

Waynesboro FBLA is having a great start to their year. Waynesboro FBLA is a chapter with goals to improve personal development, starting an active Middle level, increasing community service projects and the overall success of the chapter.

*Submitted by Katrina Snyder, Waynesboro
Chapter Secretary*

Stroudsburg Hosts Region 21 RLW

On Monday October 5th, my chapter, Stroudsburg High School, hosted our Regional Leadership Workshop. First, our region president, Jake Sarwar conducted the emblem ceremony with Stroudsburg FBLA. We had an opening session led by our region officers which included information about running for region office, the regional leadership conference, membership, and fundraising for the state project (Ronald McDonald House). Pleasant Valley FBLA introduced the \$24 dollar challenge where each member attempts to get \$24 within 24 hours to benefit our state project, the Ronald McDonald Houses of Pennsylvania. Ashley Johnson, a representative of the RMH Scranton, spoke to us about her personal experiences with the house and encouraged us all to volunteer there. We also conducted a Wishlist drive and were able to fill Ms. Johnson's car with all our donations. Our region advisor, Ms. Palumbo hoped to fill a large truck with donations after our RLC. Following this we went into breakout sessions that included workshops about marketing, interviews, and fundraising. The region officers and I gave a special workshop for the chapter presidents and secretaries detailing the state and national recognition events, in an effort to increase participation in them. We then concluded with the closing session and made plans to all meet again during the Regional Leadership Conference.

Submitted by Pranitha Pothuri, PA FBLA 1st VP

Claysburg-Kimmel Visits Local Food Bank

On October 26th, 2015, a group of students from Claysburg-Kimmel's Future Business Leaders of America Chapter, went to their local food bank to assist Elaine Smith in sorting 75 pound bags of oatmeal. These large bags of oatmeal, generously donated by Shirley's Cookies, were sorted into quart bags that were then donated to the

Claysburg Food Bank. Pictured below are CK FBLA members Danielle Ebersole, Hailey Bradley, and Kaitlyn Sell.

Submitted by Mr. Steve Walter, Claysburg-Kimmel Adviser



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

Thank you for reading the second edition of the Penn Pal for the 2015-2016 school year. After this fantastic SLW, I'm excited to see how we can Ignite Innovation at future conferences and in future endeavors.

Article submissions for the March edition are due February 20th; anticipated publication is in mid to late March as we lead up to the SLC. Please consider sharing the efforts put forth by local and regional chapters!

Thank you so much for your continued support!

Best wishes,

Annabelle Williams

PA FBLA State Reporter



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