

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
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CONFERENCE RECAP

MEMBERSHIP
RECRUITMENT FOR 2016-
2017

2016-2017

Volume XXXI | First Edition

Published by Allison McGeehan, PA FBLA Reporter
(reporter@pafbla.us)

2016-2017

A Legacy of Leadership

PA FBLA, last year we CONNECTed at the annual State Leadership Conference in Hershey, Pennsylvania, and showed that we are Pennsylvania Proud at the National Leadership Conference hosted in Atlanta, Georgia. Having reached an all-time membership record for our state and earning 55 awards at the NLC, we are challenged to continue that Legacy of Leadership this school year within our organization. Going along with this year's national theme, I challenge each of you to leave your

STATE OFFICE GOALS

STATE PROJECT
ANNOUNCEMENT

NATIONAL OFFICE
CAMPAIGN RECAP

own legacies within FBLA this coming year. Recruit new members, study for events, find innovative ways to fundraise for our state project, and reach out to other FBLA members across the country. Leave your mark on this incredible organization and help celebrate 75 years of FBLA! I look forward to working with all of you and can't wait to see what this special year has in store.

Sincerely,

Allison McGeehan
PA FBLA Reporter

MEET YOUR STATE OFFICERS!

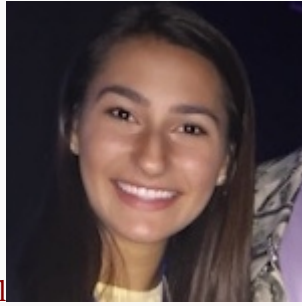
SARAH HOHMAN, PRESIDENT

North Penn-Mansfield High School



Sarah Hohman, your state president from North Penn-Mansfield High School, is an avid lover of FBLA, athletics, and community service. She loves developing her communication skills and meeting new people through her involvement in various activities. Back for a second year as a state officer, she is thrilled to be working with a brand new team of talented, motivated officers. Sarah has held numerous officer positions in FBLA, including local Reporter, Secretary, and Vice President, and Region 7's Vice President. She also plays soccer, runs track, is Student Council President, a member of National Honor Society, and a lawyer on her school's mock trial team. Sarah loves ice cream and making people laugh, but her passion for FBLA has brought her here to help lead such an incredible organization.

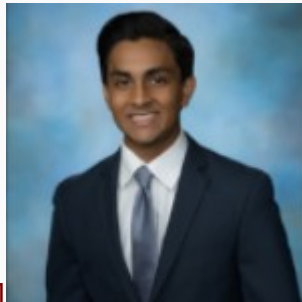
KAITLYN CARRELLI, SECRETARY



North Penn High School

Kaitlyn Carrelli, your state secretary, likes to go by KC and is going to be a senior at North Penn High School. She is so excited to be a part of the officer team. As a sophomore going into her first year at her high school, KC had no idea what FBLA was and still can't believe how many opportunities it has presented her with in such a short time. As a sophomore, she placed third in job interview at the state level and went on to compete at nationals in Chicago, IL. It was one of the most memorable experiences of her life. The club has introduced KC to so many new people and has taught her so much over the last two years. In her local chapter, she served as the historian her junior year and will be president her senior year. Outside of FBLA, KC is extremely involved in extracurricular activities. Her junior year, she was secretary of her ski and board club and will be the president this coming school year. For the second year in a row, KC will be a senator for her school's student government association, as well as a National Honors Society member and a third year Key Club member. She is on North Penn's varsity track and field team and coaches girls gymnastics. KC also volunteers with the Family Readiness Group at the Horsham Air Guard Station. She is extremely eager to get involved as a state officer and meet with many new member this year, so please don't hesitate to contact her!

RAM PALANATI, TREASURER

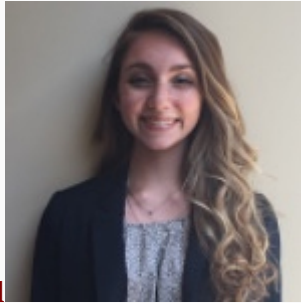


Great Valley High School

Ram Palanati looks forward to leaving a legacy of leadership and is deeply passionate about FBLA and business education for students of all ages. He currently serves as your state treasurer, PA Region 9 President, and local treasurer. A four year FBLA member, Ram has successfully competed in Sports and Entertainment Management, in which he was a national finalist, Introduction to Information Technology, and Insurance and Risk Management. Outside of FBLA, Ram interns with a member of the PA House of Representatives, enjoys playing and watching baseball, and is an avid listener of Meek Mill and Hip-Hop Music. He is an officer of Great Valley's Model UN and Science Olympiad teams and is also a member of National Honor Society and National Latin Honor Society. In school, he enjoys learning about economics,

government, and physics. A little known fact about him is that he loves the TV show Suits and aspires to become an attorney.

ALLISON MCGEEHAN, REPORTER



MMI Preparatory School

Allison is currently a senior at MMI Preparatory School and is so excited to serve as your state reporter for 2016-2017. She has loved FBLA from the moment she joined it in her freshman year and is a regional, state, and national place-winner in Introduction to Business Communications and Business Law. She has served as her FBLA local chapter secretary and also enjoys being a leading lawyer on her school's mock trial team. Allison loves to learn, and last summer had the opportunity to study public policy at Brown University, a subject she plans to continue to focus on once in college, as well as business. When she isn't in heels or her FBLA uniform, you can most likely find her in pointe shoes, as she has a passion for classical ballet and trains at the pre-professional level. Allison is so excited to meet as many Pennsylvania FBLA members as she can this year, so don't be afraid to reach out to her!

VINEETH VORUGANTI, PARLIAMENTARIAN

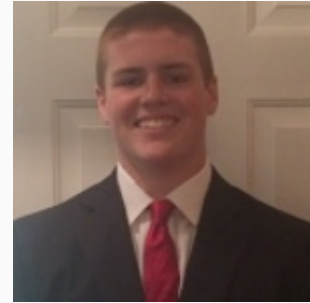


Downingtown STEM Academy

Vineeth Voruganti, your state parliamentarian is a student at Downingtown STEM Academy. He is an aspiring coder and magician with interests in technology, hackathons, and computer CTF's. Outside of FBLA, he is involved with Boy Scouts of America, First Robotics, National Honor Society, French Honor Society, and STEMHacks which is his school's hackathon. Vineeth likes to spend his free time with his friends either in person or online playing video games. When not with his friends, he likes to write code and practice magic tricks. Vineeth loves FBLA because he has been able to learn a wide variety of skills that he would have never dreamed of gaining without the club. Most important to him, however, are the incredible people he has been able to meet because of FBLA, and he hopes to connect with many of you this year.

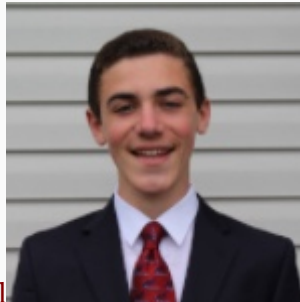
SHANE FAGAN, VICE PRESIDENT AT LARGE #1

Delaware Valley High School



FBLA for the past two years, is extremely Shane Fagan, having been an active member of Pennsylvania excited to be a part of the executive committee and state officer team for this upcoming year. He has This past year, he .qualified for states the past two years, having competed in Securities and Investments placed first in the state for his work on the Local Chapter Annual Business Report and sixth for the Big 33 individual community service. Shane has also completed the first two levels of the BAA, Future and is actively When he's not busy with FBLA, Shane .of the CSA, Community and Service Business, and involved in varsity football and wrestling at Delaware Valley High School, as well as serving as his class president and being involved with organizations such as student council, Relay for Life, Special Olympics, Shane loves FBLA because it has given .He has also participated in AMC and PFEW .and his school band him some of the most intriguing memories and experiences that have proven to be unmatched by other A little known fact about Shane is that he has no boundaries when it comes to his .clubs and activities music taste! He loves everything from classic rock and country to bebop jazz and rap. Shane would like to thank all of Pennsylvania FBLA so much for allowing him to serve as a State Vice President at Large and !can't wait for the upcoming year

GABE KESSLER, VICE PRESIDENT AT LARGE #2

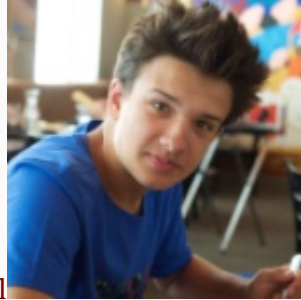


Wissahickon High School

It is Gabe's honor and privilege to serve as one of your Vice Presidents at Large this year. Gabe is seen by others as a very passionate and outgoing person, and he is always eager to talk with his fellow FBLA members. He became interested in and knowledgeable about FBLA even before entering high school, when his older brothers held local, state, and national roles. There was never any doubt for Gabe that he aspired to become a business leader himself. In addition to FBLA, Gabe plays soccer year-round and is a very avid skier during the winter. He will happily talk to you about any sport, as he possesses true interest in many. Outside of school, Gabe is involved in CISV (Children's International Summer Villages), a non-profit organization that works to build global peace through youth. He also volunteers for the Abramson Center,

where he enjoys boosting the morale of their elderly residents. Gabe is so excited to meet as many of you as possible, and is looking forward to a great year!

ADAM SANDS, VICE PRESIDENT AT LARGE #3



Wallenpaupack Area High School

Adam is so stoked to serve as a Pennsylvania FBLA Vice President at Large this year! He has a true passion for FBLA, baseball, swimming, and puppies. Adam accidentally joined FBLA freshman year, and the rest is history. He is currently the FBLA Region 22 Vice President, a member of National Honor Society, and a captain of his baseball team. Adam is also a volunteer at his local little league and borough building. He spends his free time with his friends, fishing, hunting, playing with his three dogs, or at a baseball game. He is an honor student, but his favorite class is ceramics. Many consider Adam to be an outgoing person who is not afraid to reach out, but he also loves when people reach out to him so do not be afraid. Adam loves to meet new people, and cannot wait to meet all of you this upcoming year!



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

I am hoping that everyone had an exciting, relaxing, and fun summer vacation, and is ready to begin another successful year with Pennsylvania FBLA!

As always, our delegation had a great showing at the National Leadership Conference, held this summer in Atlanta, GA! Traveling with over 400 people, we toured, competed, and proved to the nation why we are so Pennsylvania Proud!

PA FBLA brought home 55 individual, team, and chapter awards, as well as open events and state awards, including being recognized as the largest state chapter in the Eastern Region! Congratulations to our winners, we loved sharing this exciting experience with you all!

Our state project this year, the National Kidney Foundation, is focused on Prevention, Awareness, and Treatment, and through this, includes many opportunities for monetary donations and community service activities. I am excited to see the differences that our delegation will make as we “Reach out and give a PAT on the back!”

I hope that each and every one of you will participate in a competitive event this year. As we add even more events to the already extensive list, I am confident you will find an area you enjoy and will excel in. Your state officer team has set goals and prepared plans of work that will continue with strong PA FBLA traditions and assist you in leaving “A Legacy of Leadership!”

Expand your networks through FBLA by attending as many conferences as possible, such as the SLW in Harrisburg in November, or one of the NFLC’s held across the country! Your RLW and RLC also provide valuable opportunities to meet new people and expand your knowledge and business skills.

Enjoy your year in school, FBLA, and all other activities, and make the most of all your experiences. The time that you spend preparing for your future will not go unnoticed. Best of luck in the year ahead!

Sincerely,
Sarah Hohman
PA FBLA State President



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SLC

Written by: Kaitlyn Carrelli, PA FBLA State



Secretary

The Annual State Leadership Conference took place from April 10th to April 13th at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, Pennsylvania with the theme CONNECT. On Sunday, delegations arrived and took advantage of the shuttle busses that ran from the Hershey Lodge to the Outlets and to Hershey Park. At night, members were invited to a social event where the state

officers ran a Bingo game.

The conference officially began on Monday with registration kicking off at 7:15 a.m.. During the day, FBLA members had the ability to attend workshops, check out vendors, compete in their respective events, and visit Hershey attractions. At night, all delegates in attendance met in the Great American Hall for the opening session, which featured the amazing keynote speaker, Alex Sheen.

Tuesday marked another day of competing, visiting exhibits, and attending workshops. Many students also competed in open events, where all delegates had the opportunity to compete and showcase their talents. The regional officer leadership program for 2016-2017 regional officers and underclassman local chapter presidents occurred on Tuesday, along with the opportunity to visit the campaign booths of those students running for 2016-2017 state officer positions. The business session in the afternoon allowed individual members and chapters to be recognized for their hard work throughout the year. Tuesday evening marked the Awards of Excellence Program where members' hard work and dedication were recognized, and new state officers were named. This was followed by a NLC orientation for all students who would be eligible to compete in Atlanta, Georgia.

Wednesday marked the last day of the SLC and the departure day for all FBLA guests. It began with a breakfast for incoming and outgoing state officers and advisors, which transitioned to an orientation for the new state officers and advisors. All PA FBLA members made this year's State Leadership Conference one to remember and we are looking forward to next year!

Complete List of 2016 SLC Award Winners

The poster features a central yellow circle with a blue border containing the text "PENNSYLVANIA FBLA" and "CONNECT 2015-2016". The word "CONNECT" is rendered in a large, stylized, geometric font. The background is dark blue with a network of white lines and nodes. Below the central circle are two yellow boxes with black text: "OPENING SESSION CEREMONY APRIL 11, 2016 • 6:30PM EST CLICK HERE TO WATCH" and "AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE CEREMONY APRIL 12, 2016 • 7:00PM EST CLICK HERE TO WATCH". At the bottom left, it says "PRODUCED BY CYBIS CREATIVE | TOTAL SHOW MANAGEMENT EVENT TECHNOLOGY | SCENIC & STAGE".

Click on the image to rewatch all of the excitement from the 2016 SLC Opening Session and Awards of Excellence Program!

NLC 2016: ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Written by: Vineeth Voruganti, PA FBLA State Parliamentarian



The Annual FBLA National Leadership Conference was held in beautiful Atlanta, Georgia this year. Lasting from June 27th to July 3rd, everything, from the amazing tourist attractions visited to the strong performances of PA FBLA members in competition, was a success. The first two days were spent viewing many of the tourist attractions in the city. Highlights included the incredible laser light show at Stone Mountain Park and the ability to try a vast variety of drinks at the World of Coca Cola.

The conference officially began on June 29th with the start of competitive events and the Opening Session at the Georgia World Congress Center. Here, delegates were able to listen to the campaign speeches of many national officer candidates. On the 30th, competition continued along with the opening of national campaign booths. At the Marriott Marquis ballroom, members were able to talk to candidates to gain more insight on who to vote for. That same day served as the time for the Regional Campaign Rallies and Recognition session where Pennsylvania FBLA earned awards, celebrating the state chapter's accomplishments. Here, students listened to the candidates for Eastern Region Vice President give speeches, followed by a Q&A. On July 1st, the day began with National Officer Q&A, where state voting delegates had the opportunity to ask the candidates questions. Friday was another great day of campaign booths, workshops, and competition. It was also the day of the Atlanta Braves game where the Marlins beat the Braves 7-5.

On July 2nd, national and regional voting occurred, leading to the election of national officers for the 2016-2017 year. Afterwards, the PA delegation traveled to Fogo de Chao for lunch where members experienced the luxury of a wide arrangement of meat and salads. At 6:00 that evening, the awards of excellence ceremony started and the results of the hard work of FBLA members were announced. Here, PA FBLA did an astounding job with 55 NLC winners. This marked the end of another unforgettable NLC, and it is safe to say that all in attendance made us "Pennsylvania Proud."





MEET YOUR MEMBERSHIP GOALS!

Written by: Adam Sands, PA FBLA State VP at Large

Recruiting members may seem like a nightmare to some and a breeze to others. Whether you are struggling or succeeding, there is always room for improvement. One way to recruit new students is to show all of the good and success stories from past and current members to give new members goals to strive for. Another possibility to up membership numbers is to offer incentives such as the “all-important” trip to Hershey for the SLC every April, or the grand prize of being able to travel to nationals. Finally, one of the best ways to encourage people to join FBLA is to make it clear to

potential members that there truly is something for everyone in the club, and that it is not exclusively for those who plan on taking a business track in college. Best of luck with meeting all of your recruitment goals for this upcoming school year!



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

STATE PROJECT: NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION

Written by: Shane Fagan, PA FBLA State VP at Large

This year's State Project is the National Kidney Foundation. Formally founded in 1964, this renowned organization is the leading advocate of awareness, prevention, and treatment of kidney disease for hundreds of thousands of healthcare professionals, millions of patients and their families, and tens of millions of Americans who are at risk. 1 in 3 American adults is at an extremely high risk for developing kidney disease, 1 in 9 American adults, or 26 million, has kidney disease and most don't know it, and kidney disease is the 9th leading cause of death in the United States. Because of this, early detection and treatment is key to slow and/or prevent the progression of this debilitating disease. As a result, the National Kidney Foundation is instrumental in educating the public about this disease, lobbying government officials to support transplant and organ donor legislation, setting up screening clinics to diagnose kidney disease for affected patients, funding institutions for research, and much, much more. This foundation provides several Kidney Walks, which are large 5K fundraisers that are excellent ways to raise money and get the community involved in helping this great

cause. In addition, their newly implemented advertising campaign “Everybody Pees” is a new and engaging method of spreading awareness to get the public talking about this issue. The executive committee is very excited to begin to work with such a professional organization this upcoming year, and we look forward to showing them how much PA FBLA will contribute to their success!

[CLICK HERE TO VISIT THE NFK'S WEBSITE!](#)



**Learn more about the National Kidney Foundation
by watching this video!**

CAMPAIGNING AT THE NLC

Written by: Ram Palanati, PA FBLA State Treasurer

I had this incredible opportunity to do just that through my candidacy for National Eastern

Region Vice President. This process, however, began at the SLC. In accordance with National FBLA bylaws, each state can only have one candidate for elected office. As such, PA FBLA's policy/leadership handbook states that candidates who meet the criteria will campaign against others who seek to run for National Office at the SLC for the support of PA FBLA. After I completed this process and won PA's nomination, I then filed the paperwork with National FBLA and began to prepare my campaign materials, which included goodie bags, brochures, posters, memes, and candy. At the NLC in Atlanta, members have the opportunity to join FBLA's National Leadership Team.

Then at the NLC, all National Officer candidates attended the Candidate Briefing session, where candidates had the opportunity to talk with the current officers about their journey, and the Candidate interview, where National officers and members of the board of directors interview the candidates and his staff. Upon successfully completing this, National FBLA then officially considers those in the race as National Officer Candidates, and are later introduced at the Opening session. During the opening session, candidates for President, Secretary, and Treasurer give their speeches. Candidates for Regional Vice Presidents, like myself, give their speeches later in the week at the Regional Campaign Rally.

The next two days were filled with hours of campaigning and meeting incredible leaders from across the world. I gave my speech and participated in an impromptu Q/A session with the Eastern Region on one of these days. It led up to voting on the last day of the NLC, where voting delegates must reach a quorum in order to vote, a problem faced by National FBLA two years ago. While I did not reach the outcome I was looking forward to, I learned a lot and had a great time. I thank all who have supported me in this journey, including my adviser Mr. McCloskey, Mr. Boncal, Miss Ryland, Mrs. Skiles, Mr. Skerpon, and my campaign staff.



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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3 posts 44 followers 51 following



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