



PLEDGE

Nebraska FBLA Tours Milwaukee's Must-See Sights While at NFLC

*By Trevor Sorensen
State Parliamentarian*

Over 270 Nebraska FBLA members and advisers drove to the great city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to attend the 2011 National Fall Leadership Conference.

The two-day event began on Friday with the Nebraska Delegation touring the must-see sights of Milwaukee. The first stop took Nebraska FBLA to Miller Park, home of the Milwaukee Brewers. Unlike traditional tours, this interactive tour divided the delegation into two

groups to find the final answer by correctly answering questions about Miller Park and the Milwaukee Brewers. The questions ranged from members of the Brewers' Hall of Fame to aspects of the stadium itself.

The next stop was the Pettit National Ice Center, a training location for winter Olympic athletes during their preparation for international competition. From speed skating to curling, the Ice Center hosts world class athletes, international competitions and youth competitions

year round. The final stop on the tour was a visit to the Milwaukee Art Museum for a panoramic view of Lake Michigan.

Friday night's opening session found 1,500 members and advisers gathered to learn more about the national association. Pat Olson from Blair was introduced as a member of the national FBLA-PBL Board of Directors. Keynote speaker Derek Clark presented his message of never giving up and not letting your past limit your future. He talked about his life and how



Arlington and Gretna members eagerly await the NFLC general session.

"Gateway to Greatness" Theme of Fall Conference

*By Sally Moore
State Reporter*

Nebraska FBLA members continued to

strive towards their "Gateway to Greatness" during this 50th fabulous year of Ne-

braska FBLA. Sept. 27-28, Nebraska FBLA members gathered from across the state in Kearney and Omaha for the 2011 Nebraska Fall Leadership Conference.

Throughout the two days, FBLA members learned invaluable information by listening to speakers, attending workshops and participating in interactive presentations.

See FLC on page 2

music changed it.

On Saturday the workshops continued on topics varying from networking to parliamentary procedure. The Nebraska FBLA State Officer Team presented the workshop "Etiquette to Charm" to a standing room only crowd. The interactive workshop talked about proper attire, appropriate cell phone use and job interview preparation.

Speaker Jerry Ackerman ended the conference with his message of taking risks and doing what you love. He reminded us that attitudes are a choice. What will you do when adversity comes your way?

Recognitions were

also part of the closing session. Columbus Lakeview High School received the national Market Share Membership Award with 64.5 percent for having the largest membership based on the percentage of its study body! Bellevue West High School was recognized as the FBLA largest chapter delegation in attendance with 80 members!

The delegation returned to Nebraska on Sunday with skills to help prepare members for their future in FBLA and their future careers. The conference featured great speakers, fantastic workshops and friendships and memories that will last a lifetime.



State officers share the state goals

2011 Businessperson of the Year Megan Pleak

**By Ashleigh Teten
State Treasurer**

Congratulations to the 2011 Businessperson of the Year, Megan Pleak! Ms. Pleak has served on the Nebraska FBLA Advisory Council for the past five years. She is a licensed CPA with Dana F. Cole & Company, LLP since 2006, where she is currently a manager.

As manager, she helps to prepare income tax for individuals, corporations, partnerships and non-profit organizations. She also reviews and audits governmental units including school districts, colleges, counties and cities. On top of her job,

Megan attends at least 56 hours of professional education classes each year, 40 of which are directly related to accounting and auditing.

Ms. Pleak started her involvement with FBLA at Blair High School where she served as the First Vice President her senior year and as a representative for her other years in FBLA. During this time, she assisted FBLA in various projects including auxiliary sales, Halloween parties, pancake feeds and seatbelt projects. She also volunteered at the recycling center.

FBLA contributed to Ms. Pleak's road to success. She



have struggled to pass Accounting 101 without the background she helped me obtain. Her dedication to my future was unbelievable. Today I am not only a CPA, but the youngest manager in our firm."

Ms. Pleak is also very noticeably busy, and her FBLA background has helped her deal with this workload. She said, "FBLA taught me how to handle a busy schedule. Our chapter was always doing something: fundraising, community service, making posters, preparing for meetings and writing reports. Time management was crucial, and we were taught very quickly the importance of managing our time. To this day I continue to squeeze as much in every day as I can!"

Upon graduating from Blair High School, Ms. Pleak earned her Bachelor of Accounting Degree from Concordia University. She later earned a Masters of Tax Accounting Degree from the University of New Orleans.

It is easy to see that Ms. Pleak is a well-rounded individual who continues to give back to FBLA. Again, we commend this year's Businessperson of the Year, Megan Pleak.

FLC CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

After kicking off the general session with an energizing dance routine and a highlight of the state goals, the State Officer Team presented "What Not to Wear in FBLA." This skit ranged from proper attire for performance events to acceptable dance attire.

Eddie Slowikowski, keynote speaker, enlightened members on the many aspects of finding success to conclude the opening session. Eddie shared hilarious personal accounts that left the crowd laughing as well as performed his infamous routine, "The Revolution of Dance!" As members came out of the opening session, they were motivated and energetic for the rest of the day.

Following the opening sessions, local chapter officers attended workshops on their respective office. The state officers presented to local officers over the duties of their office; furthermore, of-

ficers were able to brainstorm ideas, rehearse key skills, and participate in hands-on activities relating to their positions as local chapter officers.

As the conferences came to an end, members had the opportunity to attend a multitude of workshops including two presented by the state officers, *Reaching for Gold* and *Gateway to a Great SLC*.

In Kearney, Wood River FBLA presented, *Community Service 101* while the Omaha conference featured the Wausa chapter presenting *It All Comes Down to You* and the Auburn chapter presenting *A Move in the Right Direction*. In addition, members connected with the March of Dimes and Nebraska PBL through their workshops.

Overall, both of the Fall Leadership Conferences were huge successes. Members from all over the state were able to prepare themselves for the upcoming year.

states, "My experience with FBLA guided me to where I am today. It was through FBLA I met Mrs. Pat Olson, our FBLA adviser. Her expectation was that you would give no less than 100%. My senior year I decided to take AP Chemistry instead of accounting. Almost through the first semester of my senior year, Mrs. Olson talked to me, again, about the importance of taking accounting in high school in order to succeed in a college business program. She allowed me to catch up to her accounting class by taking the first semester as an independent study. At semester I switched from AP Chemistry to join the accounting class. Looking back, I would





The 1970s and 1980s

Our journey through Nebraska FBLA's 50 fabulous years continues with a look at the decades of the 1970's and 1980's.

Nebraska FBLA continued to grow and by the end of the 1969-70 school year reported a membership of 27 chapters with 762 members. The 1970 state conference entertained 344 students with a spring style show, pizza party and dance. The 16 competitive events included Typing, Shorthand, Bookkeeping, Job Interview, and Boy and Girl Students of the Year.

Miami Beach, Florida, hosted the 1971 National Leadership Conference. Some of the Nebraska fees included \$21 for registration, \$60 for five nights' lodging and \$38 for a Bahama cruise. A 1975 Nebraska FBLA State Officer Goodwill tour found the state officers traveling to Ravenna, Cozad, Holdrege, Bertrand, McCook, Sidney, Kimball, Bridgeport, Crawford, Gordon and Chadron High Schools.

During the 1970's Nebraska began making its mark on the national association when Cindy Drevo, State President from Crete, was elected national president in 1975-76. Kelly Lammers from Ravenna followed as Nebraska's second

national officer in 1976-77 by serving as the Mountain Plains National Vice President. Ann Masters, Nebraska FBLA-PBL State Chairman, served as the National FBLA-PBL Board of Directors Chairman, during the 1979-80 school year.

The 1980's saw more changes as membership grew to 2,195 from 75 chapters. National dues were \$2.50 while state dues remained \$1. Four Nebraska members served as national officers during this decade: Leann Tatro, Geneva; Jason Morrissey, Tecumseh; Stephanie Brodine, Gibbon and Peter Hazelrigg, Westside. Kim Pickering-Kromberg was elected secretary-treasurer of the FBLA-PBL Alumni Division in the spring of 1988. Chapter projects now included American Enterprise, Community Service and Money Management.

Bonnie Sibert was hired as FBLA State Adviser beginning in 1986. State conference competitive events numbered 31 events including Accounting II, Computer Applications for Business, Economics, Stenography, Job Description Manual, Machine Transcription and Mr. and Ms. Future Business Leader. The decade ended with 105 active chapters.

FBLA Fun Facts

- At the 1971 State Leadership Conference (SLC), there were 25 judges; at the 2011 SLC there were 165 judges.
- The 1972 Nebraska FBLA Local Officer Workshop was held October 9 at Central Nebraska Technical College in Hastings.
- Nebraska FBLA hosted the 1976 Mountain-Plains Regional FBLA Conference at the Omaha Hilton Hotel.
- The Nebraska FBLA theme for 1977-78 was "Free Enterprise: It Works Because We Do."
- In 1978, 22 chapters were represented at the National Leadership Conference.
- Galen Miller served four years as the FBLA State Adviser starting in 1981.
- The State Leadership Conference outgrew the Omaha Red Lion Inn and was moved in 1982 to the Omaha Holiday Inn, 72nd and Grover Streets.
- Starting in the fall of 1982, FBLA and DECA co-hosted the Fall Officer Workshop, which continued until 1985.
- The Nebraska FBLA theme for 1982-83 was "FBLA Challenge Today, Business Success Tomorrow."
- In 1987 one of the items listed in the SLC program was Typewriter Check-In from 11:30 a.m. to 1:20 p.m.



Check In With Chin

Amy Chin
State President

Maybe you're highly involved in your local chapter, an officer who coordinates and attends every fundraiser and social event. Perhaps you're part of a national board, contacting potential national sponsors or writing articles for the Mountain Plains Region newsletter. Whatever your situation, it's not quite enough. You yearn for something more, to take your FBLA membership up a notch—or ten. Does this sound like you?

If you are nodding your head so fiercely that your neck is about to snap, you could be an excellent candidate for the next Nebraska FBLA State Officer Team. Serving as a Nebraska FBLA state officer is a rewarding and demanding opportunity, and you should think about your decision to run.

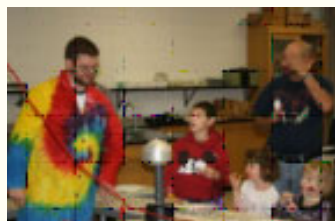
First, ask yourself: How much do I really love FBLA? Go to the www.nebraskafbla.org to check out the list of state officer duties. Compare that list with the activities you are in now. If you are highly involved in sports, other activities, or a job, you may need to cut back on these activities to make room for FBLA at the state level. Are you willing to do that?

Next, examine your motives. Why do you want to run for a state office? If your first thought was "To put it on my resume," you may want to re-evaluate. The state officer team's main focus is on the members and chapters of Nebraska FBLA, not on itself. Being a state officer will undeniably look great on your resume, and you'll get a lot of great personal development out of it, but if that's all you care about, chances are you won't have a very good time.

Finally, visit the State Officers tab on www.nebraskafbla.org. Here, you'll find everything you need to know about running for and serving as a state officer. If you have ANY questions at all, don't hesitate to talk to your adviser or me (president@nebraskafbla.org).

Greetings from the Sigma Omega Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) at North Platte Community College!

It seems like only yesterday that PBL participated in the North Platte Community College New Student Orientation. The first day on campus can be overwhelming; therefore, PBL members greeted new students to campus and provided an invitation to join one of the largest business student organizations in the world—a "Gateway to Greatness."



The chapter hosted a concession stand for the Nebraska High School Rodeo Association at the North Platte Wild West Arena. Rodeo participants and fans enjoyed a day of rodeo competition and ate well. Proceeds from the day-long concessions will fund future PBL activities, community service projects and the already anticipated National Leadership Conference in San Antonio, Texas.

On September 25 PBL members joined the Alzheimer's Association's Walk to End Alzheimer's. The North Platte "Hike to the Spike" was a 2.5 mile hike to

the city's Golden Spike Tower and visitor's center, a 120-foot-tall tower that overlooks the Union Pacific rail yard at North Platte.

Phi Beta Lambda members served as volunteers during Kid's Discovery Day and Kid's College held October 15th at NPCC. It's never too early to plant the seed and merits of higher education. A day of educational fun for children and their parents highlighted NPCC and future career options.

The Fall Leadership Conference is always a road trip worth taking. PBL students from NPCC again traveled to Lincoln for the Fall Leadership Conference. New and returning PBL members enjoyed the networking, presentations, break-out sessions and professionalism of this day.

Once again the PBL chapter at NPCC has elected to adopt the residents of Liberty House this Christmas. Plans are underway to provide gifts, food and cheer to residents who would, otherwise, not have Christmas.

Our "Gateway to Greatness" has just begun here at North Platte Community College. As our membership grows, more activities, community service projects and accomplishments will grow the bonds between us.



Lincoln Southeast FBLA members conducted the installation ceremony for the Lincoln Entrepreneurship Focus School FBLA Chapter. Lincoln Southeast presents the charter certificate to members of the newly installed chapter.

FBLA National President

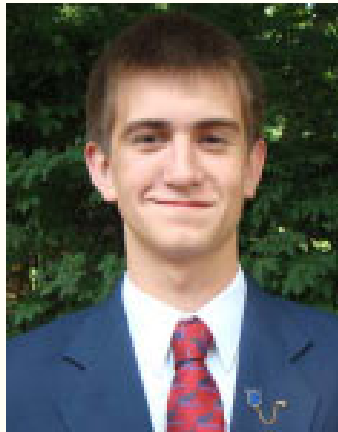
Taylor Sarman

FBLA National President

It has been over 200 years since Meriwether Lewis and William Clark headed west to a land of uncertainty and the unknown. Though time has elapsed and life has adapted, these two leaders stepped up to challenges that we as Future Business Leaders can still tackle. Taking risks, being innovative and leading the way through the unknown are all areas where we as FBLA members have proved to be at the top of our game. With the fast moving business world, we have the opportunity to take it to the next level.

Just as Lewis and Clark blazed the way for the pioneers who would inevitably make their way westward on their covered wagons, we can pave the path that future members and partners will take. As current members we can, and will, leave this organization stronger and bigger than ever. Together we can promote innovative strategies that will take our membership numbers to the next level. Together, through our top-of-the-line competitive event programs, we will demonstrate that we truly are the organization that prepares students for useful occupations.

This is our year, Future Business Leaders of America, to make a difference in the over 13,000 communities across the nation where our chapters are located. All of these ambitions are within our reach, but only if we come



together, collectively and energized. There is nothing that can stop a quarter of a million Future Business Leaders from achieving success if we strive for it together.

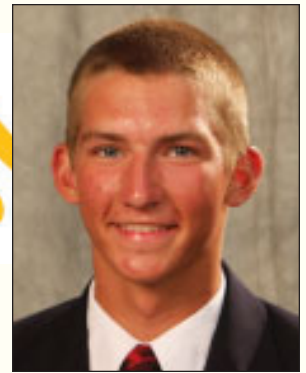
Communication can, and should be, a crucial element to our success. Your ideas about how we can foster success this year is vital. As your National President, I want to know what we can do to open the Gateway to Greatness for your chapter. I encourage you to send your ideas to fblapres@fbla.org, and utilize social media tools like our Facebook and Twitter pages to communicate your ideas.

Just like Lewis and Clark, our organization has continued to explore a new frontier—taking membership recruitment, national programs and career preparation to the next level. Together, we will blaze the trail and set a new precedent of success. As your National President, I look forward to seeing all the great things we accomplish, together, this year.



Pat Cook

State Vice President



FBLA has always encouraged students to join our organization and reach their full potential as leaders. What we haven't done enough of is going out and using the skills we have learned to bring others into our activities. There are students out there that have all different types of abilities, and we should put forth the effort to help them reach their goals through Nebraska FBLA. It is time we put our best foot forward and reach out to those who come from different backgrounds and show them the open community within FBLA.

There is one certain group that comes to mind when thinking about students who have special abilities, and we can be a part of their transformation as well as becoming the leaders we strive to be. Special needs programs are growing in high schools. This has opened a new door for Nebraska FBLA members to help out in their school. Nebraska FBLA needs to encourage our members to get involved with special needs students around school. This will give your members a new perspective on teamwork while building your own abilities as a leader. All students have different abilities, and in FBLA we should strive to encourage different populations to be all that they can be.

Leadership comes in different forms. You can lead people to do the right thing or you can lead people to reach their full potential. Why not do the right thing and reach your full potential by reaching out to different populations in your school and community. Involve everyone—no matter his or her abilities. Together, we can all make a difference within Nebraska FBLA!

PLEDGE

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SALLY MOORE

Nebraska FBLA Reporter

BEVERLY NEWTON

Nebraska FBLA Chairman

301 Centennial Mall South, P.O. Box 94987
Lincoln, NE 68509
Phone (402) 471-4865

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www.nebraskafbla.org

ALUMNI MEMBERS

FBLA 50th Anniversary Reception

Saturday, March 31

8:30-9:45 a.m.

Ramada Plaza Omaha Hotel



Sally's Spiel

Sally Moore
State Reporter

With the school year in full swing, your chapter has most likely completed some amazing and successful projects as well as led some lucrative fundraisers! Many chapters use the money raised for school projects for funding students' conference fees and for FBLA projects like the March of Dimes. However, the Nebraska FBLA Foundation is also an important cause to remember when donating funds!

The Nebraska FBLA Foundation supports members by helping fund their way to the National Leadership Conference. By doing this, many members get the chance they thought they would never have!

Because a multitude of resources are available online, donating to the FBLA Foundation is simple. You can find brochures, promotional videos and press releases on the Nebraska FBLA website to aid in your collection of cash. In addition, the website has donation forms, so when you are ready to give, it is only a click away!

And remember, that this year, there is the special Nebraska FBLA: 50 Fabulous Years campaign. Please contact recent graduates encouraging them to donate their age: 18 years = \$18. And encourage your alumni members to donate the following:

- \$50 for 50 Years
- \$100 to Double the Fun
- \$200 to Launch Our Future

By donating to the Nebraska FBLA Foundation you will help dedicated members like yourself accomplish the greatest in this 50th Fabulous Year and in years to come!

CHAPTER CHATTER

Chapters share Partnership with Business ideas.

Arlington

Two Rivers State Bank in Arlington has been a long-time partner with Arlington FBLA. This year the bank provided prizes to hand out to students and other assistance during Money Smart Week.

Bellevue West

Christine Vorasane, Jessica Rankin and Amber Rush are working on partnering with a business to produce a sports magazine for our school's athletics. They will receive money for the advertisements they place in the magazine and will distribute the finished magazine for free during the winter sports season. Business concepts such as advertising, promotion, selling and graphic design will be used throughout the project.

Blair

This year Blair FBLA is teaming with the Blair Area Chamber of Commerce to help with the county's flood relief efforts as well as a wide variety of other events the Chamber conducts.

Lakeview

Lakeview FBLA toured Cabela's and Morris Printing Group in Kearney for their annual out-of-town business tours. Morris Printing has published three editions of our cookbook and will be publishing our fourth in 2013.

Minden

Last year at our area meeting, our FBLA chapter worked with one of our local banks by having their president, Larry Wilcox, serve as the guest speaker. He was great, for he pushed the FBLA members in attendance to be creative and to always go the extra mile. He also stressed teamwork and conducted a fun activity to highlight those topics.

Twin River

Twin River FBLA partnered with Genoa Florist in supporting the local food pantry by selling rose certificates and collecting two cans of food for each certificate sold for Caring Rose Week.

Peggy Parker, Dundy County Stratton

Mrs. Parker has been the FBLA adviser for many years at Dundy County Stratton and has been very dedicated to her job. She spends countless hours dedicated to the FBLA program and often initiates partnerships with local businesses and other CSOs. Without her, many things would not be possible!



Pat Hinkle, Bellevue West

Mrs. Hinkle has been an FBLA adviser for 12 years. Along with her busy schedule, she somehow finds time outside of school to push our members to succeed and help our chapter thrive.

Cindy Talley, Fillmore Central

Mrs. Talley, a long-time adviser for Fillmore Central FBLA, is the leading force behind our chapter! She is constantly sacrificing her time to assist our chapter in any way. By going above and beyond her duties, Mrs. Talley truly is an admirable adviser!

Jane Blum, Minden

Our adviser, Mrs. Blum, is always there when we need her. She is always full of energy and really knows how to make our chapter excel! Thanks, Mrs. Blum!



FBLA-PBL for Life!

By Brad Howard, FBLA-PBL Professional Division National President

We all know FBLA-PBL offers its members something special. It's hard to put your finger directly on it. It's hard to put it into a single word or a single phrase. But, you know it when it hits you!

In today's globally competitive job market, it is no longer just about what degree you have; it is about what you have to offer the company. A bachelor's degree is now the prerequisite for many highly-selective careers. You have to bring more to the table. And, that is where FBLA-PBL enters the picture.

Whether you are challenging your skills against other students from across the nation in competitive events, building your portfolio with business and community projects or attending career development and leadership workshops at the state and national level, you are giving yourself the edge to compete.

But, FBLA-PBL doesn't have to end in high school. It doesn't even have to end in college. Did you know you can be a member of FBLA-PBL for the rest of your life?

Albert Einstein once said, "Intellectual growth should commence at birth and cease only at death." Why should your career development be any different?

Corporate executives never stop learning the newest trends. Scientists never stop learning the newest findings. And, the most successful entrepreneurs never stop bettering themselves and their portfolio. So, why should you stop after high school or college?



FBLA-PBL has four divisions: FBLA Middle Level (5th – 9th grade), FBLA (9th grade – 12th grade), Phi Beta Lambda (college) and the Professional Division.

The Professional Division, formed in 1979, is made up of business professionals, FBLA-PBL alumni, educators and anyone who supports the mission and goals of FBLA-PBL. The Professional Division gives you the chance to work one-on-one with experienced leaders and business professionals. It helps you get your foot in the door by connecting you with today's business leaders.

But, the Professional Division also helps today's professionals stay current by interacting with tomorrow's business leaders. Professional Division members continue to go to conferences, they continue to network and make the connections that matter and they continue to develop their professional career. FBLA-PBL is a win-win situation for both student members and professional members. I can truly attest to the lifetime benefits

Accomplish with Ashleigh

Ashleigh Teten
State Treasurer



Each year, Nebraska FBLA sets a goal relating to our national partner, the March of Dimes. This year our goal is to donate \$18,000 to this wonderful cause.

The March of Dimes is an organization that helps raise money and awareness for premature births. About half a million babies are born prematurely each year in the United States alone. Nebraska FBLA is teaming up with the March of Dimes to fight this unfortunate happening.

To submit your March of Dimes funds, make out a check to the March of Dimes for your chapter's preferred amount (suggested \$100 minimum). Then, send the check with the March of Dimes Fundraising Report Form, which is a white single-sided form from your national *Chapter Management Handbook*, to Laura Geisinger at March of Dimes—Nebraska Chapter, 11840 Nicholas Street, Ste. 220, Omaha, NE 68154. You must also send a copy of your March of Dimes Fundraising Form to Bev Newton at bev.newton@nebraska.gov by March 1 to verify the amount of funds submitted to the March of Dimes.

Nebraska FBLA seeks support and fundraising from chapters across the state to achieve our goal to help all children who were, and continue to be, born prematurely. Remember throughout the year to keep the March of Dimes in mind when fundraising so Nebraska FBLA can take part in fighting prematurity.

FBLA-PBL has to offer. As someone who started as a Middle Level member in 1998, then as a FBLA and PBL state officer, a two-term PBL national officer and now as the Professional Division National President, I have been a member of FBLA-PBL for more than 13 years now. And, I'm still learning something new every year. The Professional Division can offer you the edge you need to get into your dream college or to land that job you've always wanted. If there aren't any Professional Division members nearby, get out and recruit some. Sign them up to work with your chapter, to speak at meetings, to present workshops at conferences, to offer job shadowing or internship opportunities or just to financially support your chapter. Annual dues are only \$23 for Professional

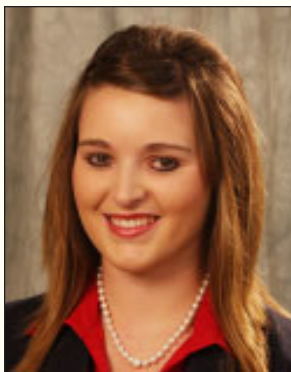
members! Remember, it's a win-win for both you and the Professional Division member. To get started, visit www.fbla-pbl.org and click on the Professional Division tab. From there, you can download a Professional Division membership application and start signing up members in your community, even your parents! If you have any questions about how to get started or to talk about how you can take your FBLA-PBL membership to the next level, e-mail me, Brad Howard, Professional Division National President, at pdpres@fbla.org. You can also follow the Professional Division on Twitter @ProfessionalDiv and you can find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/ProfessionalDivision](https://www.facebook.com/ProfessionalDivision). Remember, if you take advantage of all that FBLA-PBL has to offer, you will surely find your own gateway to greatness.

FINAL DUES DEADLINE

January 15, 2012

State Dues - \$4

National Dues - \$6



Shyanne's Shenanigans

Shyanne Thompson
State Secretary

Many chapters have started working diligently on numerous community service projects. Each chapter works to give back to their community because of the support the chapter receives. A great step towards giving back is by working with local businesses in the Connect 2 Business project. Each participating business will be listed on the Nebraska Career Connections website (www.nebraskacareerconnections.org) after creating a company profile.

Members can assist each business in creating the profile, which can show the number of employees in the business, the career clusters represented in its employees and information regarding the business. After setting up an online account, visitors can view the profile and learn more about the company. Businesses can also be viewed and accessed by many others. Those who may be looking for a job, internship or job shadow experience may encounter these opportunities because of the Nebraska Career Connections website.

Business personnel can also view potential job candidates. Those who create a personal profile about themselves with their work experience may be viewed by management of any business. Educators can utilize this website in their classroom discussion when making the transition from high school to college or the work force.

Nebraska FBLA encourages all chapters to become involved in their community by assisting local business employees and employers in creating a profile on the Nebraska Career Connections website. Chapters can receive a recognition ribbon at the State Leadership Conference if they assist three businesses in the creation of an online profile. Chapters can also use this as one of the required activities for the Sweepstakes Award. The Connect 2 Business form can be found online at www.nebraskafbla.org in the State Leadership Conference registration section and must be submitted by March 1 to Beverly Newton. I encourage all members to help your community businesses to receive recognition for all the hard work they do in return.



Commissioner's Recognition

Nebraska FBLA members placing in the top 3 at the National Leadership Conference were honored November 21 at the Commissioner's Recognition for Student Excellence in Career Education.

Memorable MEMBERS

Amber Joseph, Adams Central

Amber is an amazing member who dedicates her time to many chapter activities. She is an outstanding lunch buddy, Patriot Pal and a perfect example of what makes Adams Central FBLA great!

Nicole Stork, Arlington

Nicole has been a member of Arlington FBLA for the past four years. She has held numerous chapter offices and has devoted countless hours to projects earning her two trips to the NLC.

Brent Comstock, Auburn

A two-year Auburn FBLA member, Brent serves as our FBLA vice president and has been a leader in many projects, including the Go Green award. He was selected as an assistant to the FBLA National President this year.

Allyson Wilson, Aurora

Allyson, a junior, is an organized and dedicated three-year member of our local officer team. She finds time to be involved in nearly every committee project. Allyson has served as co-chair for our Go Green committee, which completed several environmental literacy activities enabling our chapter to be recognized as a Go Green chapter.

Jerry Lawson, Bellevue West

Jerry has devoted many hours to FBLA by participating in fundraising and chapter activities. He also assists in the operation of the T-Bird apparel store.

Spencer Johnson, Blair

Spencer is a 9th grader who has made a positive impact on our chapter. He has volunteered to work on many community service projects, and he was very helpful at the Kiwanis Halloween Party.

Andrea Lemburg, Centura

A four-year member, three-year officer and this year's co-president, Andrea

demonstrates how to be a true leader by spearheading several projects such as Partnership with Business.

Simone Marget, Fillmore Central

Simone has accumulated the chapter's highest merit points by being active on many committees. She has worked at the concession stands, been dedicated to the recycling project and carried out her reporter duties faithfully.

Chase Gronenthal, Lakeview

As a sophomore, Chase is one of our most active members, unselfishly volunteering for most of our community and school service projects.

Olivia Steen, Minden

Olivia has worked very hard for our local chapter these past couple of months! We couldn't have gotten so much done without her.

Leah Gubbels, Osmond

Leah is an enthusiastic president for the Osmond FBLA chapter. She is a reliable individual who is respected and friendly to everyone. She manages projects efficiently and effectively.

Cassidy Hafer, Sandhills

Cassidy is a freshman who has participated in every activity this year. She has assisted with the August and October bloodmobiles, the highway cleanup, the homecoming posters and the Halloween Party.

Brittany Siepelmeier, Syracuse

Brittany served as the chapter historian the past two years and will keep the chapter financially organized this year as treasurer. She is very organized, dependable and always willing to help the chapter succeed.

Kaitlyn Klein, Twin River

Kaitlyn steps up to volunteer for many school and community projects where she serves as a positive role model and leader.

50 FABULOUS IDEAS



Trevor Sorensen
State Parliamentarian



Adams Central

Adams Central FBLA hosts an annual trash pickup as a Go Green project. Groups of FBLA members are dropped off at various checkpoints on the Adams Central road. Members are destined to meet at the school when they finish making the world that much cleaner.

Arlington

Arlington FBLA hosted a school-wide food drive for the Washington County Food Pantry. A class competition was held, and the class who brought the most food for the food pantry was given donuts one morning as a reward.

Auburn

Holding a clothing drive is a great idea for any FBLA chapter! It gives members the chance to give back to their community and network with business leaders.

Bellevue West

Ryan Britten, Jessica Klima and Shannon Barber have been raising money for the Arms within Reach Foundation. The foundation raises money for individuals in need of, but unable to afford, prosthetic limbs of the upper body.

Blair

Blair FBLA assists the Blair Kiwanis organization with their Annual Halloween Party and their Pancake

Breakfast. These two events allow chapter members to network with local business leaders. This partnership has grown throughout the years; and as a result, the Kiwanis organization now provides two \$500 scholarships to graduating FBLA members each year.

Fillmore Central

Fillmore Central FBLA helped make Halloween special for community children by participating in several Revitalize Geneva events including a pumpkin decorating activity and annual Scare on the Square celebration. This year members judged costumes, sponsored games and handed out treats.

Lakeview

The Lakeview chapter is in its inaugural year of a project for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Students purchased \$1 tickets for the teacher they most wanted to get pie-faced. The two teachers with the highest number of votes were pie faced in the gym in front of the entire student body. All proceeds were donated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Minden

One of Minden FBLA's most successful projects has been our Thanks4Giving Week. During this week in November, students donate food and cold weather items for people in need. The chapter conducts a competition

In 2009 over 453,000 people were injured or killed in auto accidents due to distracted driving. Distracted driving can be anything: eating, texting and even changing the radio station. Nebraska Career Student Organizations (CSOs) are joining together to help prevent distracted driving through the "Just Drive" project. Just Drive gives local FBLA chapters the task of raising awareness of the importance of safe driving in their communities.

The Just Drive project has also been developed to be a group effort among CSOs in Nebraska schools. FBLA, Future Educators of America, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, FFA, DECA, Health Occupations Students of America, and SkillsUSA chapters can partner together to complete the project in schools. However, you do not need another CSO in your school; you can also complete the project on your own.

To complete the project, your chapter must complete two out of the possible twelve activities. Possible activities include: holding a seat belt check at your school, giving a presentation to elementary students about being safe while riding with a sibling/adult and even teaching parents and grandparents how to correctly install car seats. Once you complete the required activities, send the completed entry form and a summary and picture of each completed activity to:

Sally Moore
P.O. Box 265
Fairmont, NE 68354

If you successfully complete the project, you will be honored at the State Leadership Conference for your achievement!

No matter which activities you complete in the Just Drive project, you are helping to better your communities and prevent the accidents that occur due to distracted driving. Good luck with your projects and let's lead everyone to "Just Drive!"

between the grades—with a prize at stake—to see which grade can donate the most items.

Sandhills

Sandhills FBLA observed Breast Cancer Awareness



Month with a display and a week of activities. Activities included a pink day, pink treats with the proceeds being donated to the American Cancer Society, locker decorating contest and daily announcements.

Twin River

Twin River FBLA members teamed with the Genoa Lions Club on their 75th Anniversary celebration. Members imported and cropped pictures, created captions for the slides and designed a presentation as well as designing the four-page program for their celebration.

Success Stories



Adams Central

One of our former FBLA officers has colitis, a disease that affects the colon and creates painful cramps in the stomach. Therefore, Adams Central FBLA decided to have a fundraiser for the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation in honor of our former member.

"What should we do to raise funds?" So we thought, "Why don't we make an ice cream sundae?"

To get the students to be competitive for the event, we added an extra incentive. Students could turn their favorite (or least favorite) teacher's head into an ice cream sundae. Several teachers were nominated, which created an intense atmosphere with money being pulled in to see which teacher would win. The teacher with the most money and tickets purchased under their name was our lucky winner.

After a week of excitement with students hoping their ticket would be drawn for their teacher, we finally counted the results and the messy part began. Our own FBLA adviser had won! A cone strapped around Mr. Mulligan's head served as a bowl of deliciousness while students piles on the messy goodies. This brought smiles to many faces. The result was \$351 raised, which was a huge success at Adams Central.

Arlington

Throughout the past few months Arlington FBLA has assisted with concession stands for Arlington Youth Sports or AYS, which consists of the elementary sports teams in Arlington. Because parents were busy watching their kids play, AYS was not able to find enough parent volunteers to work the concession stand at home games.

When the AYS organization asked FBLA to work the concession stand for them, our chapter was happy to step in and allow the parents to watch their kids play their games. AYS was very thankful for Arlington FBLA's help this year and have asked for help again in the future.



Ashland-Greenwood

For our 2011 homecoming fundraiser, the Ashland-Greenwood FBLA chapter held a teacher dance competition to raise money for the Ashland Animal Shelter. We currently have chapter members volunteering time in Lincoln at similar shelters, and they are very passionate about the cause.

For the fundraiser, we asked five teachers to volunteer: Mr. Schweitzer; Mrs. Craven, a middle school English teacher and high school volleyball coach; Mrs. Pinkall, the middle school science teacher; Mrs. Jensen, the high school Spanish teacher, Spanish club sponsor and assistant speech coach and Mr. Belsky. Jars were labeled with one teacher's name on each, and throughout homecoming week students and faculty put money in the jars. On Friday during the pep rally in downtown Ashland, our chapter treasurer, Emily Rohrbough, encouraged community members to add any additional money.

The two teachers with the most money participated in the "dance-off." During the competition, the teachers invited students to the center of the circle to show them the different dances. When the music was done playing, the teacher who received the loudest cheers won! In the end, we raised nearly \$100 for the Animal Shelter in Ashland.

Auburn

Auburn FBLA introduced a new fundraiser this year in celebration of homecoming. Chapter members volunteered to spray paint paw prints on athletic fan's driveways for a small fee. By initial counts, the "Paint a Paw Print" fundraiser has been one of the most successful in Auburn FBLA history!

Aurora

At Aurora High School, FBLA members help monitor rooms during our parent-teacher conferences. This allows for conferences to run smoothly and is also a good experience for chapter members. Overall this proved to be a success as we had 66 members participate in this activity on October 20.

Teachers and administrators appreciate the willingness of FBLA members to spend part of their day off helping in this way.

Success Stories



Blair

This year, Blair FBLA is centering its American Enterprise project on financial literacy. Members will participate in various activities to heighten their awareness of the importance of money management. Officers are creating credit questions of the week to have students answer during homeroom. These questions will inform the students about credit and debit cards and teach them to be smart with their money. In addition, our FBLA chapter is in the process of securing two ATMs to be placed on campus. These will not only be convenient for students, staff and visitors, but they will also serve as a teaching tool for students to learn how to properly manage their money. Finally, our chapter will be touring Washington County Bank for our November meeting. During Money Smart Week, bank officials will be presenting our members with more information about credit.



Conestoga

Conestoga FBLA hosted a Red Cross Blood Drive on October 28. Chapter members met with the Red Cross Director, who gave us ideas for advertising and recruiting students and community givers. To our potential recruits, we stressed the importance of giving blood and that every donation could help save three lives. Our members worked hard setting up ap-

pointments and getting the word out to the community.

Members set up early in the morning with the help of the Red Cross Blood workers. We began taking our first appointments at 9:30 a.m. The Red Cross workers were overwhelmed with the number of students and community members who were willing to donate. Our members led people to the drive from class, checked people in and ran a recovery area. We ended up working an extra two hours to fit in all of the givers.

Our goal was 30 units of blood and we collected a total of 43 units. We were able to meet our quota and beat last year's collection! We are looking forward to setting a new record next year.

Dundy County Stratton

Because texting and driving has become such a big problem, Dundy County Stratton FBLA members held a "Just Drive" assembly. Our hope was to convince the local school members to "put down that phone and 'Just Drive.'"

With the help of our adviser, Mrs. Parker, we partnered with other Career Student Organizations in our school, FCCLA and FFA. Together, we expanded the assembly to safe driving, and members of each of the organizations worked together to print "Seatbelt Safety" and "Texting and Driving" laminated cards. In addition, thumb bands were found online that said "Texting kills," and the AT&T "Texting and Driving...It Can Wait" video was found. In addition, the Dundy County Sheriff's Office was contacted, and they agreed to speak at the assembly.

On October 25 at 7 a.m., officers met at the high school. Students were stopped to check for seatbelts; and if they were wearing their seatbelt, they could park anywhere and received a Smarties. However, if they were not wearing their seatbelt, they had to park near the football field and got a Dum-Dum sucker. Later in the day, the assembly commenced with a police officer explaining the dangers of drinking and driving. The AT&T video was shown, which was followed by an obstacle course. It was run once with normal vision and once when goggles impaired your vision.

Afterwards, grades 7-12 were invited to sign safe driving pledges. The day ended in success as all students and teachers agreed to never text and drive again.

Fillmore Central

Fillmore Central FBLA has been driving forward on their safe driving campaign. At the beginning of the school year, FBLA members stopped cars as they pulled into the school and checked to see if all occupants were wearing their seatbelts. If they were wearing seatbelts, the occupants received



Smarties and a note thanking them for following this safe driving habit. FBLA members also handed out Dum-Dums to the occupants who did not wear their seatbelts as well a friendly reminder to wear their seatbelt in the future. Another seatbelt check is planned in the near future to see if seatbelt

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Success Stories

safety has been improved.

In addition, Fillmore Central FBLA had the Nebraska State Patrol take the wheel to press forward with the “Just Drive” project. Throughout the day, students were released from class to attend a session with State Trooper Bybee for a rollover demonstration. Students watched in amazement as a dummy repeatedly flopped around the rolling vehicle, and even watched as it was ejected. Real life scenarios were discussed, and students also received a chance to ask questions.

Finally, Fillmore Central FBLA hosted an assembly focusing on the dangers of texting while driving. FBLA raised awareness by showing a video about texting and driving during a school-wide assembly. After the video each student was given a thumb band stating, “Txtng Kills.”

all of the fun activities, they finished the day with pizza. This annual event has proven to be a great recruiting tool over the years.



Litchfield

The Community Can Drive service project was again a huge success for the Litchfield FBLA Chapter! Each year the FBLA members canvass the town to collect as many cans of food as possible. This year the members split into six groups to collect items. They collected 486 items, which is a new record! All of the canned goods will be donated to the Sherman County Food Pantry for distribution to families in need. In addition, the high school classes had a competition to see which class could bring in the most canned goods. The freshman class won the competition and received a breakfast of donuts and juice. All of the students worked hard for a great cause and successful project!



Malcolm

On October 14, the Malcolm Chapter of Future Business Leaders of America held their 3rd annual money camp for children in 4th to 6th grades. We had a record-breaking 54 kids

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Kearney

Kearney shows they care. On a crisp and beautiful Sunday morning, Kearney FBLA members supported the participants on their walk to raise money for the March of Dimes. Members set up signs about the event around Yanney Park in Kearney and placed FBLA members, officers and advisers along the path to cheer on the participants in their effort to support this noble and great cause.

Members also served hamburgers, hot dogs and other food at the end of the walk for the hungry and tired participants who had done their best to support the March of Dimes. Throughout the day members visited with some of the families involved with March of Dimes and heard their amazing stories.

Lakeview

The Rodehorst family hosted the Lakeview FBLA annual hayrack ride. Kids enjoyed the many fun activities like the egg toss, relay races and the hayrack ride. After



Success Stories

eager to learn. This money camp teaches kids how to count, save and spend money wisely by allowing the students to attend six different workshops.

By attending the piggy bank workshop, the kids were taught how to spend money sensibly. We also explained how important it was for the kids to save their money and spend it on items they really wanted. Then, the kids decorated piggy banks so they would have a place to save their money. At the Jeopardy station, students learned about entrepreneurship. Adrianna Sims, a 6th grader, said, "My favorite station was jeopardy."

A huge game of life covered half of our high school gym floor at another station. Kids partnered and experienced life. Fifth grader, Josh Finke said, "My favorite activity was life, and I liked the prizes."

In the next workshop, kids learned the about the four P's of marketing. Each group created and built a house out of newspaper and made a poster using the four P's. Fourth grader, Taylor Glause, said, "I enjoyed making the house and poster." At the end of the camp, each group voted on which house they thought was built and promoted the best. At Money BINGO, the campers practiced quickly counting change in order to mark spots on their card. Averie Fry, a 5th grader, said, "My favorite station was BINGO."

In the taste-testing station, kids tested Hy-Vee brand food and name brand food, such as popcorn, chips and cereal, to see if they could taste a difference. Then they figured out the price per ounce. This taught the children that store brand food can be just as good as name brand food but can be half the price!

As you can see, Money Camp is a fun way to teach kids valuable skills that they can use throughout their life. The Malcolm FBLA would like to thank all the kids who attended and the parents for letting the kids attend. The high school students had a great time teaching the campers, and we hope the campers had fun, too!

Minden

This year at Minden's parent-teacher conferences, our FBLA chapter set up booths to support safe driving habits. The booths were in place as part of our participation in Nebraska FBLA's new project, "Just Drive." The conferences proved to be a perfect time for supporting the project, for we attracted many parents and teachers and informed them of important driving issues. We were able to extend booths to the middle and elementary school conferences as well, making the topic widespread across our community.

When informing visitors, we covered a variety of topics. One was distracted driving, which would include things such as texting or loud passengers. We also covered the issues of alcohol impairment, seat belts and even car seat installation. Brochures and statistics on these topics were provided to parents and teachers to give them more insight.

Overall, the whole process proved to be a huge success. Not only did we inform people of important driving issues, but we also found a great way to attract members of the community to our career student organization. Additionally, this was a great way for some of our FBLA members to participate more in our local chapter.

Sandhills

Approximately fifty Halloween ghouls were spotted heading towards Halsey, Nebraska, on October 30. These Halloween creatures were going to have some fun playing games and winning prizes at the Sandhills FBLA annual Halloween Party at the Halsey elementary gym. The party was from 3 to 5 p.m. for kids in preschool to 6th grade.

FBLA members helped set up the games and decorated the gym. Members also dressed in costumes to make the party more fun for the kids and to show some Halloween spirit. Games included Halloween twister, ghost darts, pin the eye on the monster, pass the "hot" pumpkin, a jack-o-lantern beanbag toss and a candy wheel. Other games were bowling, balloon darts, ring toss and plinko.

We also held a cupcake walk, which featured cupcakes that looked like monsters, cupcakes with worms and bugs on them and cupcakes with spiders. At the end of the party we drew names for pumpkins and did the chicken dance, the limbo and the hokey pokey, as well as paraded around to show off the cool costumes.

The turnout was great and the kids had a really fun time!

Sandy Creek

The Sandy Creek FBLA chapter was in charge of the Deweese Turtle Races this August. The members collected donations for prizes from area businesses, prepared the turtle race arena, registered each participant and ran the races.

While parents and children brought in their turtles, many of the members drew a large circle to show the "out of bounds area." Two of our FBLA officers ran the turtle registration table. Each turtle received a numbered sticker that was placed on its back to keep the turtles straight from the rest of the racers.

A large barrel was used to put the turtles in to start the race. On the count of three the turtles were released. You could hear parents and children cheer on their turtle, wanting their turtle to win. FBLA members were lined up all along the circle to help catch the turtles after each heat. Every time a turtle would cross the line, a member would yell out the number it finished to identify the top three winners of each heat. Donated prizes were given to the winner of each heat. The prizes varied from liters of pop, bubbles or even games.

The Deweese Community Club appreciates Sandy Creek FBLA members coordinating the turtle races each year for the Deweese Festival.



Success Stories



Syracuse

Syracuse members worked on the “Just Drive” project by holding a seatbelt safety check on October 12. The members were located at each of the four entrances to the school’s parking lots.

Cars were stopped before entering the lots to see if riders in the car had their seatbelts fastened. All passengers with seatbelts latched received Smarties. Drivers who were buckled up also received a sticker thanking them for being a “Smartie.” Those who did not have their seatbelts on were given a Dum-Dum sucker and a reminder slip saying, “Don’t be a ‘Dum-Dum,’ Buckle Up.”

Based on the tally that was taken, 140 riders had their seatbelts fastened and 92 people in the cars were unfastened.



Wood River

On October 28, the Wood River FBLA chapter set out to do their traditional “Halloween for the Hungry” activity. Members gathered in the school and divided into six groups with maps for each. Some members even dressed for the occasion in Halloween attire.

The groups split and went door-to-door collecting any non-perishable food items, such as Hamburger Helper, stuffing, macaroni and soup for the local food pantry. The chapter was able to collect eight boxes of canned goods and four boxes of dry goods, as well as collecting a total of \$100 in cash donations!

Congratulations

to the following FBLA members who were selected
to serve on national FBLA Boards!

National President’s Assistant

- Brent Comstock, Auburn

Mountain Plains Regional Executive Board

- Dean Detten, Gretna, Vice President Assistant
- Taylor Marten, Sandhills, Secretary
- Ashley Hoffman, Stanton, Regional Webmaster

National Treasurer’s Council

- Ryan Kula, Gretna

National Parliamentarian’s Council

- Trevor Sorensen, Minden

2011 NFLC Milwaukee Memories



Omaha-Kearney

2011 FLC

