

STATE OFFICERS ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS

1. When did you decide to run for a state office?

I decided to run at the very beginning of my junior year. —Patrick Cook

I contemplated the thought from November to January, when I made my final decision.
—Ashleigh Teten

2. Why and how did you choose your state office?

I ran for treasurer because it made the most sense after serving as the Mountain Plains Region Treasurer. I ran for president because after serving as the treasurer, I knew that I had what it took to be the president. —Amy Chin

I had originally chosen a different office; however, I felt like my skills could be better utilized as a reporter. —Sally Moore

I knew I had the necessary skills that would be required to take effective minutes. I am very organized and detail oriented, so I was set on being the secretary. —Shyanne Thompson

3. What did you do to prepare for screening day?

I used the resources on the Nebraska FBLA website along with viewing the state and national bylaws. I studied the materials daily and even on the van ride to the state office building.
—Trevor Sorensen

I studied the study guide located on the state website, memorized all nine goals of FBLA and memorized FBLA's mission statement. I also reviewed the creed and took a few FBLA Principles and Procedures practice tests. —Amy Chin

I had my adviser ask me every question about FBLA including ones that would test my abilities to think on my feet, as well as plenty of studying for the test. —Patrick Cook

4. What was the hardest part of screening day for you?

The hardest part of the screening day was the interview; I went into the interview with the Board of Directors feeling nervous. Just keep in mind that the Board of Directors consists of mainly advisers from chapters across the state – think of it like an interview with your own local adviser. —Sally Moore

(When I ran for treasurer) I came down with a cold the week of screening day! The hardest part was definitely sitting in my seat, listening to the state officer presentations, and desperately needing a Kleenex but being too afraid to get up. I didn't even want to talk to the other candidates because my voice was going away and I wanted to save it for the interview.
—Amy Chin

I was super nervous for the test! I had studied all the necessary materials, but was so afraid my mind would just go blank when I walked in to test. —Shyanne Thompson

5. What were your apprehensions after screening day?

I was very relieved and very confident. —Ashleigh Teten

I felt like I gave my best effort for fulfilling my dreams and looked forward to purchasing my SLC campaign materials. —Shyanne Thompson

6. When did you begin planning your campaign?

As state parliamentarian, I did not have to prepare a campaign. I continued to study the study questions to the parliamentary procedures test and read *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* cover to cover. —Trevor Sorensen

I started to think about my campaign after finding out that I passed the State Officer Screening Day. —Sally Moore

I began planning in November of 2010 because there was a lot of thinking involved in my speech and booth, which took a lot of time. —Patrick Cook

7. How did you choose your campaign slogan?

When I was a freshman, I had a friend who would always say, “Hey AC, keepin’ it cool over there?” That turned into my slogan, “Keepin’ It Cool with AC.” For the president campaign, I chose “Keep Your Chin Up” because it was clever, and it reflected a part of my personality that isn’t easily seen while I’m up on stage doing my officer duties. —Amy Chin

I had the help of my local chapter members. We also listed a bunch of words that rhymed. —Ashleigh Teten

8. How did you get everything accomplished for SLC?

I would write up a new list each day of things that still needed to be done. It felt good to know I was accomplishing everything for SLC a little at a time. Don’t wait until the last minute! You should show you are fully prepared for your duties as a state officer. —Shyanne Thompson

It took dedication to stick to the plan of studying the questions. When homework and projects were overwhelming, parliamentary procedure had to take a back seat. That meant that I had to make up for lost time. —Trevor Sorensen

9. What were you doing in March to prepare for SLC?

In March, I was receiving all of my campaign materials I ordered. I was going to my adviser’s room and practicing my speech every period for the entire week leading up to SLC. —Patrick Cook

I was perfecting my speech and getting campaign booth supplies ordered and ready. —Sally Moore

10. Where did you get the financial support for your campaign?

I received sponsorships from the local businesses. In return, they were listed on my brochures and then later in the newspaper. —Shyanne Thompson

Almost all of the money that funded my campaign came from my local chapter's account from all the fundraising events we did. —Patrick Cook

My local chapter, my school's booster club, and Went Blacks, my adviser's family business. —Amy Chin

11. How did you prepare for the caucus questions at SLC?

I had my local chapter officers ask me questions about FBLA that they think people would ask of me. Plus a few fun questions here and there. —Patrick Cook

I used the example questions on the Nebraska FBLA website to prepare what I would say to certain questions. Afterwards, I spoke with my adviser about what I would say, and she gave me other ideas to implement into my statements. —Trevor Sorensen

12. What was your favorite experience at SLC?

Getting on stage with all the state officers was a great experience at SLC. —Ashleigh Teten

My favorite experience at SLC was definitely having the chance to meet members from across the state. —Sally Moore

13. What was your worst incident at SLC?

I can't really say I have had one, but I guess a funny story was when I was going down an elevator and I was holding onto the railing in the elevator like my life depended on it because I have an elevator phobia. Everyone in the elevator thought I was crazy. —Patrick Cook

(When I ran for treasurer) Ten minutes before the opening general session, I discovered a run in my nylons – a HUGE run. It was really wide and ran from all the way down to my ankles. I panicked, but our chapter reporter ran back to the hotel to get me another pair! —Amy Chin

SLC was such a blur for me that I don't recall there every being a bad incident. I tackled each and every obstacle with a positive attitude in search for rewards. It definitely paid off in the end! —Shyanne Thompson

14. What was the most stressful happening at SLC?

Staying up late and getting up early was super hard! —Ashleigh Teten

It would be easily waiting for the voting session to find out if I had won. I had about two hours in my room that I tried to sleep, but I couldn't because every possible scenario for every situation was racing through my head at lightning speed. —Trevor Sorensen

The most stressful event at SLC was definitely the caucus questions. —Sally Moore

15. How did you feel when you were named to your office?

I actually pumped my fists high into the air and stood up because I was so happy. I had never had a prouder moment in my life. —Patrick Cook

As they were reading off the other names, I looked at Lakeview's delegates – they were all holding hands. I almost cried. When I got announced as the next President, a few things happened: 1. Tyler Wellman's voice cracked, 2. Lakeview's delegates screamed (I heard them before I heard anyone else), 3. Mrs. Went screamed and grabbed me, 4. Everybody else cheered, and 5. I started to cry. It was a very emotional moment and I definitely didn't see the tears coming. —Amy Chin

I didn't know what was going on. Everyone began to congratulate me at the table I was at so I assumed I won, but I wasn't sure until after the voting session was over. —Trevor Sorensen

16. When did you feel that the team was getting along great?

I knew we were family as soon as I arrived at Doane College for SOLA and everyone was so excited to see each other again for the first time since being elected. —Shyanne Thompson

I felt as if I had found a new family in my life. —Ashleigh Teten

I felt we actually got along before we were even named into our office. We all got along well and talked to each other at our campaign booths when there wasn't anyone there. —Patrick Cook

17. What were your favorite experiences at SOLA?

Staying up late talking to other officers, van rides around Doane campus, and meeting state officers from other CSOs. —Amy Chin

My favorite experiences at SOLA happened during our team meetings; we were finally getting to really know each other. —Sally Moore

18. How did you feel after SOLA?

I felt that I was ready to be a state officer. I was ready to take on the challenges that stood ahead of me. —Trevor Sorensen

SOLA definitely gave me a new outlook on being the best you can be at what you enjoy doing! I learned so many new things to help incorporate into my school, personal, and FBLA life! I also felt as if the state officer team and I had built a special relationship that would be everlasting! —Shyanne Thompson

I felt like our officer group grew stronger and that no matter the issue, we could solve it as a team to the best of our abilities. —Patrick Cook

19. What did you enjoy the most about NLC?

Meeting thousands of people was the best part of the NLC. —Ashleigh Teten

The opportunity to bond with the national officers was such an opportunity to remember.
—Shyanne Thompson

The best part of NLC was campaigns for national office. The intensity was in the air and the candidates were fantastic. It was also great to see that there is so much more I could do in FBLA. —Trevor Sorensen

20. Is being a state officer expensive?

No, you get a \$300 allowance and most of your conference expenses are paid for. The only potentially expensive part is NLC and most students can get school funding or do fundraising for that. —Amy Chin

Being a state officer is not as expensive as most think, since we have a \$300 allotment and don't have to pay to attend every conference; I think it is cheaper than I expected it to be.
—Patrick Cook

21. How much time do you spend on FBLA?

About 2-3 hours per day; it really depends on the season. —Amy Chin

I spend at least an hour each evening. Some nights it may be just reviewing what I have done throughout the week for FBLA, and other times it's preparing for upcoming conferences.
—Shyanne Thompson

I try to spend at least 30-60 minutes a day, but on the weekends, I often spend more than that.
—Sally Moore

22. What is your advice for state officer candidates?

Pick a position not because someone tells you to, but because the position utilizes your strengths and you are willing to give one hundred percent to fulfill the duties. —Trevor Sorensen

Don't ever tell yourself you would not be able to complete the task. Each and every Nebraska FBLA member is capable of being a state officer, just set your mind to it. —Shyanne Thompson

23. What is your advice for the next state officer team?

My advice is to be willing to dedicate time to Nebraska FBLA, prioritize, be flexible, and have fun! Good luck, you will be a fantastic team! —Sally Moore

Be prepared for the year ahead! It will be fun, but you will have to work to make the year successful. Get ahead on projects early so you are not scrambling at the last minute to complete them. —Trevor Sorensen

24. Have you had to cut down your involvement in activities since becoming a state officer?

I threw out some small activities that I really wasn't active in, but that's it. I'm still a two-sport athlete in addition to being a part of the band and NHS. I've was actually able to add speech this year because I wasn't in a winter sport. —Amy Chin

I have cut down slightly; however, I still have time to work after school each day. —Sally Moore

25. What is it like to be a state officer?

Being a state officer is so exciting! You meet so many different people that provide you great advice for your future. —Shyanne Thompson

It is very "cool." I have learned to take more responsibility but doing it with a fun, interactive group of people. The moments you will create with your team are ones that will last. —Patrick Cook

26. What is the best thing about being a state officer?

The best thing is being part of something bigger than myself. I am helping to lead an organization made up of students all over the state. The feeling that it gives me makes the experience worth it. —Trevor Sorensen

Simply the Best. —Amy Chin

27. Any extra thoughts to add...

May the force be with you. —Amy Chin

"A great leader's courage to fulfill his vision comes from passion, not position." —John C. Maxwell

Make the most of your year in office! Get involved with anything you can and be a part of something greater than yourself. Nebraska FBLA helped me grow and I thank Bev and the team for that. Make it last because it will be gone in the blink of an eye. —Patrick Cook