

SPRING 2020



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2019-20 STATE OFFICER TEAM

Drake Vorderstrasse, *President*Ethan Goldfish Vinson, *Vice President*

Megan Wallman, Secretary
Connor Utech, Treasurer
Sadie Shriver, Reporter
Jency Starr, Parliamentarian



During their term, the **2019-2020 Nebraska FBLA State Officers** have had the chance to lead our organization in the discovery of a world of opportunity. From Omaha to San Antonio and from Denver to Kearney, our state has left a memorable trail for us to reflect upon as the FBLA membership year begins to draw to a close.

Jency, our State Parliamentarian, never failed to make everyone on the team feel like a Star. She has been a true friend to each member of the officer team, but still found a way to keep us all organized when we got off-track during a meeting.

Our Reporter, **Sadie**, ensured that each officer was well-informed of upcoming deadlines and of course, how far we were from completing our terms. Her service as a State Officer and a National Council Member is admirable, to say the least .

Connor, our Treasurer, could always be relied on for a quick morale boost. Whether it be his exuberant energy, expansive knowledge of random trivia, or bizarre obsession with dinner rolls, Connor certainly set the pace for the rest of the officer team.

Our State Secretary, **Megan**, is perhaps best known for her aptitude for sarcasm. Her passion for the March of Dimes, phenomenal work ethic, and questionable vernacular made Megan quite the triple threat as our Secretary.

Thank you to **Ethan**, our State VP, for providing endless laughs with stories about his campaign booth antics. His deceased goldfish, hula skirt cardboard cutout, and cheesy slogan all combined for an overall impeccable candidate. Even if you never open Snapchat, we still love you.

Our President, **Drake**, never failed to shake it up. Drake was always there to support us, be a shoulder to lean on, and answer our many (many)

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QUICK LINKS TO FALL FEATURES

Drake's Take
A Moment with Megan
Fish's Tank Talk
Legislative Day
Starr's Repertoire
Sadie Says

Empowering Advisors
Utech Double Check
Members of the Month
Chapters Chartering Success
National Anthem Singer
Explore the Opportunities



FISH'S TANK TALK: FBLA FOUNDATION

BY ETHAN GOLDFISH VINSON, VICE PRESIDENT

Because of the constant support of our Nebraska FBLA Foundation, the membership experience gained as being part of FBLA is made possible. It is because of this reason, each chapter should take the initiative to recruit a new donor to the Foundation. Your 2019-2020 FBLA Nebraska State Officer Team challenges you to reach out, connect to business, and help complete our program of work!

Currently in Nebraska FBLA, members contribute the majority of foundation donations when opportunities could be taken to increase connections with businesses. Local privately owned businesses are a great place to start because they are always willing to pitch in a helping hand. Once your chapter has found a business that is excited to donate, encourage them to visit our state website for further information (donation link down below). With the support of donors, members are able to network at our several conferences throughout the year, experience the connection between education and business, as well as, possibly taking home a glass trophy with a ticket to nationals!







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questions. Drake's involvement on the local, state, and national level truly is inspiring. His quick wit and immediate responses with memes kept us all on our toes. But, he never failed to keep Nebraska FBLA on the path to success.

This year's officer team made it their mission to connect with as many students in our state as possible. It was at the State Officer Leadership Academy that they networked with prominent members of various other organizations and learned the significance of Career and Technical Education. During the Fall Leadership Conference, chapters across the state united in Hastings and Omaha to discuss the goals of this year and the importance of Financial Literacy. Denver was the site of our National Fall Conference, where our members learned essential lessons on adaptability and persistence. While the year draws to a close, our State Officer Team encourages each and every member of Nebraska FBLA to do what they can to make the most out of the time we have left together. Do what you can to explore your very own World of Opportunity.



A MOMENT WITH MEGAN: SLC KEYNOTE SPEAKER

BY MEGAN WALLMAN, SECRETARY



Your keynote speaker for the 2020 Nebraska State Leadership Conference is a dual business owner, committed family man, fish-taco lover, and proud bald guy.

Kent Julian will be challenging Nebraska FBLA members to

move from Dream to Do in whatever matters most to them. He strives for each and every student to make their dreams become a reality.

Kent has consulted with hundreds of organizations, entrepreneurs, and speakers focusing on the areas of personal development, leadership, performance, productivity, and business development. The strategies he has discovered are compatible with the real world and personal use. He has started his own personal brand business alongside a real estate business. Kent also served as the executive director of a national organization with over 2,000 affiliates.

Most of his time is spent keynote speaking, consulting, and hosting the Live it Forward Show - a podcast dedicated to helping people move from Dream to Do, both personally and professionally. In Kent's free time you can find him on a run, pursuing the perfect fish taco, or hanging out with his family.

Be sure to greet Kent as he helps Nebraska FBLA to continue to explore our World of Opportunity at this year's State Leadership Conference in Kearney!



LEGISLATIVE DAY 2020



On February 10th, the Nebraska FBLA State Officer Team had the privilege to once again collaborate with State Officers from Nebraska's six other Career and Technical Student Organizations (FFA, DECA, EdRising, FCCLA, SkillsUSA, and HOSA). We collaborated to advocate for Nebraska Career and Technical Education (CTE) at the State Capitol.

Before we could hit the Nebraska State Capitol Building, all state officers practiced how to share our personal stories, speak with legislators, and voice our needs; all in hopes to spark action within our state's legislature.

Before our trip to the capitol, we were honor of sharing breakfast with two Deputy Commissioners, Brian Halstead and Steve Milliken. Along with State Board of Education Member, Patsy Koch Johns, and the Nebraska Career and Technical Education Director. We then headed to the capitol where all state officers had the chance to observe a legislative session from the balcony, in which all State Presidents were honored on the floor. Attendees were all given the opportunity to then individually meet with senators, tour the capitol, converse with the media, and promote CTE within Nebraska!



STARR'S REPERTOIRE: MIDDLE LEVEL HIGHLIGHTS

BY JENCY STARR, PARLIAMENTARIAN

Great Future Business Leaders of America are not just found in high school, many can get their start in middle school. FBLA offers Middle Level for members in grades 5-8, although most chapters start in the 7th or 8th grade. Middle Level members across Nebraska are getting involved with their high school chapters and learning the value of community service. Boyd County Middle Level members are no exception. They have been active participants in helping serve Thanksgiving meals and collecting canned goods for those in need. In addition to community service, they have been attending work nights to complete LEAD activities and prepare for SLC competitive events in Kearney. This year, new events have been added, allowing Middle Level members seven different events to choose from.

Middle Level Projects:

- >>> Elevator Speech
- >>> Multimedia and Website Development

Middle Level Objective Tests:

- >>> Business Etiquette
- >>> Business Math and Financial Literacy
- >>> Career Exploration
- >>> Digital Citizenship
- >>> Introduction to Computer Science and Coding

If you are looking for ways to be more active in the Middle Level, the LEAD Program is a great way to start! The program is comparable to the Business Achievement Awards (BAAs), the LEAD Program allows Middle Level members to grow in their leadership and involvement in FBLA. The three levels, Bronze, Silver, and Gold, consist of fun activities that are due by March 1. Middle Level has a World of Opportunity waiting for you!

EMPOWERING ADVISORS



Adams Central

Shawn Mulligan has dedicated 17 years of service to improving Adams Central's chapter involvement within the school and community.



Ashland-Greenwood

Our chapter adviser, Amber
Dutcher, helps support our chapter
by setting up and sponsoring our
events.



Arlington

Mrs. Koger has been very helpful in preparation for SLC and studying this year.



Although the thought of member recruitment and retention seems far off during the hustle and bustle of preparing for the State Leadership Conference (SLC), this is a prime time to time to work towards the preservation of members. As well as working to grow the posterity of your chapter. Retention and recruitment of members is essential to the success of your chapter. Luckily for you, I have three retention tips that will not only be sure to get you the SevenUp Ribbon at SLC, but ensure that you have active and dedicated members carry over from year to year.

Give your members a reason to want to be in FBLA. Members are going to need a reason to not only want to be in FBLA, but be involved and contributing members. A great way to do this is through promotion of your chapter on social media, engaging activities (pool party, bonfire, scavenger hunts, etc.), and awards/praise for hard work.

Switch things up. Keeping things new is extremely important for your older members, especially if they've been involved for multiple years. Doing the same thing year after year can become tedious and mundane. Instead, try new community service opportunities, fundraisers, and chapter activities. This will make them eager and excited for new opportunities!

Incentives. This tip can be summed up into one word; food. Members sometimes need another reason to attend and meeting or activity, and food is always a great option. Many chapters will serve donuts at breakfast meetings, pizza during lunch, or ice cream in the evening. Food and fun will keep members wanting more!



Auburn

Maranda Gerdes has supported Auburn FBLA by encouraging all members to become involved in many of our recent volunteer activities.



Columbus

Kari Tunink has supported our chapter by getting all of the members involved in many volunteering or leadership activities.

Nebraska FBLA celebrates all of our dedicated and talented advisors.

You give so much of yourself to help students' get the most out of their FBLA experiences.

THANK YOU!



UTECH DOUBLE CHECK: USE FUNDRAISERS TO PAY FOR SLC

BY CONNOR UTECH, TREASURER

It's right around the corner, the event everyone has been counting down to: Nebraska FBLA State Leadership Conference!

Though it may seem a way away, it will be preceded by long hours of studying for tests and perfecting your speeches.

SLC can be expensive, but it doesn't have to be! So how can one find funds to ease the financial burden of SLC? Here are a few simple, quick, and effective ways to raise money for your chapter in order to go to state!

The easiest one is simply asking for it!
Organizations such as Lions Club, farmer co-ops,
American Legion, Union Pacific, TD Ameritrade,
local Runzas, Hyvee, among others may decide
to donate funds that can be used by your FBLA
chapter! All a person has to do is visit or call up the
group and speak with a representative about who to
talk to in order to secure funding for your chapter.
When doing this, it is important to know that the
organization is not obliged to give you anything, so
be polite and courteous even if they say no. Also, be
sure to introduce yourself, what your position or
role is within your chapter, why you are requesting
the funds, and the outcome of the organization
giving you the funds.

One possible script template to use could go like this: "Hi, my name is (your name), and I am a member of (your chapter name) FBLA. The reason for my call is that we have our State Leadership Conference coming up, a conference that provides opportunities for high schoolers and middle schoolers to develop business and technology skills, represent the state of Nebraska, and possibly win awards and merits. Our chapter would love to send members to the conference, and we were wondering if (the organization you are calling) would be willing to donate funds to our chapter to ensure we have the most members going."



Following this, ensure that you thank them for their time, regardless of whether a donation was given.

Another great way to earn money for your chapter is by hosting fundraisers! Host a car wash within your community, put on

a movie night and charge people for admission, sell candy bars, or simply go door to door asking for pledges. Your community may want to show their support for your local FBLA, and this is a great opportunity for them to! Remember again, be polite and always thank people! You represent FBLA when you go out into the town fundraising, so make sure they see you and FBLA in a good light!

Keep in mind when hosting fundraisers that you want to maximize your profits to ensure your chapter has the most funds available to utilize! Picking items that require massive investments to start may not be the best way to go about it. Instead, seek fundraisers such as Split-the-Pot raffles, Pie a Teacher, and other ideas that require no overhead to start.

A "Pie a Teacher" fundraiser requires whip cream in a disposable pie tin and consent from a teacher to do so in order to perform it. Everything made from it is profit for your chapter! Other ideas include hosting a carnival, putting on a talent show, having an intramural sport tournament, doing a basic Penny Drive, and creating your own escape room.

So, if you want to go to SLC but don't want to pay for the entire cost, talk with your chapter about seeking funds elsewhere! People are eager to donate and show support, so do not be afraid to ask! Remember, be nice, use manners, and represent FBLA positively!

2020-2021 STATE OFFICER CANDIDATES

PRESIDENT

- >>> Baden Brumbaugh, Bellevue West, #2
- >>> Lucas Lunzmann, Auburn, #3
- >>> Nick Starns, Ashland-Greenwood, #4

VICE PRESIDENT

- >>> Lili Bryant, Lincoln Southwest, #5
- >>> Jaelyn Gross, Centura, #6
- >>> Connor Nichols, Raymond Central, #7

SECRETARY

- >>> Caden Carlson, Aurora, #8
- >>> Kiryn Kayl, Boyd County, #9
- >>> Kylie White, Elkhorn High, #10

TREASURER

- >>> Chloe Ellison, Litchfield, #11
- >>> Teja Farley, Syracuse-Dunbar-Avoca, #12
- >>> Trey Lamkins, Weeping Water, #13

REPORTER

- >>> Jameson Margetts, Chadron, #14
- >>> Wyatt Nun, Fillmore Central, #15

PARLIAMENTARIAN

- >>> Isabella Cao, Kearney
- >>> Jiromi Corona, Gibbon



MEMBERS OF THE MONTH

Member of the Month is a member recognition award designed to spotlight those members that go above and beyond. Each month, members can submit an application to be featured on Nebraska FBLA Social Media, as well as The Pledge. Selection is based off of community service, FBLA involvement, and ideology for the betterment of Nebraska FBLA as a whole. Congratulations to the following members who have been selected thus far!









CHAPTERS CHARTERING SUCCESS

Arlington



We are still continuing our Bank in School partnership with Two Rivers Bank in the elementary school. Students are continuing to have exceptional attendance each week.

Ashland-Greenwood



To connect with businesses in our community, every month an officer and a few members from their squad go to our Chamber of Commerce meetings. At these meetings we get to connects with all of the businesses in our area, and learn what is currently happening in the community.



Aurora



Each year at our January meeting we facilitate mock interviews for our members. This year we had 10 volunteers from our community interview 52 of our members using a traditional interview process.

Blair

As the holiday season rolled around, the Blair FBLA Chapter decided to focus our efforts towards giving back to the community. Partnering with The Blair Optimist Club we ensured every child in the town received a toy for Christmas. At the High School the Blair FBLA Chapter held a toy drive to collect toys for these families in need. In the span of less than a month, our chapter collected around 75 gifts! Along with the toy drive, we also shopped for The Optimist Club to personalize gifts for children in the community whose families could not afford gifts this year. These service projects not only helped families in our community but they also gave us a sense of success for being able to provide a very "Merry Christmas" to all of the citizens of Blair.

Crete

Crete FBLA partners with the Crete Chamber of Commerce each year for several activities including a chapter meeting speaker, Great Pumpkin Festival, Breakfast with Santa, and more.

Chadron



Every year, Chadron FBLA has 12 Business Days of Christmas where the chapter bakes cookies for the businesses around town and gives them our newsletter. This helps the chapter connect with these businesses and allows the businesses an opportunity to be involved with the members of our community.

Gretna



We are so proud of Anthony Zaner! He not only completed all 4 levels of the BAA's, he additionally completed all of the CSA. His hard work encouraged

our FBLA members to do the same. Ashleigh Feyerabend is working on her America level with hopes to complete it this year. It just shows that hard work and motivation are contagious. Ashleigh and Anthonly both felt the 4th level of the BAA's was the most in depth. Anthony not only completed and encouraged others in the personal ribbons, he was an integral part of GHS's success in completing several ribbons. We are excited to get our ribbon swag for the State Leadership Conference this year. GHS is proud of our BAA achievers this year! We hope to continue a tradition of completing BAA's in the future.

Lakeview



Lakeview FBLA wanted to give back to the community and help children in need this Christmas season. Four angel gifts were purchased and donated to 1C Church in Columbus. Items purchased were snow pants, winter coats, snow boots, gloves, and sleds. Items were wrapped and given to four kids in Columbus in need of these items this Christmas season.

Omaha Marian



On November 11th, businessmen and businesswomen from around the Omaha area came to Marian to speak to students in business classes and FBLA. It was a wonderful opportunity for the girls to learn about owning and starting a business and what is takes to be successful. Girls got to talk to each speaker in small groups to get to know how they got involved with business. They asked questions and had many in-depth conversations. Students gained important networking skills, something very important in the business world. Speakers were representing Gallup, TD Ameritrade, Oriental Trading Company, Union Pacific, and Truly U. Many were Marian graduates. The Day of Business was a huge success and we are very thankful to everyone who helped make it happen!

Syracuse

Cynthia Sayers, Pediatric Cancer Action Network Director, spoke to the Syracuse chapter about how they help families whose child has cancer. They provide a grant up to \$2000 to a family whose child is receiving treatments. Syracuse FBLA raised \$1767 for PCAN.

NATIONAL ANTHEM SINGER



Lateisha Ngoi, a junior at Chadron High School, will sing the National Anthem during the opening ceremonies at State Leadership Conference.

Lateisha is involved in several extracurricular activities, including FBLA, student council, FCA, speech, Cardinal Singers, and musical. She hopes to go on to pursue a post-secondary education in performing arts, with a focus on vocal performance and stage acting, in hopes of accomplishing a career in the entertainment industry.



Adams Central



Adams Central held their annual Red Cross Blood Drive on January 22nd. 96 units of blood were collected, saving up to 288 lives. Local businesses provide snacks, drinks, and sandwiches to provide a pleasant experience for those that donate their time and blood to the Adams Central Blood Drive. Adams Central is grateful for the support of their school and community for their gracious donations.

In preparing for the event, members were encouraged to sign up two outside donors in order to work the blood drive. With a limited number of spots available to work and special time slots, it is tradition to camp outside of the school in a line before the doors open at 6:30. Members arrived anywhere from 12:30am-6:30am to sign up their donors. This tradition exemplifies the dedication of the Adams Central FBLA chapter.

Ashland-Greenwood

In the past few months, during halftime of every home basketball game, our FBLA members will do Pop that Shot. Pop that Shot is when kids can pay one dollar to shoot from the free throw line. If they make the shot, they get to choose from pop or candy as a reward. We started Pop that Shot as a chapter as a way to give back to our community. All of the money we earn is given to our local food bank to help our community. Members that work the pop that shot can also earn points to go to State Leadership Conference.

Arlington



Arlington FBLA recently had a seat belt day at school. Students learned about safe driving habits and how dangerous reckless driving can be.

Students watched a video about dangerous driving. A car was also brought into the gym that worked as a simulation so students could understand more of what reckless driving feels like.

Auburn



Each year, Auburn FBLA serves the Heartland by serving at Matt Talbot Kitchen in Lincoln, NE. This year, nine members graciously volunteered to donate desserts and their time. Members helped set up for lunch, serve desserts, as well as clean up after. Members always look forward to this as it is a great way to serve the community and combat hunger in the Heartland!

Chadron

Chadron FBLA is always looking for ways to impact not just our own community, but the others around us as well. One way that we have chosen to do this is by hosting a business competition for the schools in the area. By doing this, Chadron FBLA is introducing the schools that don't have FBLA to our program. We spread FBLA's message, and it is a great recruiting activity.

The introduction of schools to FBLA helps strengthen their schools and the programs that they offer. This way, schools just like ours can leave an impact on their community as well.

Columbus



During October 2019, our FBLA chapter volunteered at a very big event in Columbus. We volunteered at Taste of Columbus at the Ramada Hotel. This event is an opportunity for citizens of Columbus to taste different types of meals that you can get from different vendors all over town. It also allows up and coming restaurants to showcase their food to new customers. The members of our chapter that volunteered for this event bussed tables for the patrons.

Taste of Columbus was an important event to volunteer at. Our members were able to gain more volunteer hours and experience. Volunteering at this event also gave our chapter more recognition. Throughout the event, the attendees complimented our members and made sure to ask who we volunteered through. Our members were courteous and polite, doing their best to represent our chapter.

Crete



Over 275 children got the chance to visit Santa on Saturday, December 7 at Crete High School for the annual Breakfast with Santa sponsored by Crete FBLA and the Crete Chamber of Commerce.

FBLA members organized and volunteered at the event by helping set up, decorating, taking pictures, serving breakfast, and organizing Christmas crafts. In addition to Santa's visit, the event included Story Time by the Crete Public Library, a bake sale & raffle organized by the Crete Area Medical Center Auxiliary, and Children's Gift Shop organized by Beta Sigma Phi.

Because of the generosity of the community, Crete FBLA is able to donate the proceeds of the freewill donation to the Crete Backpack Program, \$338.00 this year alone.

Gibbon



Gibbon FBLA has been completing many projects for State Leadership Conference. One project they've been working on is the "Connect with Business" Project. The goal of doing this project is to make relationships with businesses within the community.

One of the activities Gibbon's chapter officers continue to foster is attending the bi-monthly Gibbon Chamber of Commerce meetings. Two members, Lindsay Wilkens and Abby Christensen, and their adviser, Deb Stroh, attended such a meeting on December 3, 2019. It was held at Lucky Ducks in Gibbon. Lindsay said, "The Kearney Chamber of Commerce President, Derek Rusher, was the guest speaker. He explained what he does at the Kearney Chamber of Commerce and his experience learning about leadership."

Another activity for the Connect the Business project was to participate as an intern at a local business. One of Gibbon FBLA's members, Jade Bentley, was up to the challenge. During the summer of 2019, Jade interned for two weeks with Dr. Steven Swenson, DDS. She had a wonderful experience and explained, "I didn't even know if I would like the idea of putting my hands in someone's mouth, but Dr. Swenson was so easy to talk to and explain the purpose of the work of a dentist/orthodontist. I'm really anxious to start my college education and become an orthodontist."

Litchfield



The Litchfield FBLA chapter has started a Financial Literacy project in their elementary for students in grades K-6. Once a month FBLA members go into all the classes in the elementary and teaches them about money habits, wants and needs, goods and services, and how to earn money. All students received a piggy bank to start saving their own money and learn about the topic of saving. The lessons are provided through the Federal Reserve and include activities for students to participate in over many different topics.

Kearney



This year, Kearney High FBLA donated \$250 to the March of Dimes charity by creating a community service fundraiser. March of Dimes is an organization focused on helping prematurely born babies. As we did last year, we decided on Bowling for Babies. Our members got a night of bowling at the Big Apple Fun Center in Kearney. during the night, if a strike or a spare was bowled, members donated nickels, dimes, and pennies to the March of Dimes.

The process started at our officer retreat, where we decided to repeat Bowling for Babies. We set a goal of \$250 to donate at the end of our fundraiser. To meet this goal, we had members fill out a form to sign up for the event. We also put out tip jars when FBLA posted concessions for Kearney High sporting events. to get into bowling for babies, it cost a member \$5. \$3 of that went to the Big Apple, and \$2 went to the March of Dimes.

In total from our event and the tip jars, we collected \$123. At our meeting in January, as we had extra funds, we decided to donate \$250 to the March of Dimes organization. This meant that we met our goal that we had set. Community service is an important part of Future Business Leaders of America, and it was worth donating the chance to help out in our community!

Skutt Catholic

This year the Skutt Catholic FBLA chapter worked hard on our Go Green project to better our environment. We went to nearby Lake Zorinsky and picked up waste as well as cleaned up on the Skutt Catholic campus grounds. In doing this we bettered our own community and the environment.



To educate our school, the FBLA officers gave a Go Green presentation to all FBLA members where we wrote out our promises to Go Green. In addition, our FBLA secretary created a Go Green video that was shown to all Skutt Catholic students via announcements. In addition, our chapter has lobbied our school administrators for the past few years for new trash cans and recycling bins with better designs to help increase recycling. We came out victorious and these were added in the cafeteria, gym, and hallways at the beginning of the school year!

Waverly



Waverly Highschool's FBLA chapter, held its annual blood drive on Monday, December 9th. High School students had several days before the event to sign up for a time slot to donate. The van showed up to the highschool at 8:40 AM. And stayed till around 2:30 PM. Students who had signed up to donate were escorted from class, and taken to the blood bank. They then donated their blood, and received a cookie and juice in return. The blood bank was a huge success. It registered 54 donors, and collected 42 units of blood.

LEGISLATIVE DAY COLLABORATION



STAY SOCIAL WITH NATIONAL FBLA-PBL













The Pledge is published three times a year by the Nebraska Future Business Leaders of America. (August, December, March)

Submit your articles at nebraskafbla.org > News > Submit Chapter News

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The Nebraska Department of Education recognizes the value of Career & Technical Student Organizations in the personal and professional development of career education students through Nebraska Career Education. Per Nebraska Statute 79-772 to 79-775, the Nebraska Department of Education provides financial and administrative support for state leadership and administration of the Center for Student Leadership and Expanded Learning.

It is the policy of Nebraska FBLA not to discriminate on the basis of gender, handicap, race, color, religion, marital status, age or national or ethnic origin in its education programs, membership policies, or other administered programs.





