

THE PLEDGE

FALL 2019



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Jency Starr, *Parliamentarian*



DRAKE'S TAKE: ADVOCACY

BY DRAKE VORDERSTRASSE, PRESIDENT

One of the biggest problems facing FBLA and other Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) is the public's lack of knowledge that these organizations exist. This problem could potentially cause drops in membership, funding, and overall support in any non-profit. What can we do to jump this hurdle? We must advocate for our state's CTSOs.

What is advocacy? Advocacy is a term most students do not encounter until it directly impacts them. Advocacy is simply the public support of an organization or cause by an individual. This can range from something as simple as posting on Instagram about a positive experience you've had in FBLA all the way to writing a letter of support for FBLA to your state or national representative. While the amount of work that is required to fulfill either of these tasks is substantial, both can make an immeasurable difference. One specifically targets peers and educates them on the benefit of organizational involvement, while the other enlightens a political official on the impact FBLA has on the youth they represent.

How should I advocate?

- Showcase your local chapter on the community level and spread the message of Service, Education, and Progress that our organization offers.
- If you truly feel like taking the next step of Advocacy, feel free to contact an impactful official in your community to converse on the subject of FBLA.
- Offer to put together a presentation so others understand the opportunities members are given through FBLA.
- Remain as transparent as possible during these interactions as possible. Your sincere stories and support are more than enough to garner backing.

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QUICK LINKS TO FALL FEATURES

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A MOMENT WITH MEGAN: RIBBON PROJECTS

BY MEGAN WALLMAN, SECRETARY

The 2020 Nebraska FBLA State Leadership Conference (SLC) is almost here! Now is a great time to start reviewing and organizing your chapter's ribbon projects! Here is a list of all ribbon projects to be completed.

1. Connect with Business
2. Feed Nebraska
3. iGive
4. March of Dimes Donation
5. Nebraska FBLA Foundation Trust Donation
6. Go Green Challenge
7. Seven Up
8. StepUp2Tech
9. Sweepstakes
10. Prepare Nebraska - Beyond School Bells

This year, changes have been made to the following ribbon projects: Sweepstakes, StepUp2Tech, and Connect to Business.

For the Sweepstakes Award, chapters must complete two of the four chapter reports. Reports must adhere to competition guidelines and follow the written rating sheet. The reports must score a 50% or higher

of available points. Chapters are also encouraged to charter a middle level chapter, as well as have five members attend a business competition.

The expansions to the StepUp2Tech asks that members submit a 100-word summary documenting the implementation of technology in a business classroom by an FBLA member. It is encouraged to have at least one person in your chapter submit a t-shirt design for SLC that relates to this year's current theme.

The Connect with Business ribbon now has seven required activities, and two optional activities have been added to allow members more opportunities to network with local businesses. There are pending changes being made to the March of Dimes ribbon.

Another change this year is the due date. All ribbon projects are due by **February 28, 2020**. All submission forms and individual due dates can be found on the Nebraska FBLA website at <https://nebraskafbla.org/ribbon-projects/>. We look forward to watching all of you explore your World of Opportunity within the ribbon projects this year!



General Advocacy Tips

(Drake's take continued)

- Always be courteous. Whether it be addressing officials by their official titles or simply saying please and thank you. Professionalism is appreciated in any medium.
- Do not be afraid to ask for help. If you aren't sure how to reach out to a legislator or are not knowledgeable on who represents you, feel free to reach out to a teacher, your adviser, or of course a member of the State Officer Team! We are always available for you, so please do not be shy.
- Make sure when advocating you double check every fact and ask for someone's assistance in proofreading. Polishing your letter or presentation and maintaining an overall professional tone is essential to garnering support for any cause.



FISH'S TANK TALK: CTSO COLLABORATION

BY ETHAN GOLDFISH VINSON, VICE PRESIDENT

Did you know there are six other Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) in Nebraska? Anywhere from business and agriculture to education and technical skills, there's a student organization with your interests in mind. The 2019-20 state officer team is advocating strongly for the positive value of other CTSOs. It comes as no surprise that chapters benefit from exposure to outside influences. While it is important to reach out and partner with other FBLA Chapters, it is equally as important to search for additional opportunities.

Collaboration between CTSOs could be service projects. Every student organization has a platform for giving back to the community. Through the states 2019-20 program of work the acronym M.A.P has been produced: Membership Experience, Achievement, and Philanthropy. By partnering with another student organization, a chapter would be aiding in the completion of the state's goal—

Philanthropy. Another resource a chapter would be completing would be within the S.M.A.R.T Program. "T" stands for teamwork and is focused around the improvement of chapters and communities through CTSO partnerships.

I challenge every chapter to further their membership experience by reaching out and hosting a service project with another CTSO.

For help finding CTSO resources:

- SkillsUSA: <https://skillsusanebraska.org/>
- FFA: <https://neaged.org>
- DECA: <https://www.nedeca.org/>
- FCCLA: <https://www.nebraskafccla.org/>
- Educators Rising: <http://www.educatorsrisingnebraska.org/>
- HOSA: <https://www.nehosa.org>



Do you have an Outstanding Local Reporter?

If you look up the definition of the word "reporter", you will see this—"someone who reports." We know there are outstanding local reporters in Nebraska FBLA that do so much more.

Reporters are the bridge for communication and retention. Ultimately benefiting the success of your chapter. If you feel as if you do more than just simply report, chances are, you're an outstanding local chapter reporter!

The **Outstanding Local Reporter** is a unique award designed to recognize one distinguished chapter reporter who has gone above and beyond in their responsibilities for their chapter. The recipient of this award will be selected by the current State Reporter and presented with a plaque at SLC.

Application Details

To be eligible for this award, the chapter reporter must complete the application as well as submit all FBLA work that has been submitted for publication between March 1, 2019 to February 28, 2020. Email your submission to the current state reporter at Reporter@NebraskaFBLA.org before March 1, 2020.

Find the application and more information in the [Scholarships and Awards](#) section of the Nebraska FBLA Handbook.



STARR'S REPERTOIRE: DRESS FOR SUCCESS

BY JENCY STARR, PARLIAMENTARIAN

Flannel shirts, bolo ties, and open-toed shoes. What does this trio of misfits have in common?

The answer, quite simply, is none of them are approved FBLA apparel.

So, what is appropriate to wear to FBLA events?

At business professional events, men should wear a business suit with dress pants, a collared dress shirt and a neck or bow tie. A blazer may also be paired with dress pants, a collared shirt, and tie. Women may wear a business suit with either dress pants or a skirt with a blouse. A business dress with sleeves and an appropriate length is also suitable.

Now that you know what is acceptable to wear, we can look at what is unacceptable. At FBLA conferences, jewelry in visible body piercings other than your ears is not permitted. Shorts and hats are another breach of FBLA dress code. You should also steer away from skin-tight or revealing clothing such as tights, tank tops, and short skirts or dresses.

(These are also great tips to keep in mind when interviewing for a job.)

No outfit would be complete without shoes. There are some shoes that should not be worn for FBLA, including flip flops or casual sandals (sorry, no Birkenstocks!), athletic shoes, hiking boots, Sperry's, and any canvas or fabric shoes. Men should sport dress shoes, and women should wear closed or peep-hole flats or heels.

Blazers, slacks, and closed-toed heels—what common ground does this triad possess? Well, there is only one answer to that. They are all appropriate to wear to business and FBLA events. Remember, there are acceptable and unacceptable clothes to wear to FBLA functions. Now, go dress like true Future Business Leaders of America.

Check out our Dress Code Poster to help you remember.

CHAPTERS CHARTERING SUCCESS



Arlington sent members to Nye Legacy, a rehabilitation center in Fremont, NE on October 30th. Members helped decorate the building for Halloween for the residents of Nye Legacy.



In October, the **Auburn** chapter met to pick up trash around the community. The chapter divided and conquered by splitting into five different locations around town. Over all we picked up over 300 pieces of trash!



Boyd County engaged in many community service activities, like serving the Wild Turkey Days meal, conducting ALS awareness, hosting youth sport tournaments, and packing food boxes. We encourage all members to be active in these projects to reflect positively and community.



SADIE SAYS: REASONS TO GET EXCITED FOR SLC

BY SADIE SHRIVER, REPORTER

Believe it or not, the Nebraska FBLA State Leadership Conference (SLC) is almost here! There's much to do in order to prepare, but the most important element is excitement! SLC 2020 will be in Kearney and there are many reasons to get excited.

Here are my top reasons to get hyped up for SLC:

1. A centralized location which means a shorter drive for our chapters in the western part of the state
2. Kearney is hyped to have us
3. State of the art facilities with high-speed wifi
4. Plethora of amenities in close proximity
5. Amazing food options (see [Yelp's Best 10](#))
6. More room for adding three new events along with more middle level events
7. New date gives members opportunity to participate in other CTSO state conferences



Elmwood-Murdock officers ran a "7-Up" membership challenge to recruit new members. Whichever grade recruits the highest percentage of members will receive a '7-Up Float' Ice Cream party at the end of the year.



Halloween brought Scare on the Square to downtown Geneva. The **Fillmore Central FBLA** helped the Chamber of Commerce by having members hand out candy in front of businesses on Halloween. Twenty-six members helped out fourteen businesses.



Gibbon FBLA volunteered for the [NE Special Olympics Bowling Competition](#) on Oct 12. Eleven members cheered, watched, and enjoyed the athletes from Scottsbluff, Hastings, Kearney, McCook, and more Central and Western cities that practice throughout the year.



UTECH DOUBLE CHECK: FBLA SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

BY CONNOR UTECH, TREASURER

FBLA is home to many out-of-this-world opportunities!

From experience in several career fields to exposure with businesses and other professionals, FBLA has something to offer every one of us! Most things are simple to take advantage of, requiring a quick phone call, Google search, or conversation with your advisor.

One thing that many members overlook are the scholarship opportunities. You might ask, what kind of scholarships? Keep reading to learn about several.

For those of you thinking of going to one of the great colleges and universities that Nebraska has, check to see if they have a business competition your chapter could attend. Then, call the director in charge of the event and see if the school offers any scholarships for winning events. If the answer is yes, then the only thing left to do is select an event and study hard until test day!

Another opportunity for FBLA members to earn scholarships is to check the [National FBLA](#) website. There is a long list of colleges and universities that offer driven students scholarships for being FBLA members, [Business majors](#), and even great leaders and outstanding individuals. If you feel like one of these applies to you, then check out the list of colleges that offer scholarships and fill out the applications required for each scholarship.

Lastly, I would like to remind everyone of a great way to receive money: National Leadership Conference. Cash prizes are awarded in many events to the top finishers at Nationals. Not only that, but you get to claim the title that goes with [winning](#). Even more, you get the pride of knowing all your hard work has paid off! The money earned from this can go towards your next step in life! So what are you waiting for? Take advantage of this World of Opportunity open to you as a Nebraska FBLA Member!

CHAPTERS CHARTERING SUCCESS



Kearney conducted a fundraiser at the local bowling alley in November. We bowl with other CTSOs for an hour. Part of the registration money is a donation to the March of Dimes. The chapter also collects loose change while members are bowling to add to the donation.



The **Sandhills FBLA** observed Breast Cancer Awareness Month with a display of ribbons. There were ribbons for survivors and memorial ribbons for those who lost their battle with cancer. We also held a pink out at a volleyball game.



Skutt Catholic has an annual tradition to volunteer at the Food Bank for the Heartland. This year we assembled meals for the backpack program, packing 1,535 bags with more than 6,100 meals for kids!

NFLC 2019 RECAP

Nearly three hundred Nebraska FBLA members in attendance of the National Fall Leadership Conference in the Mile High City of Denver, Colorado!

Nebraska members were truly able to elevate their skills through interactive workshops, engaging keynote speakers, and enlightening tours.

**WATCH
OUR 2019
NFLC
RECAP
VIDEO**



Syracuse ties fleece blankets and donates them to Project Linus who gives the blankets to children in hospitals.



The **Tri County FBLA** conducted a food drive in the towns of DeWitt, Plymouth and Swanton this year. The food was donated to the Little Free Pantry in DeWitt and St. John's Community Food Pantry in Beatrice this year. The members also provided breakfast food for the Plymouth Fun Run.



SADIE SAYS: COMPETITIVE EVENTS

BY SADIE SHRIVER, REPORTER

The Nebraska State Leadership Conference (SLC) is rapidly approaching, which means it's time to begin thinking about competitive events. We all know that the pressure of wanting to qualify for nationals makes selecting a competitive event difficult. Luckily I have a basic guide (page 9) for selecting the perfect event for your interests and skills. For more competitive events, visit section two of the [Nebraska FBLA Handbook](#).

Once you select your event, here are some tips to set you up for success!

- Be cautious of deadlines
- Don't procrastinate
- Seek guidance from your adviser
- Create a Quizlet study guide
- Utilize previous examples on the FBLA-PBL website
- To access this, go to the list of competitive events, select one, and scroll down to the bottom of the page to find the examples
- If competing in a performance event, practice in front of peers



EMPOWERING ADVISORS



Arlington >>> Mrs. Koger was very enthusiastic during the Canned Food Drive and encouraged many students to participate.

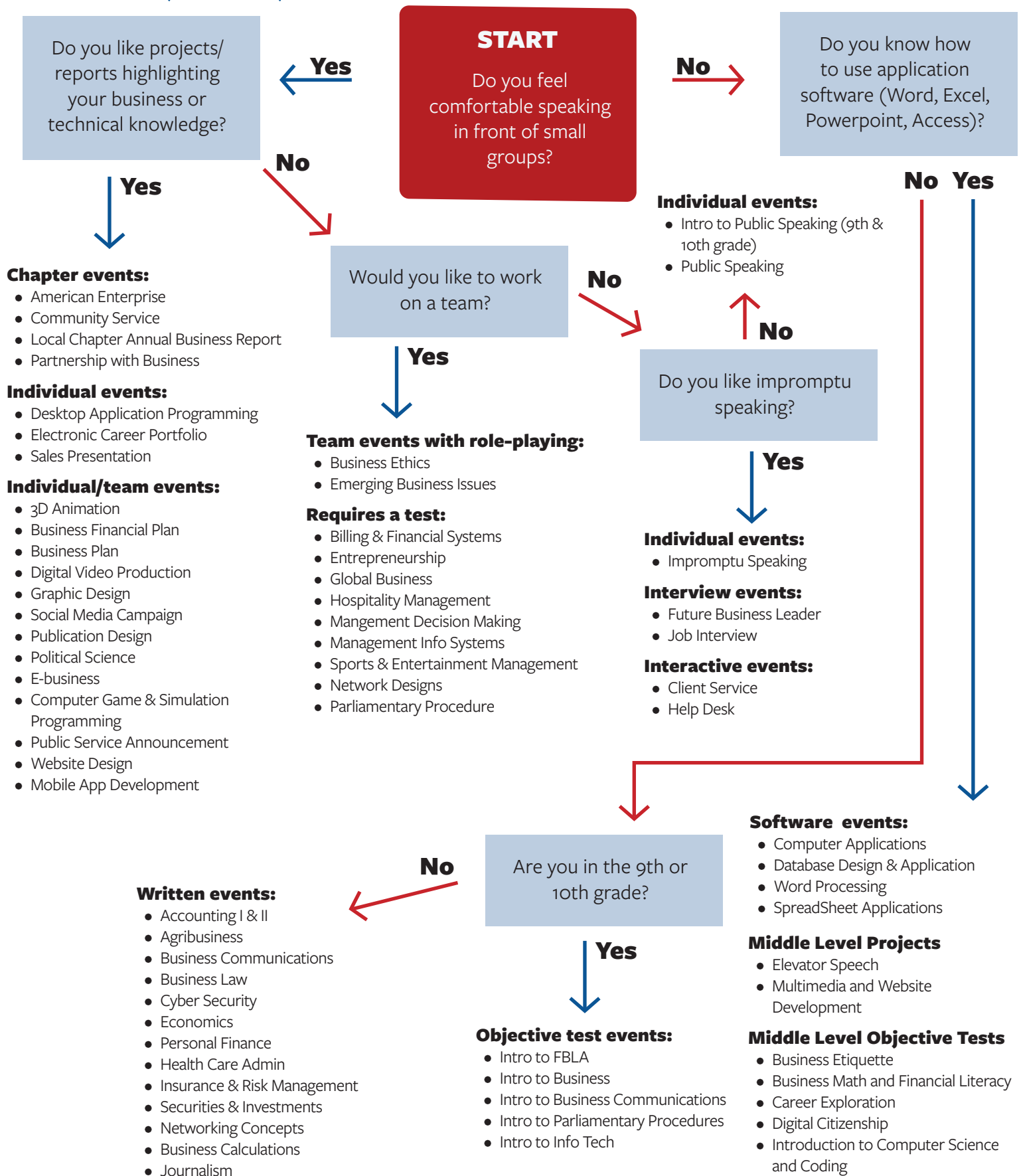


Auburn >>> Mrs. Gerdes's guidance has helped empower our members! As a result, two chapter members were elected to serve on national councils. Thank you Mrs. Gerdes for your expertise!



Chadron >>> Mrs. Budler and Mrs. Noble work together to make Chadron FBLA a successful chapter! From driving six hours for FLC to helping members with their projects, our fantastic advisers can do it all! Thank you for all of your support!

QUICK QUIZ: WHICH EVENT IS RIGHT FOR ME?



EXPLORE THE OPPORTUNITIES



Arlington

The Arlington Chapter just finished their annual Canned Food Drive for the Washington County Food Pantry. In total, the school collected 4,726 items and \$292 to be donated.

Homerooms competed against each other to see which one could bring the most cans. The winning homeroom in high school brought 898 items. The winning middle school homeroom brought 469 items and \$11. Lastly, the winning elementary class brought 436 items.

Boyd County

Boyd County FBLA is conducting a community service project, "Lending Our Voice", to represent encouraging service and promoting awareness throughout our community regarding ALS and the Jason Goesch family. This project was chosen to promote awareness of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) throughout our local area. Because two chapter members are children of Jason Goesch and many of our chapter and community members have a strong attachment to the Goesch family and recognize their contributions to the community.



Our chapter members have been working diligently to complete projects to take action and lend our voice and direct ambition towards promoting ALS awareness, supporting the Jason Goesch family, and accumulating funds to donate to the ALS Association and the Jason Goesch Family. So far this year, we have sold ALS apparel, assisted in Jason Goesch's benefit, held an ice bucket challenge, and published many documents to promote awareness. "Lending our Voice" is a priority for BC FBLA this year we are eager to continue executing our meaningful projects.

Centura

March of Dimes has always had a special place in the hearts of Centura FBLA members. Many of the members know someone who was born premature or were born premature themselves, so the support from the chapter hits home with many of the members. Each year this chapter strives to continue and expand upon ideas from previous years to help support the March of Dimes. In order to raise awareness, the Centura FBLA members participated in March of Dimes Week as well as a few fun festivities at a football game.



During this week facts about premature babies and March of Dimes were shared through the morning announcements. Posters with information were hung inside and outside the school to help inform the students, parents, and teachers of the March of Dimes organization. A fun activity that the Centura FBLA has facilitated for multiple years is the “Baby Guess Fundraiser.” For this fundraiser the Seniors of Centura High were asked to share a baby picture of themselves with Centura FBLA treasurer, Rhegan Jensen. These pictures were then cut and pasted onto a poster and hung on a rolling cart. To finish things off, the cart was topped with slips of paper, pencils, and a donation jar. Each picture was assigned a number on the poster. Students came to guess who the babies were before, during, and after school. A 25 cent donation was required to participate in the activity. By the end of the week the donation jar was filled with change from generous donors, eager to guess the names of the babies. Another money maker for the Centura FBLA members was the “Teacher’s Jeans Day.” Teachers at Centura High made a \$5 donation to wear jeans to school. This in combination with the baby guess made a generous amount of money to donate to the March of Dimes foundation.

At the end of the week on September 20th at the home football game versus Hershey, Centura FBLA hosted their 2nd annual March of Dimes Walk during half time of the football game. Students who were dressed in purple clothing waited in line for glow gear before they took a lap around the track. Many of the participants visited the face painting station run by Centura FBLA to get their cheeks decorated. Donation jars were placed at the concession stands and at the face painting station in order to help raise

money for the March of Dimes organization. During the actual lap around the track a March of Dimes banner was carried to draw attention towards the walk. Other things were done to help raise awareness as well. This includes banners and posters that were hung around the football field with facts about premature babies. The Vogt family of Boelus was present at the March of Dimes Walk as guests. Derek and Michelle Vogt are the happy parents of Declan who was born premature. At the March of Dimes Walk they shared their story for all of the fans to hear. Their story was played over the speakers while Michelle and Declan participated in the walk as well. Centura FBLA was happy with the turn out of the 2nd annual March of Dimes walk. The chapter hopes to have more successful walks and fundraisers to support the March of Dimes in their community!



Fillmore Central

The Fillmore Central FBLA chapter held a March of Dimes walk during a home football game on October 11th. Besides having a table providing information at the entrance to the game, members handed out purple necklaces to all who participated. State Secretary Megan Wallman made a short presentation about the cause after which 55 participants walked a lap around the track. Although a very cold night, the chapter was excited with the participation and funds collected at this first-time event.

Our chapter has been working on a project called “Blankets For Babies.” Our members have been working hard to make all of the blankets that will eventually be sold and all of the proceeds will go to the March of Dimes.



On September 18th, thirty-seven Lakeview FBLA members traveled to Norfolk, Nebraska to Orphan Grain Train and Mercy Meals. Mercy Meals makes and packages meals for people living in poverty. Each meal cost less than a dollar to make and feed a family of six. Lakeview FBLA packaged enough meals to feed 6,900 people and gave a \$25 donation. Orphan Grain Train packages clothing, bikes, and medical equipment to send to those less fortunate. Along with the packages, Lakeview FBLA gave a \$25 donation.

The committee members met on Friday, October 25 to set up and decorate for the FBLA Halloween Party. New games were added and spooky guests were set up to welcome the party-goers.

The Halsey Elementary Gym was the place to be if you wanted to meet a unicorn, zombies, superheroes, Frankenstein, Dracula, witches, scarecrows, the Ghostbusters, and a T-Rex, just to name a few! On October 27, the Sandhills FBLA annual Halloween



Party brought all these characters together! All party-goers received a trick or treat bag to hold their goodies and prizes from the party. The activities included monster twister, giant Jenga, ring toss, bowling, darts, kerplunk, Plinko, jack-o-lantern bean bag toss, vampire corn hole, golf, pin the nose on the monster, limbo, dancing, shark (fish) pond, arts and crafts table, cake walk, cookie decorating table and a mummy wrapping contest

The winners of the Mummy Wrapping contest each received a big Halloween glass. Prizes were also awarded for the most original costume, the scariest costume, the cutest costume, and the fan-favorite—these winners received a package of glow necklaces. At the end of the party, participants who had their names drawn each received a pumpkin. A good time was had by all and many favorable comments were received from the parents and kids.

Syracuse FBLA hosted two big events in support of children and their families affected by prematurity and cancer. One event was a March for Babies held on October 12 to commend the families that have been touched by prematurity and to raise awareness of the March of Dimes. The other event was a Gold Out in honor of Childhood Cancer Awareness month at a home softball game on September 19, a volleyball game on September 26, and a football game on September 27 in memory of their friend Addison Hestermann.

The March of Dimes Walk raised \$517 from the registration and donations. The money raised went to the March of Dimes Foundation. Kelly Hauschild kicked off the event by sharing her experiences of having a premature baby.



The walk took the participants around the park twice.

The chapter raised \$1,767 from the Gold Out through a split-the-pot fundraiser, donations and gold t-shirt sales. The winners of the split-the-pot graciously donated the money back to the cause. The t-shirts were designed by FBLA members, Megan Wallman, Taylor Mead, and Kendall Meyer. Over 200 t-shirts were sold and worn to the games. Matching the crowd, the volleyball team wore gold shirts for warm-ups, and the softball team wore them as that game's jersey. The money raised was donated to the Pediatric Cancer Action Network. The organization's mission is to reduce the financial burden placed on families diagnosed with pediatric cancer and to advocate for a cure through awareness, education and action in and around Nebraska.



Twin River

Twin River FBLA hosted another elementary walk this year with the assistance of PE teacher Renae Van Driel. FBLA members went into elementary classrooms to share information with the students about how their donations would benefit the Genoa Long Term Care facilities. The money will be used to purchase a new air conditioning unit for residents use. Students were asked to go door to door to collect donations for the cause.

The walk to benefit the cause took place on October 15 and was a great success. The weather was beautiful and students had a great time walking along with collecting donations. FBLA members assisted Mrs. Van Driel with the walk. Many of the elementary students walked over two miles and some made it three. Prizes were awarded to students who raised certain amounts for the walk. Students who raised \$10 received a Pump and Pantry certificate for a free fountain pop. Students raising \$25 were awarded a candy bar and drink card. \$50 was a Gatorade, candy bar, and drink card and \$100 students received a t-shirt along with everything else for their excellent work. Over \$2,900 has been raised so far for the Genoa Long Term Care Facility.

MORE FUN FROM NFLC



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.

