

THE PLEDGE

FALL 2019



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Sadie Shriver, *Reporter*

Connor Utech, *Treasurer*

Jency Starr, *Parliamentarian*



DRAKE'S TAKE: STATE GOALS

Your 2019-2020 Nebraska FBLA State Officer team has set high goals for Nebraska FBLA this year, and we can't wait to help YOU explore your World of Opportunity through FBLA! To help you on your adventure, we created a MAP to help guide you to the treasure of an impactful membership.

“M” is for Membership Experience. Your state officer team looks forward to helping you maximize your opportunities in our organization. We challenge Nebraska FBLA to increase Middle Level membership by 100%, reach 5,500 members, and have 200 members complete the All-State Quality Member Award. Finally, we will strive to establish a consistent communication plan between state and local officers.

“A” is for Achievements. We want each of you to achieve your own goals, and along the way help the state achieve its goals as well. The S.M.A.R.T. system was developed as a guide to help all of you obtain your goals this year and for the years to come. Nebraska FBLA also plans to have a bigger push for BAA level completions, and increase our Foundation Trust Fund \$10,000 while focusing on collecting donations from local businesses rather than chapters themselves. We also challenge each local chapter to connect with at least one state officer throughout the year. Finally, we would like to see chapters submit and complete all of the new requirements for ribbon projects such as, Sweepstakes, Step Up to Tech, and Connect with Business.

“P” is for Philanthropy. New and exciting things will be happening with our service projects, especially Go Green, March of Dimes, and Nebraska FBLA Foundation. We encourage all local chapters to collaborate with another CTSO in their school. We will also recognize chapters who excel in community service projects on a monthly basis on our social media.

Nebraska FBLA has a bright year ahead as we continue to explore our World of Opportunity together through all of our individual and state goals!

**WATCH
OUR 2019
GOALS
VIDEO**



QUICK LINKS TO FALL FEATURES

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A Moment with Megan

Fish's Tank Talk

Chapters Chartering Success

Starr's Repertoire

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Explore the Opportunities



A MOMENT WITH MEGAN: NATIONAL PROJECTS

BY MEGAN WALLMAN, SECRETARY

FBLA prides itself on its essential programs

that drive our members' journey to career readiness, but when you actually sit down and look at all of the possible projects you may take part in, it can seem overwhelming. If you were to read further into the pillars of the Chapter Challenge (Super Sweeps, Non-Stop November, and Action Awareness), you would realize your chapter may complete some requirements without even knowing it, all you have to do is sit down and select which required activities seem doable and proficient for your local chapter. Chapters that complete the Chapter Challenge will receive a special recognition pin at the National Leadership Conference.

The BAA's promote the application of the many skills developed through our organization through various tasks. These activities can range from something as small as making a poster advertising a local chapter meeting to writing a ten page report about

international recruitment. If you complete all four levels of the business achievement awards, you will have the honor of being recognized at NLC for all of your dedication.

The Community Service Awards give you a convenient means of recording your community service hours while potentially earning recognition on the local, state, and national level at the same time. Those that complete the final level of the CSA's will be recognized on the national level.

FBLA offers more opportunities on the national level than could possibly be described through one article, so if you have any more questions regarding these projects, please reach out to your adviser, the state leadership team, or even the national leadership team. The benefits of our programs are immeasurable, all you have to do is be willing to take advantage of the opportunities presented to you.

CHAPTERS CHARTERING SUCCESS



Adams Central FBLA will hold their annual social mixer in August, inviting new and past members to play knockersball, toss water balloons, and other team building activities. This event builds unity throughout the entire student body and is a lot of fun.



This month the **Auburn FBLA** and FFA chapters partnered up and hosted a pool party. It was a great way for both organizations to network and recruit new members!



To recruit new members, **Boyd County FBLA's** officers set up a recruitment booth at the school open house to educate prospective members about FBLA followed by a Nacho Night once school starts to kickstart activities for the year.



FISH'S TANK TALK: THE IMPACT OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

BY ETHAN GOLDFISH VINSON, VICE PRESIDENT

Community service is fundamental to a

chapter's success. Community service can show itself in many different forms from adopting a highway to packaging meals for those who need it. No matter the size of the act, there is one mutual goal chapters keep in mind while deciding a service project: the betterment of society. Through the use of effective community service, a chapter, business, and community all show signs of a positive impact.

Chapters are the first chain in a series of events in which service takes place. It is the responsibility of the chapter to coordinate, supervise, and execute a project. Brainstorming ideas with the local community is the easiest way to initiate this process. Ask the chapter: Who should be our target audience?, What is our time frame?, How can we get members interested?, Where will said project take place?. Logistics are vital in the establishment of service based work. Following logistics comes an

opportunity of outreach for the chapter, establishing connections for local members, and built community within a chapter. Through community service, chapters are able to build connections and make advancements within their community.

Businesses are always pleased when chapters reach out with an interest in community service. Chapters should focus on local businesses, banks, or even institutions that focus on community betterment. Future business leaders, teamed with community leaders helps to create a better community.

For help finding service resources:

- Reach out to other chapters
- Visit the State of Nebraska volunteering homepage (www.nebraska.gov/employment/volunteering/)
- Read through ribbon projects
- Use upcoming S.M.A.R.T Program



One way the **Dorchester FBLA** chapter gains members is by holding a lock-in at the beginning of the school year. This is a fun activity that anyone in grades 8-12 is able to participate in to create a better knowledge of FBLA while having fun.



Raymond Central FBLA holds a membership recruitment picnic every year to recruit new members. The event offered current and new members a chance to reconnect, play games and eat.

Hall of Fame	Mr. Buller	North Platte	Justin Gress	2
Mr. Stanley	Mrs. Sasse	FBLA!	Domanick Lange	Mr. Rohrig
National Honors Society	Students of Service	10	Business	Student Council
Mrs. Brockman	Lauren Meyer	8	Circus	Megan Wallman

Syracuse FBLA hosted a trivia game for 8th graders at the end of the school year to encourage them to join in the fall as freshmen.



STARR'S REPERTOIRE: HOW TO BE A PARLI PRO

BY JENCY STARR, PARLIAMENTARIAN

With the start of a new school year comes the start of chapter meetings. It's all too easy for meetings to get out of hand and go extremely off topic. Which is why parliamentary procedure was put in place. Parliamentary procedure may sound intimidating, but it's essentially just a way to manage a meeting. While there is a much more in-depth and complicated side to parliamentary procedure for competition, there is no need to worry about it in regular meetings. The basics to run an effective meeting consists of three main aspects: using an agenda, talking about one thing at a time, and allowing all members to speak--if they wish.

First, using an agenda can be a major help to ensure that your chapter discusses every topic needing attention, and can also create a nice structure to all of your meetings. Agendas should have the order of business arranged in the following order: **M**inutes, **R**eports of Officers, Boards, and Standing Committees, **S**pecial Committees' Reports, **S**pecial Orders, **U**nfinished Business, and **N**ew Business. (The first letter of each item spells out an easy to remember acronym "Mrs. Sun".)

Next, talking about one thing at a time is a crucial element to running a smooth meeting. Imagine if one member is trying to talk about a March of Dimes fundraiser, but then another member starts talking about trash pick-up for Go Green. It will not be much longer until everyone is confused and nothing in the meeting is getting accomplished. Thus, the person running the meeting should make sure there is only one item of business being discussed at a time.

Finally, letting all willing members participate in debate is a simple but important aspect of parliamentary procedure. The more a subject is debated, the more ideas are made. Not letting certain members speak their opinion or knowledge on a topic could possibly deprive your chapter of some very valuable information or insight. Letting members debate not only brings around good insight, but it also promotes chapter involvement.

In summation, parliamentary procedure is something you and your chapter should look into implementing! Even if you already have parliamentary procedure in place, there may be places you could improve for your chapter. Many businesses and companies use this practice in their meetings, so it never hurts to get a jump start on what you may be expected to know later! Remember, you do not have to know all the answers regarding parliamentary procedure. If you recall these three basic steps, your meetings should sail smoothly: use an agenda, talk about one thing at a time, and let all members speak. As British politician Michael Foot said, "All is fair in love and war and parliamentary procedure."

Last, but certainly not least, is remembering that every member gets a vote. Regardless if a member has any direct involvement in a decision, they should still be entitled to vote. Almost any issue that needs an answer should come to a vote--with all members knowing that they have the right to cast their opinion. If a member wishes to abstain from a vote--that is their personal decision and that individual should not be forced to vote.

NATIONAL AND STATE COMMITTEES CAN MAKE YOUR FBLA JOURNEY EVEN BETTER

In the last year, Nebraska FBLA has implemented a new program to ensure members from across the state are able to partake in a more in-depth experience in FBLA. Through the State Executive Committees, members have the chance to work alongside our State Leadership Team as we strive to accomplish the goals established in our program of work for the year. This year, Nebraska FBLA members are encouraged to apply to join one of our three committees, the Membership Experience committee, Achievements Committee, and Philanthropy Committee.

In addition to State Executive Committees, members also have the opportunity to apply for National Councils! Applications are open to Nebraska FBLA members interested in: the National President's Council, National Secretary's Council, National Treasurer's Council, National Parliamentarian's Council, and the Mountain Plains Vice President's Council. If you are interested in seeing what national officers do, make sure to start on your application as soon as applications have opened. Ask a state or national officer for more information, or check the national website, www.fbla-pbl.org.

Your State Leadership Team hopes you are pumped to start this fantastic new year as we Open a World of Opportunity through the State Executive Committees. Always feel free to approach the State Officers with any questions you may have regarding committees, programs, or anything FBLA related.



Membership Experience Committee

The Membership Experience Committee is headed by State Secretary Megan Wallman and State Treasurer Connor Utech. Members of this committee will assist Megan and Connor in maximizing the World of Opportunity presented for our members in the year to come. Increasing knowledge of Nebraska FBLA programs, promoting leadership opportunities, and advancing communication throughout our state are just a few of the various initiatives for those involved in the 'Membership Experience' Committee.

Achievements Committee

The chairs for our 'Achievements' committee are State Vice President Ethan Goldfish Vinson and State Reporter Sadie Shriver. This committee aims to assist chapters in achieving and surpassing any goals they may have, specifically, through the S.M.A.R.T program which will be further explained at FLC! Committee participants will also promote achievement through various State and National Projects, such as the Business Achievement Awards, ribbon projects, and the Nebraska Foundation Trust.

Philanthropy Committee

The State Officers overseeing the Philanthropy committee are State President Drake Vorderstrasse and State Parliamentarian Jency Starr. Those involved with 'Philanthropy' will promote new and innovative approaches to community service through the recognition of outstanding chapter projects and social media initiatives. Make sure to keep a look out for all of the fantastic new ideas and projects coming your way from the State Executive Committees.

GUIDING THE FUTURE



Adams Central >>> Shawn Mulligan keeps a busy schedule being head football coach, FBLA adviser, and business teacher, but he still finds a way to reach as many members of the Adams Central chapter as possible, making a lasting impression during their journey through our organization.



Boyd County >>> Our adviser, Mrs. Boettcher, empowers our chapter by engaging all members in chapter events, ensuring success in competitive events and projects, and displaying exemplary leadership in the school and community.



Auburn >>> Mrs. Gerdes is always working hard to ensure the success of our chapter. Her guidance helps keep our chapter strong!



Raymond Central >>> Congratulations on your retirement Mr. Marsh! We will miss having you lead us as an Adviser.



Syracuse >>> Mrs. Wellman works constantly to ensure our chapter's success year after year. She encourages and pushes our members to be their absolute best and try new projects and activities. Syracuse FBLA wouldn't be successful without her passion, dedication, and love for our chapter! Thank you, Mrs. Wellman!!



FLC WILL BE ROCKING!

This year at the Fall Leadership Conference, Nebraska FBLA will have the pleasure of hosting a Financial Literacy Concert!

The Band Gooding has been inspiring financial literacy through their 'Funding the Future' tour, impacting over 150,000 students from across the nation. During this tour, the group has played 500 concerts which share not only the inspiring message of the importance of an all-around responsible handling of one's finances, but also a thrilling musical performance for students and teachers alike.

Describing the benefits of progressive saving habits, laying out the basics to staying out of debt, and even describing the process of building one's credit are just a few of the ever-important subjects touched upon by Gooding.

This project aims to enlighten students on a subject that doesn't always have the time to be discussed between the walls of a classroom. Your Nebraska FBLA State Leadership Team is excited to "rock out" with you at FLC.



SADIE SAYS: ICE BREAKER TIPS AND TRICKS

BY SADIE SHRIVER, REPORTER

Every FBLA member's favorite part of an FBLA meeting is undoubtedly always the icebreaker.

It's a great way to get on your feet, have fun, and network with fellow members. However, for the members planning the meeting, coming up with an ice breaker to suit everyone can be tricky. Luckily, I have a few helpful tips and tricks to planning the perfect ice breaker for your group!

How large is your group? Gaging the size of your group and the size of the room is essential. Some activities require room for movement, while others you can sit during. For example, if you have 90 people in a small room, it's better to choose one that doesn't require movement. But, if you have 40 people in a larger room it's easier to do an activity where you can move about.

How much time do you have? One thing to consider when doing an ice breaker is how much time you have. If you have a limited amount of time, you will want to choose one that is quick and fun. If you're lucky enough to have a longer amount of time, be sure to select something that's going to keep members engaged for the entire amount of time.

What's the time of day and groups energy? If you're doing an icebreaker in the morning or late at night and the group is lacking energy, get them up on their feet and excited. Icebreakers are a great way to set the tone for the meeting, so be sure to keep the energy up when leading!

How do you get everyone involved? Most of the time there will be a few people who choose not to participate, and there's not much we can do about that. One thing you can always do is assure people that you want them to be involved. Stand next to them while you participate in the activity and show them how fun it is



Watermelon Slurp

Long activity for any size group

Players stand in a circle and one person is selected to begin. This person will slide their hand over their mouth to the left making a slurping noise. The person to their left will do the same thing. This will continue in the same direction until someone switches it up by swiping their arm up (still making the slurping noise). By doing that, the direction is reversed and the game will move to the right instead of the left. If you go the wrong direction or hesitate you will be out. The game ends when 2 players are left - they are both winners.

Paranoia

Long activity for any size group

To play this activity, have everyone stand in a circle. (Depending on the size of the group, you may want to have multiple groups) Once everyone is situated, have them all look at their feet. On the count of three everyone will look up and make eye contact with someone in the circle. If two people are making eye contact with each other, they both will shout. The first person to shout wins, and the other person is out. This will go until there are two people left, and they both will win!

Beach Ball Get to Know You

Short activity for any size group

For this activity you will need a beach ball and optional candy. Once you get the beach ball, write some get to know you questions on it. (Ex. What is your proudest accomplishment? Why do you like FBLA? What is your dream career?). Then, toss the beach ball around. Whoever catches the ball will stand up and say their name, then answer the question under their right index finger. Once they answer, toss them a piece of candy. This is a great way for members to get to know each other!



UTECH DOUBLE CHECK: NLC SAN ANTONIO OPENED A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES

BY CONNOR UTECH, VICE PRESIDENT

The 2019 National Leadership Conference in San Antonio, Texas was a big success for all of Nebraska! With over 390 members and advisors in attendance, Nebraska was a big presence at the conference. While there, members and advisors enjoyed days filled with activities ranging from historic tours to towering roller coasters. The conference was something to remember as well, with its host of amazing speakers, challenging tests, and exciting campaign booths. So do not cry that it is over, but instead join me in this 2019 National Leadership Conference recap!

Upon arriving in the Alamo City, members traveled to SeaWorld San Antonio! A warm, fun-filled day was ahead of everyone. Members enjoyed the aquatic shows, buffet and roller coasters, some of them even choosing to brave the intense Great White coaster. Everyone got splashed and soaked in one way or another, some by Kamea's massive tail and others by the cooling rain that ended a fine day at the park!

The Riverwalk boasted its own surprises! Most members took the time to explore the River City's main feature: the 15-mile, winding canal system



known as the Riverwalk! Located below the main streets, members could navigate the city along the river's edge. If they had the time, members could also travel by the river's boat transport system to see the whole city in the span of 20 minutes! Small shops, chain stores, ethnic restaurants and big fast food chains all coexisted along the Riverwalk's banks. The oldest restaurant along the walk was Casa Rio, open 24 hours a day 365 days a year for over 50 years. It also offered delicious food such as enchiladas, burritos, and tacos served any way you like! On the surface, the city provided double decker bus tours that used the roads to get around. Similar to the boat tour, members were allowed to see the whole city.

Finally, the place where the city owes its nickname, the Alamo Museum. The Alamo itself is located in the middle of towering skyscrapers and modern buildings! That's right, this modest limestone church shares its turf with the rest of the major city. However, what this building is most remembered for is the Alamo! Members had the opportunity to view the technology from the time period, read up on the Alamo's history, and interact with mock settlers from the time period. And yes, it also contained a lavish gift shop for all souvenir needs!

But what of the actual conference? To put it in two words, truly spectacular! The keynote speaker, Sherry Winn, detailing how to become a successful person by living a positive life? Truly spectacular! Our amazing national officers reaching out to members and organizing the meetings so that they ran smoothly? Truly spectacular! And our own competitors and campaigners who fought hard in their respective events? Truly spectacular! Members brought home 21 top ten finishes, with 3 first place finishes, and our very own Nebraska FBLA President Drake Vorderstrasse was elected to the office of Mountain Plains Regional Vice President! Truly spectacular!

A huge thanks to all who contributed to this event, from competitors to advisors and everyone in between! Members who attended, congratulations on qualifying for NLC and thank those that helped you achieve it! To all those aspiring Middle Level Members, ambitious Freshmen, determined Sophomores, enthusiastic Juniors, excited Seniors, and all you other FBLA competitors out there, set your sights to Salt Lake City, Utah for the 2020 NLC! Hope to see everyone there!



EXPLORE THE OPPORTUNITIES



Boyd County

Our Community Service Project “Bridging the Gap” was formed one year ago in order to provide a positive impact on the elderly in our local community. The main goals of this project are to bring the youth and elderly in our community closer, to establish relationships, and to give the elderly a sense of belonging in our community. Members have actively worked toward accomplishing these meaningful goals in order to benefit the community and various groups of individuals.

This project incorporates numerous activities such as one-on-one visits at the nursing home, playing various games with residents, doing crafts and projects at the nursing home, spending time playing card games at the senior center, assisting with fundraisers hosted by the senior center and the nursing home, and making homemade cards for the elderly. We also create and donate fidget quilts to the local nursing home. By continuing to help in each of these areas, we are able to allow the elderly in our community to feel connected, provide them with many benefits, and bridge the gap between youth and elderly by establishing true relationships with them.

Centura

Every year at State Leadership Conference FBLA members from across the state wait in anticipation to hear their names called in 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place. At SLC 2019 five Centura FBLA members earned their way up onto the stage: Maddy Hickok and Miranda Frerichs who placed 4th, Sydney Perez who placed 6th, Grace McDonald who placed 1st, and Faith McDonald who placed 4th. Each of these members earned a qualifying spot at the National Leadership Conference. Additional members who attended NLC from the Centura chapter were Rhegan Jensen, Sami Garcia, Elly Keilig, Taylor Grabowski, Lauryn Bernt, and Jaelyn Gross. On July 28, 2019, all eleven of these Centura FBLA members took off on an adventure to San Antonio, Texas. The members would be in Texas for the next five days meeting new people, competing in events, and exploring the city.

Those who attended NLC 2019 had an amazing opportunity to meet new people, and they eagerly took advantage of it. Many of the members met people from all over the nation, even all over the world. A few of the members even had a chance to spend time with the Nebraska State FBLA officers! This opportunity allowed our members to learn new ideas from other chapters, create a network, and to build long-lasting friendships.

After competing well at SLC it was time for the Centura Chapter to take things to the next level at NLC. Various events that Centura competed in were Business Plan, Introduction to Information Technology, Broadcast Journalism, and Public Speaking. Other members who were non-qualifiers competed in open events and attended workshops. Competing in events and attending workshops was a benefit for the chapter.

All work and no play can make for a very sad FBLA member. This is why the Centura chapter took the time to be tourists. The chapter took a day to visit sea creatures at Sea World. Some highlights of their visit at Sea World included an Orca show, seeing all of the animals, and riding rides. On another day members also visited the historical Alamo. Here members got to learn all of the history of the Alamo while taking in the beautiful architecture. One of the daily feats of NLC was the Riverwalk. Boat rides down the river and enjoying the restaurants and shops that lined it were certainly two standout pieces about the Riverwalk. By the end of the five days when it was time to return home, all of the members raved about the week they had. They had an extraordinary experience meeting new people, competing in events, and exploring the city.

Dorchester

One way our FBLA chapter is making an impact in our school is by participating in the Backpack Program. Our members get together with our adviser and work on packing up backpacks for those who are not easily able to have a meal every night. Each backpack lasts a week for a family to have a meal every night. Our members helped pack a total of 5 weeks. Our school's guidance counselor is the



one that is in charge of this program. She has the younger students help out the rest of the school year, too. This is a great opportunity for them to get a head start on becoming Future Business Leaders of America.

How this works is our school brings in crates of food and it is the members' duty to provide different meals each week. In order to do this, there is a list of certain foods for each week that needs to be put into backpacks. Before doing this, we separate out the weekly meal items first, then place them in the backpacks, that way, everything is neatly organized and there is less confusion.



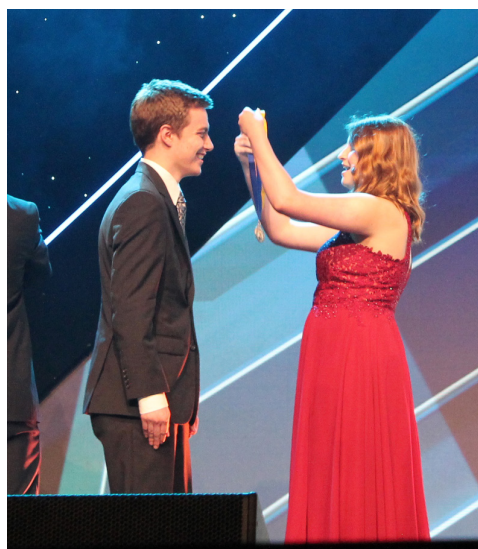
Fillmore Central

On April 28, 2019, Fillmore Central FBLA held its annual honors banquet to recognize the achievements and awards of its members. The banquet started with appetizers and desserts provided by the parents of chapter members. Following the dinner, the chapter's national qualifying American Enterprise Report, titled, "Who Wants To Be An Entrepreneur?," gave their presentation. Once this had concluded, the officer team got underway with the presentation of awards. Some of the accolades that were handed out included the Quality Member Awards, the FC FBLA Scholarships, and the recognition of members who had qualified for the National Leadership Conference. After the awards section, the night concluded with the installation of the new officer team and the closing statement by the president emeritus Ryan Poppert.

Fillmore Central FBLA explored opportunities at this banquet by inviting not only the Geneva Chamber of Commerce but also the businesses that helped the chapter to succeed in the 2018-2019 school year. Because these successful men and women did so much to help the chapter in its endeavors, it was only fitting that the officer team would invite them to this year's closing meeting. In doing so, the chapter was able to keep these networking opportunities open for the future.

Chapter members were pleased with the support of these local businesses, and are excited to see what these partnerships will bring in the coming year.

MORE FROM NLC



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 nebraskafblla.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.

