



Get Connected

Future Business Leaders of America

Volume 3, Issue 2

Presidents Letter

By: Vimal Nair
President

Dear Virginia Future Business Leaders America,

I hope you are enjoying your return to school and your current involvement in FBLA. The regional conferences are a great place for you to meet your regional officers and fellow FBLA members. I attended the Northern Virginia Fall regional conference on October 13, and enjoyed it thoroughly. It was fun to talk with fellow FBLA members and help them learn about different aspects of FBLA. I sincerely hope that you had or will have fun at your regional conference.

Competitive events are right around the corner, and you should start thinking about what competitive event you would want to compete in. The sooner you (and possibly your partners) choose your event, the sooner you can start preparing for it. The earlier you prepare, the more likely you are to succeed and earn rewards at the regional, state, and national conferences. I wish you the best of luck in your competitions.

Finally, I want to talk to you about Project ASK. As most of you know, Project ASK (Association for the Support of Children with Cancer) is the state service project. I encourage every chapter to work hard for this organization by promoting and fundraising so that we can help these children battling this disease.

Keep working diligently to make Virginia FBLA "Simply the Best."

Sincerely,

Vimal Nair

Project ASK

By: Cody Morgan

Vice-President Representing the Tidewater Region

Project ASK, Association for the Support of Children with Cancer, is a non-profit association of parents, health professionals, and concerned citizens throughout the United States. As many FBLA-PBL members and advisers know, Project ASK has been Virginia's state service project for 26 years. As part of fulfilling Project ASK's Mission of making life better for children with cancer, FBLA has raised over \$1,021,038.03 in contributions in those 26 years, \$20,520.94 of which was raised in 2009.

Through FBLA-PBL's support of Project ASK, the organization is able to conduct diagnostic research at the Medical College of Virginia at Virginia Commonwealth University. Also, FBLA-PBL funds the position for patient counselor/chaplain, and serves as a support group for families of children with cancer. As part of FBLA-PBL's fundraising project, a local chapter can help in many other ways. Along with conducting special drives for items needed at the center, a great way to support Project ASK is by making donations. Fundraising ideas for donations can include bake sales, lollipop sales, dances, car washes, and also catalog sales.

Currently, Virginia FBLA is conducting a drive for families with cancer patients. Every region has been assigned an item that is needed, and the variety of items being collected ranges from restaurant gift cards to small toys. If you'd like to learn more about what your item is and how you can help out, you can contact your Regional President. Also, to learn more about Project ASK, you can visit www.askweb.org.

Dates to Remember:

November:

1: Dues deadline (payment must be received); POW deadline

6-7: NFLC, Baltimore, Maryland

15: Public Relations Form Due; Regional News due to State Reporter

December:

4-5: Task Force/Executive Board Meeting

Virginia FBLA-PBL Foundation, Inc.

By: Jessica Collier

Vice President Representing the Shenandoah Region

What is the Foundation? The Virginia FBLA-PBL Foundation Inc., is a non-profit organization designed to benefit secondary (FBLA) and post-secondary (PBL) students by providing monetary assistance to those who actively participate in FBLA by serving their school and community, developing leadership skills, and achieving academic excellence. The Foundation strives to reimburse those state event winners who participate in national competition, provide leadership development opportunities at state events, and provide funds for scholarships.

Why Should People Contribute? It is understandable that schools, as well as local businesses, are unable to contribute as much through such discouraging economic times. However, the more contributions that schools make to the Foundation, the more that the Foundation will give back to schools. Many state event winners are given the opportunity to attend the National Leadership Conference yet shy away from this once in a lifetime chance due to the costs. Depending upon location, it can cost some students as much as \$1,500 to attend the National Leadership Conference. This is where the Foundation steps in. They contribute money to financially aid state winners. Since it was founded in 1993, the Virginia FBLA-PBL Foundation has contributed over \$70,000 to Virginia's event winners in order to send them to the national competition. Their goal, as the Foundation continues to grow, is to be able to eliminate the costs for all event winners who attend the National Leadership Conference.

What are the Benefits for Contributors? As schools, businesses, or local organizations contribute to the Foundation, they are giving money back to their potential state event winners. They are also gaining a membership status within the Foundation. These levels of membership are:

Member \$1 - \$99

Bronze \$100 - \$249

Silver \$250 - \$499

Gold \$500 - \$999

Life \$1,000 or more

Business Life \$10,000 or more

Contributions are cumulative

Not only do schools gain recognition from the Foundation and provide their students with financial support, but they also gain points towards being an honor chapter! In addition, all contributing chapters are recognized at the State Leadership Conference.

How Do YOU Contribute? Tax-deductable contributions may be made by accessing the Virginia FBLA-PBL Foundation website at <http://www.vafblapblfoundation.org/contribute.html>. All contributions must be postmarked by March 1, 2010, in order to be reimbursed for this year's National Leadership Conference.

Business Achievement Awards

By: Courtney Garrett

Vice President Representing the Longwood Region

The Future Business Leaders of America offers numerous opportunities for students to get involved at the local, regional, state, and national levels with business and leadership oriented activities. The Business Achievement Award is a great way for members to experience personal responsibility and accomplishment. This is an independent participation and contributions program that awards members for their accomplishments. Also known as the BAA's, the program is divided into four levels: Future, Business, Leader, and America.

The **Future Award** is provided to students completing work on the local level. The activities include introduction to community service, business skills, and FBLA involvement. Examples include donating ten hours of service to an educational organization or preparing a bulletin board promoting FBLA. A pin is mailed to the local chapter advisor and presented to the student at a local ceremony or event.

The **Business Award** requires that a member has received the Future Award and participates on local, regional, and state levels while focusing on intermediate business skills, and leadership roles within the community. Activities include presenting an FBLA oral presentation to a business, class, or chapter meeting. Pins are also mailed to the local advisor for presentation at a local FBLA ceremony or event.

The **Leader Award** requires that a member has received both the Future and Business Award. The participant must be involved on the local, regional, state, and national level while focusing on advanced business skills and community leadership. Pins are mailed to the state chair or advisor and can be presented at the state conference.

The **America Award** requires that the participant has received all previous awards (Future, Business, and Leader). The focus of this award is total association leadership, business skills, and involvement in the community. Award pins are presented to students at the National Leadership Conference.

The BBA's are a great way to build confidence, make a difference in your chapter and community, and prepare for the business world. Setting and reaching goals through each of these awards can truly mold members into **Future Business Leaders of America!**

2009-2010 Virginia FBLA Program of Work Goals:

1. Provide Resources and Instructional Support for all Chapters.
2. Increase Awareness of and Contributions to Project ASK.
3. Increase State Membership by 5 Percent.
4. Increase Community and Chapter Interaction.
5. Increase Awareness of and Contributions to the Virginia FBLA-PBL Foundation.

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