

History of FBLA

Written By:
Katherine Vaughn
VP representing Germanna Region

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Future Business Leaders of America is a proud and professional national organization. It teaches students about business through professional activities that advance students skills and knowledge of the business world. Members get hands on experience with finances through fundraising activities that finance chapter projects and conference trips. It also focuses on supporting civic pride and good citizenship through service activities that help people in need and civic activities, such as working with local chambers of commerce, business people, and business organizations. It has a long history of educating and developing the next generations of the business world.

How did it all get started? It began when Hamden L. Forkner proposed to business teachers across the country that a national organization was needed in high school and colleges. After three years of propositions, the National Council for Business Education sponsored the proposed student organization, and FBLA was born. An experimental chapter was chartered in Johnson City, Tennessee and St. Albans, West Virginia. These chapters quickly grew and became a success. By the end of 1942, 39 chap-

ters were added to the organization. As members graduated, they began to look for a similar organization at the post-secondary level. This growing need led to the development of the Phi Beta Lambda in 1958. Then 1989, the Professional Division was organized to include business people, administrators, parents, alumni, and all persons supporting the goals of FBLA-PBL. A Middle Level division of FBLA was next established in July of 1994. As a whole, the national organization has continue to expand.

Future Business Leaders of America came to Virginia in 1942 when a local FBLA chapter was chartered at Spotsylvania High School. From there it expanded and the first Virginia Phi Beta Lambda chapter was chartered at Saint Paul's College in 1945. It continued to grow until, finally, Virginia eventually was chartered as the eleventh state chapter of Future Business Leaders of America in 1950. Virginia FBLA-PBL has since been part of the national structure of Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda, Inc.



Get to Know Your

2015 - 2016 Virginia State Officer Team

Ryan Apigian

Position: President
High School: Robinson Secondary School
Region: Northern Virginia Region
Hobbies/Activities: Crew Rowing

Miranda Bolt

Position: Vice President at Large
High School: Floyd High School
Region: VWCC Region
Hobbies/Activities: Dance

Sean Howard

Position: Secretary/Treasurer
High School: Riverbend High School
Region: Germanna Region
Hobbies/Activities: Hanging out with friends

Camber Thornhill

Position: Reporter
High School: Giles High School
Region: New River Region
Hobbies/Activities: Softball and Outdoor Activities

Rachel McDaniel

Position: Vice President Representing the VWCC Region
High School: Floyd High School
Region: VWCC Region
Hobbies/Activities: Soccer and Playing Music

Monica Wuhrer

Position: Corresponding Secretary
High School: Robinson Secondary School
Region: Northern Virginia Region
Hobbies/Activities: Drawing

Sarah Patton

Position: Vice President Representing the VSU Region
High School: Matoaco High School
Region: VSU Region
Hobbies/Activities: Field Hockey

Karena Oner

Position: Vice President Representing the Northern Virginia Region
High School: Robinson Secondary School
Region: Northern Virginia Region
Hobbies/Activities: Writing

Katherine Vaughn

Position: Vice President Representing the Germanna Region

High School: Brentsville District High School

Region: Germanna Region

Hobbies/Activities: Riding Horses

Halley Stapleton

Position: Vice President Representing the UVA College at Wise Region

High School: Virginia High School

Region: UVA College at Wise Region

Hobbies/Activities: Spending time at the beach

Nathan Salamonsky

Position: Vice President Representing the Longwood Region

High School: Powhatan High School

Region: Longwood Region

Hobbies/Activities: Golf and FBLA

Olivia Kinser

Position: Vice President Representing the New River Region

High School: Tazewell High School

Region: New River Region

Hobbies/Activities: Band

Christopher Emodi

Position: Vice President Representing the Tidewater Region

High School: Landstown High School

Region: Tidewater Region

Hobbies/Activities: Anything with his friends

Willow Pederson

Position: Vice President Representing the Capitol Region

High School: West Point High School

Region: Capitol Region

Hobbies/Activities: Chorus

Cana Curtis

Position: Vice President Representing the Shenandoah Region

High School: Sherando High School

Region: Shenandoah Region

Hobbies/Activities: Arcade

Tara Purdy

Position: Vice President Representing the Colonial Region

High School: Gloucester High School

Region: Colonial Region

Hobbies/Activities: Being with friends

Fun Facts about FBLA!

Written By:

Miranda Bolt

VP at Large

- FBLA has raised over 15 million for the march of dimes with a partnership of over 40 years
- The idea of FBLA was created in 1937, but the first chapter wasn't chartered until 5 years later
- FBLA members are 40% more likely to start their own business after high school than non-members
- There are 6,462 chapters, 47 states and Brazil, Cayman Islands, China, Europe, Haiti, Korea, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands (in 2014)
- FBLA is the largest business organization in the world
- FBLA has 215,000 high school members and 20,000 middle school level members, and 11,000 Phi Beta Lambda members, 3,000 Professional Division members, and 11,000 advisors. (in 2014)
- FBLA gained independence in 1969
- FBLA is a non-profit organization it raises its money through membership dues
- The first state to become FBLA's first state chapter was Iowa
- The father/ founder of FBLA is Richard D. Clanton
- Virginia FBLA State Service Project is Project Ask

FBLA Week!

Written By:

Halley Stapleton

VP Representing UVAs College at Wise

National FBLA-PBL week falls every year in the second full week of February. This year's week of celebrating FBLA occurs February 7-13. Chapters are encouraged to use this time to publicize their activities and successes, boost their membership, and gear up for their spring activities. Each day has a special focus to help you get your members excited to participate on all levels during FBLA-PBL Week!

Each chapter must decide what they will do to promote this week. The most popular way to do this is to have a different theme each day that involves FBLA. Here are some excellent examples of how to get your members connected:

Monday: Membership Madness

Have your members compete to see who can recruit the most new members, and the winner gets a FBLA t-shirt.

Tuesday: Etiquette Luncheon OR Pizza Party

All members participate in an Etiquette Luncheon or Pizza Party

and promote spring events during lunch. Include workshop on how to tie a tie.

Wednesday: Career Awareness Day

Invite guest speakers from businesses in your community to inform members of Business opportunities in their area.

Thursday: Business Attire Day

Have members dress in business attire to prepare for competitive events at Regional, State, and National.

Friday: FBLA Spirit Day

Post pictures on different social media platforms using your chapter's hashtag.

Saturday: Service Project Day

Have members complete a service project such as March of Dimes or Project ASK.

FBLA week is a fun way to get members connected on all levels. You also gain new members for your chapter. Please join members across the nation by celebrating FBLA-PBL week!

Why Officers Joined

Written by:

Karena Oner

Vice President Representing NOVA

Future Business Leaders of America is an organization that is undoubtedly large. With over 250,000 members, it is evident that FBLA is not merely any organization. It is a powerful movement to establish a culture of business and educational excellence in the United States. Ultimately, I joined to make a difference and to prove to myself and others that I can achieve excellence. Not only that, but I joined in order to find a place I could belong, among other high-achievers and intelligent minds.

I asked some of my fellow state officers why they decided to join FBLA and to eventually apply for office. Virginia State President Ryan Apigian told me, “I grew up around FBLA and attended state and national conferences. I was excited to join in 7th grade because I wanted to participate in FBLA and take part in all the opportunities available,” and Virginia State Corresponding Secretary Monica Wuhler said, “I joined because I consider myself to be a leader.” Whether it’s a passion for business, a passion

for leading, or a passion for achievement, every individual can find motivation to join FBLA.

FBLA is ultimately a family. Every individual is different, but every individual has a unique skillset or ability that increases the quality of the organization. Whether you’re a local chapter member or a national officer, you have the potential for excellence, and by being a member of this organization you have already started. I encourage you to excel in competition, to apply for many scholarships, to run for an officer position at some level of FBLA. Most importantly, I encourage you to recruit, because for the same reason that you, I, and my fellow officers joined, there are kids out there who aspire to be great professionals one day. These kids are the future of our organization, and the fuel that will keep FBLA growing stronger and stronger. American businessman Samuel Walton said, “We’re all working together; that’s the secret,” and through this togetherness we will continue to leave our mark on this planet.

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

Thank You Advisers State Officer Edition

Dear All Advisers,

The State Officer team and all members would like to say thank you for all that you have done! Whether you have served for 2 years or 20, you are the best people to have around. You allow us work in your rooms before, during, and after school. You help us understand concepts and information. You push us to be the best we can be. The best thing about you is you become a parent. Someone we can depend on and trust to be there for us. Someone who guides us. Without you, we wouldn't have the organization we do today. To the new advisers, thank you for joining our team. We know it can be stressful, we know it can be hard, yet you are some of the best people we have in our lives! To the experienced advisers, thank you for all your dedication. You are able to share your wisdom and help turn us in to Future Business Leaders. You have impacted our lives more than you will ever know! The State Officer team would like to thank you for all you do for members of Virginia FBLA!



Ryan Apigian

Dear Mom and Ms. Wilt,

I just want to say thank you for all that you both have done for me. Thank you for taking time out of your days to be able to work with me. From staying after to help me work on FBLA activities to helping me write and practice my speeches. Thank you for allowing to use your rooms everyday whether it be before, during, or afterschool. I couldn't have any better advisors then both of you. You have both taught and cared for me so much that I'll probably never be able to say thank you enough. Thank you both for always being there for me when I needed you, even if I didn't know it at the time. Thank you again for taking so much time out of your schedules to be able to be there for me and our whole chapter.

Sean Howard

Dear Mrs. Hogan,

FBLA has allowed to me to network and meet many new people from all across the country as well as help shape my business skills. However, my accomplishments would mean nothing if it weren't for my exceptional adviser standing by side, encouraging me along this journey. She has one of the most light-hearted, dynamic, trustworthy, and thoughtful demeanors of any person that I have had the privilege to meet. My adviser has always lent me a helping hand, whether it be answering a simple question to planning a colossal fundraising initiative to staying up late to assist me with various tasks. I have grown both as a person and as a future business leader because of what she has done, but she is humble about her achievements and never demands recognition for what she does. My adviser has always given unparalleled support for what I have done and she has never guided me down the wrong path. She has never failed to make me laugh when I've felt bogged down, and I know that she will always warn me if I am ever on a collision course with a train. I hope someday I will be able to mentor someone else with the same caliber and dedication that she has been able to assist me over the past three years. Without my adviser, I would not be where I am right now; I am fortunate enough to have such a dedicated person in my life.

Cana Curtis

Dear Mrs. Woodward,

My advisor is something special. We've been acquainted for roughly three years and my advisor, Ms. Woodward, has made a complete impact on my life. Although the business skills I have learned from her are unsurmountable, Ms. Woodward has taught me a plethora of other things. Of these things, the three most significant have been strength in the most troubling times, honesty no matter how curt, and how to deal with people who have a tendency to always, ALWAYS be late.

My advisor has been through a lot in these past couple years, and although things may have broken her inside, they were never on the surface. When times got rough, Ms. Woodward stood strong and continued to be a support system for my FBLA chapter. One time in my high school career I was having a problem choosing between two different extremes. Ms. Woodward just told me to drop both of those things and focus on my competitive event. No matter how harsh Ms. Woodward comes off, she will never lie to you. As we spent more time together, Ms. Woodward became an intricate part of my life. I knew from the moment Ms. Woodward considered bringing me chicken instead of a birthday cake on my 17th birthday that she was finally understanding me.

Thank you, Ms. Woodward. You are a beautiful woman inside and out. Although I am a senior this year, I want you to know that I will always be truly grateful for all that you have done for me. You are an intelligent, honest, and wholeheartedly supportive. Especially for the last, I am exuberantly grateful. Keep doing what you are doing and you will have a mass of young leaders that can contribute that success to your guidance.

Katherine Vaughn

Dear Mrs. Witt,

This time of year is all about giving thanks for all the special things in our life, and this year, I am thankful to have you as my advisor. I would not be where I am today, if it weren't for your kind encouragements. As I think back to my freshman year, I shudder to think what my life would be like if I had never taken your class. You took a quiet, shy girl and turned her into a leader. Thanks to you, I now have the skills to run meetings, organize events, and speak to large groups.

You not only taught me the skills it takes to be a leader, but you also opened my eyes to a subject I had never before considered. Never in my life had I thought about going into business, but you made it so fun and were so enthusiastic, that now it is a passion of mine. Your dedication to engage students in business and make it interesting is what makes you such an amazing business teacher and advisor. So I just want to tell you thank you for everything that you have done, both as my advisor and teacher. You are truly a blessing in my life.

Christopher Emodi

Dear Mrs. Daniel and Mrs. Murchison,

I literally would not be in my position today without my advisers. I probably would have had no involvement in the Future Business Leaders of America or the wonderful thing that is Virginia FBLA. On the first day of class my freshman year it was my teacher, and now my adviser, who introduced me to FBLA and all that it had to offer. When I was a sophomore and I was determined to run for Regional treasurer, it was my advisers who convinced me that I could and should run for Regional President instead. Ever since bringing in my dues freshman year, I have never thought twice about my decision.

My advisers have done many things that only someone who truly cares would do. This includes attending at least 11 conferences with me since my freshman year, and more importantly not losing faith in me or my chapter even when some of us had. It is for these and many other reasons why I would like to take the time to thank both of my magnificent advisers Mrs. Heather Daniel and Mrs. Christy Murchison. Like advisers all over the state, they both have worked in tandem to help the members of my chapter and others reach their goals.

Halley Stapleton

Dear Mrs. Leonard,

Over the past three years you have done so much for me. I am so thankful you have been a part of my high school career. You have made me a better person, student and leader. You have been one of my biggest supporters and have had faith in me when no one else has. Thank you for showing me how much I am capable of. I could not ask for a better FBLA Adviser. My FBLA experience has been the best because of you. I will never be able to thank you enough for all you have done for me.



Sarah Patton

Mr. Carter

I am so grateful for my FBLA adviser, Mr. Carter. He has really shown me how professionalism and business are important in everyday life. His values of honesty, hard work, and respect really shine through his personality. Whether it be encouraging me while I'm handling FBLA duties at our school or for our state, he is always willing to help me with anything I need. He has stepped up to the plate when I needed an adviser and he has been fabulous as my mentor and friend. His innovative ideas and high goals always motivate me to do my best in everything, including being an FBLA state officer.

The best memory I have with Mr. Carter is when I was a freshman at the FBLA State Leadership Conference. It had been a long day of competitions, so we ordered pizza and just talked and laughed with our other members. This is one of my favorite memories because Mr. Carter really isn't just an adviser, but he is someone I can laugh with. He handles stress well, which helps me to take a breath when life is crazy. I'm thankful to have such an amazing role model to look to for guidance.

Thank You Mr. Carter!

Karenna Oner

Dear Ms. Chapman and Ms Wilt,

Thank you for tirelessly working towards making the Robinson chapter of FBLA as efficient and remarkable as possible! Our high achievement would be impossible without your organization, commitment, and passion. Coming to Robinson as a 9th grader was overwhelming, especially with the assortment of organizations I had the opportunity to join. However, your passion truly drove me toward FBLA. With your motivation, I was able to rise in ranks and develop as a leader. I am so glad to be where I am today, a state officer representing Virginia FBLA, and I am thankful for you because I could not be where I currently am without your assistance. I know that my high school experience in FBLA will shape the rest of my life and will open many doors for me as I enter the workforce. Your support has helped me not only in the FBLA environment, but also in the school environment and beyond. Whether I was struggling to balance my workload or to complete a task for another organization, I always knew that I had a strong support system because of you. I have truly come to think of FBLA as my family because of your guidance. I am most grateful for the challenges you have handed me over the past three years, as with each challenge I grow as a person. If it were not for you, I would be half the person I am today. For that and for much more, thank you.

Nathan Salomonsky

Dear Ms. Siwiec,

Ms. Siwiec, my advisor, and the advisor to the Longwood region could not be thanked enough for the amazing work she does for our region. I got to see firsthand the invaluable ability to accomplish and put on our fall regional conference. There, she arranged workshop hosts, developed a well organized plan for our conference, and had given numerous hours completing behind the scenes paperwork as our regional advisor. Without her dedication, the quality experience our region provides would not be possible. I'm writing this letter to show our thanks, Ms. Siwiec, for all have done for our region, and your continued effort to help our region reach its full potential.

Monica Wuhrer

Dear Mrs. Chapman,

While only having been in your class for the first time this year, I believe that you have taught me so much more over the course of my time in FBLA. Beginning three years ago, you helped me to do the best I possibly could in my competitive events, how to give convincing presentations, and helped me to develop myself as a leader. From long car rides, airports, and cities all over, you have been there through it all. I am so glad that I have you to teach and guide me through FBLA and beyond. All of the time and effort you put into being the very best adviser are greatly appreciated. Thank you so much for all the support and confidence you have given me!



Rachel McDaniel

Dear Mrs. Bolt,

My main message to my adviser Stacie Bolt is thank you! Thank you for helping Miranda and me in any way you can. Thank you for prioritizing FBLA and caring so much about it. Thank you for encouraging us to get involved and to become chapter, regional, and state officers. Thank you for taking us to various FBLA trips. Thank you for making those car rides to the events fun. Thank you for somehow managing being stuck in a car with all of us while we are loud and do the most random things. Thank you for all the pictures you've taken, even if we don't want to take them at the time, so all these memories are captured. Thank you for all this and so much more. Thank you for being a great adviser! :)

Camber Thornhill



Dear Ms. Young and Ms. Moody, Ms. Young, what can I say, you have been the biggest supporter for 4 years now. You have been my mother since the 8th grade. From my first NFLC in Charlotte, North Carolina to our most recent trip we have had beyond the laughter and happiness I could ever ask for. Nobody will ever get as much happiness as I do from road trips. You have always been there to push me to be the best FBLA member I could be.

You have always supported me in all my decisions. The meaning of 11 p.m. text messages, and 6 a.m. wake up calls are worth so much to me. I wouldn't want to be mistaken for anyone's daughter but yours.

Thank you. Ms. Moody, you have been one of the greatest advisers. You have only been along for a short ride, yet we have related since day one. I'm beyond grateful for the Starbucks and boy talks. I could never forget the many times we wondered if the cab was going to take us where we needed to be.

I have loved having you guys as my advisers. Thank you. I am forever grateful.

