

The Washington Reporter

December
Issue No. 5

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Membership Recognition

by Erin Evans, State Public Relations Officer

Have you ever wondered how to get more recognition and awards for your chapter? Well, all you have to do is recruit members to join FBLA and fill out a few forms; it's easy. Here are the four membership recognition awards that are available for members and chapters on the national level.

100% Class Participation

This award is given to chapters who recruit 100% of a class to join FBLA. All you have to do is send in an application form, which can be found in the Chapter Management Handbook, and a class roster by the April 1 deadline. You will receive a certificate of recognition and will have met one of the criteria for the Outstanding Chapter award.

Membership Achievement

This award is given to chapters who have maintained or increased their membership from the previous year. All you have to do is submit an application form by the April 1 deadline. You will receive a certificate of recognition and will have met another piece of criteria for the Outstanding Chapter award.

Membership Madness

This award is an individual award given to members who recruit at least five members to join FBLA. Again, you have to do is fill out the application form by the April 1 deadline.

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FBLA Scholarships

by Stacie Schultz, Northeast Region Vice President

It's never too early to start thinking about scholarships! Like most things in life, college quietly sneaks up, leaving one to wonder where the time went and where enough money will be found to cover the expenses. Luckily, there are thousands of organizations who want to help students pursue their education after high school and Washington State FBLA is one of them.

FBLA Scholarship

To be eligible for this scholarship, you must currently be a senior and a current member of FBLA. You must be nominated by your adviser and applicants must send the scholarship form, as well as three letters of recommendation to the state office by April 1,

2006. This award is \$1,000 and it is sponsored by the Professional Division.

Kosy Scholarship

To be eligible for this scholarship, you must be a senior and a current member of FBLA. Also, you must be nominated by your adviser who must be a current dues paying member of the Washington State Business Education Association (WSBEA). After receiving the nomination, you must complete the scholarship form, as well as acquire three letters of recommendation, and send it to the WSBEA Scholarship Chair. This award is \$1,000.

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Outstanding Local Chapter Adviser

by Justin Bryant, State President

Outstanding Local Chapter Adviser is an award given out to one adviser in Washington each year at the State Business Leadership Conference. Patty Barber, a former adviser from Olympia High School, has received this award three times.

Q: How many years have you been involved with FBLA and what awards have you received?

A: I have been an FBLA adviser for 35 years—a few of those years in an “unofficial” capacity. I have been the “Outstanding Adviser” in Washington the past three years. My chapter has been the Outstanding Chapter in the state many times and has also received Gold Key and National Outstanding Chapter awards.

Q: What does it mean to you to be honored with this award multiple times?

A: There are many deserving advisers who work very hard for their FBLA students. To be chosen from among

my outstanding peers is very humbling and amazing!

Q: What is one event that has a lasting effect on you during your time as an adviser?

A: There are many events that have had a lasting effect on me—seeing my students (and daughters) walk onto the stage after winning competitive events and state offices (when in some cases they didn’t even think they had a chance); traveling with students to national conferences; and getting to know fellow business teachers on a more personal level. However, the one event that has taken me through 35 years of working with FBLA is the seed that was planted in my first year of teaching with Ellie Duckworth at Meadowdale High School. She showed me the importance of getting students ready for competition. I have seen over the years that those who do well in competition are those who have spent time outside of class preparing. I love to see students do well and impress themselves.

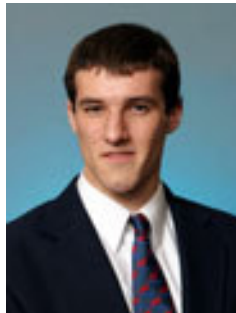
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Phi Beta Lambda

by Steve Delaney, PBL National Secretary

What’s your FBLA history? You may have started off in the Middle Level in middle school a few years ago. You may be in your third or fourth year of the High School Division. You may just be starting out your membership. By what comes next? Do you have to just end your FBLA membership after you graduate high school. The answer is NO!

Each year, thousands of members continue their FBLA involvement by joining the Phi Beta Lambda division at their colleges. Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) is offered at hundreds of colleges ranging from community colleges to small liberal arts colleges to technical schools to large four-year institutions. If your college doesn’t have one, it’s relatively easy to start! The national organization requires you to have three members and an adviser and you’re set! Don’t have the resources to start a chapter on campus? Join a Virtual Chapter and gain the same



Steve Delaney

experience without having a chapter at your school. For more information on Virtual Chapters visit: <http://virtualpbl.fbla-pbl.org>.

PBL offers everything you love about FBLA: awesome conferences, challenging competitive events, excellent networking opportunities, and much more. Right now you’re probably focused more upon getting into college than your future career, but PBL helps students prepare for jobs that are just a couple of years away. PBL chapters offer career preparation activities such as resume workshops, practice job interviews, guest speakers from the business community, networking with business leaders, and career fairs where you can meet potential employers.

I can tell you first hand how great of an extension PBL can be on your FBLA involvement. For four years, I was a member and state officer of New Jersey FBLA.

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The Business Achievement Awards

by Isabelle Woodward, West Central Region Vice President

The Business Achievement Awards are a great way to become more involved in FBLA and build up your portfolio and resume. Through hard work and dedication, you can achieve each level, working your way to the top and unlocking your potential as you do so. This is an opportunity to step forward and show the rest of the country what FBLA means to you by giving back and promoting FBLA in your schools, communities, states, and across the nation.

There are four levels of the Business Achievement Awards: Future, Business, Leader, and America. As members progress through the levels, they are required to become more involved and assume more responsibility

within FBLA. Members can achieve all of the levels in one year or they can stretch it out over several; it's up to them to decide how they want to do it. The Business Achievement Awards are designed to help members enrich their FBLA experience as they gain skills and experience through service to their community and all levels of FBLA.

The first level, the Future level, is designed to introduce members to the process as it focuses on basic business skills, introduction to community service, and FBLA involvement at the local level. The Business level focuses on local, regional, and state involvement; intermediate business skills; and leadership in the community. The third, or Leader,

level focuses on local, regional, state and national involvement; advanced business skills; and community leadership. Finally, the America level focuses on total association leadership, business skills, and involvement in the community. Each level requires documentation and approval when each level is complete, members will be recognized at the National Leadership Conference. The central idea behind the Business Achievement Awards is the ideals of FBLA: service, education, and progress.

This year, take the opportunity to embody these ideals to help you get the most out of your involvement with FBLA. To find out more, go to www.fbla-pbl.org! Good Luck!

How to Organize a Successful Project

by Lauren Ayers, State Parliamentarian

Have you ever tried to host an event or plan a project, but it didn't work exactly how you thought it would? Often, a few simple adjustments can make a world of difference. Here are some tips on how to make the most of project planning.

1. Just ask!

When you first create an idea for a chapter project, run it by your FBLA members to see what they think. Others may have insight on how you can improve the project. They might bring up unforeseen scheduling conflicts or other minor issues that you didn't realize.

2. Start planning NOW

It's tough to know when to begin planning, but it never hurts to start months in advance. Will you need donations, or will you need to reserve a venue for the

event? These things take time, and you want to be as stress-free as possible during the process, so plan ahead.

3. Rules and regulations

Run the project by your school's activities director to make sure you follow all the rules. Schools often have strict liability, fundraising, and activities policies, and you want to keep the administration happy so you can continue to host projects in the future!

4. Use your resources

To relieve yourself of stress during the planning process, delegate tasks to committees. Appoint a chairman to manage committee activities, and check in with him or her periodically.

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Competitive Event Advice

by Malia Bonham, Capital Region Vice President

Most members of Future Business Leaders of America have competed in at least one competitive event. Most members of FBLA have competed in a regional competition, and most of these members of FBLA have probably asked themselves this question at least once, "How can I do better at competitive events?" Whether you are competing at the regional, state or national level, there are a few tips and tricks that you can adhere to that will ensure you do your best at any event competition.

Speaking Events

1. Be on time. It is extremely important to make sure that you are always on time to your event. If you are not on time, the judges do not have time to wait for you.
2. Practice in front of a mirror. By doing this, you are able to watch your facial expressions, and look at how the judges see you.
3. Memorize it! While many people have made it all the way to nationals

using note cards, the judges prefer that you have your speech memorized; the fewer note cards you have, the better.

Written Tests

1. Use the study guides. The study guides are there for a reason—to help you! Often times, there will be many similar questions on the actual test, so by studying the study guide, you will be more familiar with the test.
2. Check out a book from the library. If you're competing in a certain topic, try and go to the library to get a book that is written about your topic. For instance, if you are going to take the business law test, try and find a book at the library that is about business law and read it! You will be able to familiarize yourself with the subject, and prepare yourself for your test.

Team Events

1. Be comfortable with your team. Make sure you know your team members, and you get along. The

judges can tell if you get along and if you are comfortable with one another. If you do not get along, it is probably a good idea to avoid a team event with those people.

2. Get together and practice! The more your team practices together, the more prepared you will be. Make sure that everybody is able to work together and get their tasks done. If your team is presenting something, practice that presentation. If you are taking a test as a team, get together, study and quiz one another. You can never practice too much.

However, the number one and most important advice for competition is to dress appropriately. Do not set yourself up for failure before you even begin! If you are not dressed appropriately, you will be disqualified. Do not waste all your hard work and preparation by not being dressed correctly. If you are unsure about your attire, ask an adviser, or look at the dress code on the WAFBLA website Good Luck in your events this year!

How to Organize a Successful Project (Continued from Page 3)

Ask those who have volunteered to tell you what they'd like to help with, and utilize their talents.

5. Publicize, publicize, publicize

Ask the businesses in your community to put up flyers advertising the project, and post flyers at public places in your town like schools, libraries, and post offices. Write articles for newspapers, too. Excellent publicity is the key to the success of projects.

6. Plan B...or C...or D...

Sometimes, Plan A just doesn't work out. Be

flexible and willing to change your plans to work with the situations that arise. Always create a Plan B that you can revert to if your original idea doesn't fly. This will relieve you of a lot of stress if problems arise.

7. Document everything

Write down all the steps you took to complete the project. That way, if someone wants to repeat the project in the future, they won't have to reinvent the process. Also, if you are planning on competing in the project events for FBLA, you will need to have a record of publicity and chapter involvement for your report.

Membership Recognition (Continued from Cover)

You will receive a certificate of recognition and your name will be printed in FBLA's *Tomorrow's Business Leader*. With this award, you will have met one of the criteria for the Outstanding Chapter award, Chapter Excellence award, and the Leader level of the Business Achievement Awards.

Membership Mania

This award is given to individuals who recruit at least ten members. All you have to do is fill out the application form by the April 1 deadline. You will receive a certificate of recognition and your name will be printed in FBLA's *Tomorrow's Business Leader*. This award meets one of the criteria for the America level of the Business Achievement Awards.

Getting these awards is easy; all you have to do is fill out the application forms, found in the Chapter Management Handbook, and send them to the National Center. For more information on these awards, visit www.fbla-pbl.org. Good Luck in your recruiting endeavors!

Member of the Month

By Kelsey Hauge, State Secretary

Jay Zimmerman is December's Member of the Month! He lives and attends high school in Wenatchee, Washington. As a junior, Jay has been an active member of FBLA for the past two and a half years. He takes Honors and AP classes and maintains a 3.5 grade point average. Jay has been awarded the Math Member of the Month at his high school. For extracurricular activities, he is involved in FBLA, Leadership, WHS gold team, swim team, and many other activities. Jay plans on pursuing a career in business after graduating from high school. He has helped make his community a better place by running and participating in various fundraisers for charities such as the March of Dimes and homeless shelters. Congratulations, Jay, for your tremendous achievements in FBLA and all that you do!

American Enterprise Day

by Otto Neubauer, Port Angeles High School, FBLA Roving Reporter

November 15, American Enterprise Day, has come and gone. FBLA chapters across the nation held many activities to celebrate. Some chapters invited guest speakers from local businesses to speak at a meeting about the business world. Other chapters taught business classes or elementary school students what business was about. One chapter went on a member recruiting rampage!

American Enterprise Day activities are a great start to your chapter's American Enterprise Project. This is a chapter competitive event involving a written report and presentation. To participate, your chapter must hold an activity to promote free enterprise (through education, participation in business, job shadowing, etc.). Then, all you have to do is write a report on the activity, and prepare a brief presentation about it.

If you plan to compete in this event, keep one pointer in mind: don't hold a small, one-day activity and expect to get any recognition at conferences.

Chapters that do well in the chapter events such as American Enterprise Project and Community Service Project spend the entire year working on them. One school built a library for their community. They worked all summer; by the end, they had gotten media recognition for their chapter, successfully funded the library, and won first place at nationals. Though American Enterprise Project does not require quite as much work, you need to put in the effort if you want to succeed.

Be sure to involve as many members as possible. Do not expect to do well unless you involve at least 80 percent of your members. The best projects involve every single member. It sounds impossible, but you can make it happen.

Whether your chapter celebrated American Enterprise Day or not, it's not too late to come up with an award-winning project to teach your community what free enterprise is all about. So, get going! Talk to your chapter's advisers and officers about starting a project, and begin to unlock your potential!

Phi Beta Lambda (Continued from Page 2)

Upon graduating from Pompton Lakes High School, I started a PBL chapter at my college, Hood College in Frederick, Maryland. Now, in my second year of PBL involvement, I serve as a state and national officer. The personal growth I have achieved, the development from a shy high school freshman to where I am now, a national officer in an organization of thousands, rests solely on my membership in FBLA-PBL. The opportunities are endless; I hope you, too, can experience all that I have by continuing on to the Phi Beta Lambda division in college.

PBL combines your FBLA experience with the skills you need in a rapidly approaching world ahead. So consider becoming a member of a division that truly encapsulates the FBLA-PBL mission, "to bring business and education together in a positive working relationship through innovative leadership and career development programs." For more information, visit the PBL section of the national website, www.fbla-pbl.org or contact myself at pblsec@fbla.org. I hope to see you in the future at a PBL conference!

Congratulations to Dawne Schmidt, who was recently inducted to the Adviser Wall of Fame at FBLA's National Center in Reston, VA. She was an adviser at Everett High School, Steilacoom High School, and Washington High School, and served as a Regional Adviser. She was an adviser for a total of 31 years. Congratulations Dawne!

Welcome to our new and re-activated chapters!

- **Black Hills High School**
- **Waterville High School**
- **Brewster High School**
- **Sammamish High School**
- **Todd Beamer High School**
- **Columbia (Hunters) High School**
- **Royal High School**
- **Frontier Junior High School**
- **Nathan Hale High School**

FBLA Scholarships

(Continued from Cover)

Virtual Business Scholarship

To be eligible for this award, you must be either a junior or senior who is enrolled in a marketing or business course. You must also be nominated by your teacher. Nominated students are to display excellence in business or marketing classes and show an interest and accomplishment in the use of technology in these subjects. This award is up to \$1,000. To find out more, visit www.KnowledgeMatters.com/Scholarships.

To find out more information or to print a scholarship application, visit www.wafbla.org, click on forms, and choose a scholarship.

Outstanding Local Chapter Adviser (Continued from Page 2)

Q: There are a lot of outstanding advisers, but few are nominated for this award. What is the process for an adviser to be nominated?

A: To qualify, the adviser must be a member of the WSBEA. Also, dues for the chapter must have been paid by the deadline. The entry form may be completed by any member or Professional Member. Judging criteria include: years of participation in FBLA activities; extent of participation in conferences; offices and memberships; contributions to local, regional, and state projects; participation in other activities; recommendations supportive of the adviser's involvement in FBLA.

If you have an outstanding adviser at your school, don't hesitate to nominate him/her today to receive this thoughtful award. Visit www.wafbla.org to find the forms needed to make your adviser the next Washington State Outstanding Local Chapter Adviser.

Future Business Leaders of America
Washington State
P.O. Box 1992
Olympia, WA 98507-1992



Phone: 360-753-5666
Fax: 360-570-8643

Email: Judy@wafbla.org or Sarah@wafbla.org



Mission

To bring business and education together in a positive working relationship through innovative leadership and career development programs.

Want to write an article for the newsletter? Email Erin Evans at pr05-06@wafbla.org!!

Run for State Office

Have you ever considered running for a WA FBLA State Officer position? Do you want to be a State President, Vice President, Secretary, Public Relations Officer, or Parliamentarian? Learn more at www.wafbla.org!

Special thanks to Lauren Ayers, State Parliamentarian, for designing the banner!