



THE EXPRESS



NYS FBLA EXPRESS SPRING ISSUE 2018



GEARING UP FOR SLC



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ADVICE FROM YOUR DISTRICT 4 SVP

Marigrace Gerhardt



As members of FBLA, we look forward to the State Leadership Conference (SLC) every year. Our goal at the SLC is to achieve at the highest level to qualify for national level competitions. To ensure that members do their best at the SLC, there are many ways that students can prepare. Some of these preparations include completing the Program of Work (POW), attending District meetings, and studying for your tests. In completing these tasks, members are just a few steps closer to succeeding at states!

The POW is divided up into four committees: Career Development; Community Outreach and Engagement; Membership Services; and lastly, the Executive Committee. Each committee has three different competitions that specialize in developing leadership, networking, and business skills. By completing these activities, members can develop their skills and apply what they learn in their future careers. Members who complete parts of the POW will also receive recognition at states and be able to show off all their hard work with ribbons to wear on their name badges.

Another way to gear up for states is to attend district meetings. During the year, there are two district meetings held, one in the fall and one in the spring. The Fall District Meeting focuses more on skill and knowledge building, while the Spring District Meeting focuses more on preparing for the SLC. At this meeting, members take practice tests that reflect what it will be like at states. In certain events, members need to place in the top two or three places to qualify to compete at states. These tests are very good practice for members to experience the competitions and know how to better prepare themselves for the state conference. Finally, and most importantly, be sure to study up! This is by far the best way to ensure that members are prepared for states. For written tests, members can study by taking online practice tests and using the materials published on the state website. Flashcards with key vocab words are a great study tool as well. Another facet members should be prepared for is the length of the tests. They are one hundred questions long, so time management will be key to achieving your best. For performance events, the best way to prepare is to practice. Practice truly does make perfect, so the more members practice their presentations, the more fluent they will be. Not to mention, the more a presentation is practiced, the less nerve-wracking it will be to present it. By executing these study tips, members have a better chance at succeeding at states and, accordingly, the opportunity to compete at Nationals. Good luck to everyone competing!

CANASTOTA PRESS RELEASE

A Canastota Community Night with the Syracuse Crunch was held on Friday, February 23, 2018. FBLA members joined together to raise funds to benefit Abby Gilliland, a 2015 graduate of Canastota High School who is suffering from HHT. Alexia DeCarolus and Emily Case spearheaded the event. Members assisted by contacting community businesses to sell tickets and hang posters to advertise the event. Businesses were also contacted to sponsor a number of tickets. Nearly 100 community members have purchased tickets and plan to attend the event. District 7 FBLA members were invited to attend as well. Several FBLA members will be attending the event. The Syracuse Crunch of the AHL (American Hockey League), Central New York's pro hockey team provided family fun entertainment and hard hitting action at the Onondaga War Memorial in Syracuse. Three dollars of every ticket sold went to the Gilliland family to help defer medical costs that are not covered by insurance.

LAKELAND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Chris Kenney

On February, 6, 2018, the LHS FBLA hosted a guest speaker in the Lakeland library. Jesse Zayas from the Putnam Northern Westchester Womens Resource Center in Mahopac came to Lakeland High School to spread an important message. He spread awareness of people being in abusive relationships. He taught students how to identify if a person is in an abusive relationship, and how to seek help for people in an abusive relationship. The information Jesse Zayas provided was important to the LHS community, because if fellow students were in abusive relationships, they now knew how to seek help for the relationship.

FBLA FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Anusha Dawson

Last Tuesday, January 30, 2018, officers of the Monroe Woodbury High School chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America club held an informational meeting about chartering a Middle Level chapter in the Middle School. The officers hoped to spark interest in the club to prospective members. Middle school students were excited to learn about FBLA, and close to 70 attended the informational meeting. Earlier in the year, these officers had met with the Middle School principal Mr. Maesano to pitch their idea of a Middle Level, and create a plan to inspire students to join the new club. A Middle Level chapter will introduce middle school students to the foundations of FBLA: networking, competitions, and leadership opportunities. Students will be able to gauge their interest in the business field, as well as gain critical occupational skills. Members seeking to travel will be able to visit San Antonio, TX in November of 2018 during the National Fall Leadership Conference where they will get their first taste of workshops and keynote speakers. Middle school students who are interested in the competitions in FBLA will be able to compete during next year's Spring District Meeting. FBLA is a multifaceted student organization that supports a variety of interests, and it can be confusing to new members joining as freshmen. Members who would have been part of the club since middle school will have the advantage of understanding the opportunities FBLA offers, and can easily become District, State or National Officers!

LAKELAND AT SDM

Amanda Brown

On February 9, 2018, students from Lakeland High School FBLA attended the District 3S Spring District meeting at Mamaroneck High School. Students were introduced into the importance of networking. The keynote speaker from the March of Dimes explained the importance of the March of Dimes to the FBLA members. FBLA has selected the March of Dimes as the national charity, which just celebrated its 80th anniversary. After the opening session, members went to a variety of workshops such as, networking 101, public speaking, how to make a proper presentation, and many more. Many of the members learned important skills such as how to present themselves when they are getting a job, learning how to deal with the stress of testing before applying to college and many more important skills to become a successful leader. Members also took practice tests; members who place 1st, 2nd, or 3rd received a ribbon during the closing session. If members were running to become a state officer, they also had to take the state officer exam. Members also competed in district elimination competitions; members who place 1st or 2nd received a trophy at the closing session and advance to represent District 3S in the 2018 State Leadership Conference in Binghamton, NY this April. Dinner was catered by Salsa Fresca as members enjoyed tacos and nachos for dinner. During the closing session, members enjoyed a slideshow of photos that local chapter historians submitted to the District 3S historian prior to the conference to be shown in a district slideshow before the awards were given out. Ultimately, it was a successful meeting.

WILLIAMSVILLE EAST: COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Sharan Prasad

In December, Williamsville East High School raised funds for Hope For the Day, for one of the Program of Work challenges. Community Connections is a challenge in which chapters hold a fundraising event at their school, open to the community, and donate the funds generated to a charity of their choice. Chapters that participate in the challenge receive ribbons and the chapter that raises the most money wins a plaque.

Our chapter bought various food items such as chips, and granola bars. We then went on to sell these at places such as sports matches, to students in classes, as well as in the cafeteria. It was designed in such a way, that students were split into four groups, and the group that raised the most money would receive a small prize. All the money received went directly towards the charity. We were able to raise over two hundred dollars in the fundraiser.

The fundraiser was a success for many reasons. First of all, we were able to raise a significant amount of money, all of which went towards a worthy cause. Secondly, it allowed for much team bonding, as each the four groups' members were able to work together to come up with a plan to sell as much as possible. We plan on having many more such fundraising events future, and have already started planning for one in the spring; this time, we might make it more large-scale, like a car wash.

FALCONER FBLA WORKS TOWARDS FEEDING AMERICA

Emily Johnson

To support their state charity, Feeding America, Falconer FBLA held a canned food drive from Monday, January 29 - Friday, February 9, 2018. To encourage students to participate, the chapter promoted that the middle school and high school homeroom that collected the most donations would receive a surprise breakfast at the conclusion of the event. On the final day of the drive, chapter members collected all donations and announced the winning homerooms. Approximately 400 items were collected. After everything was sorted and counted the members worked together to build a castle with the donations. The items were then boxed and delivered to the Bethlehem Lutheran Church Food Cupboard in Falconer, New York.



"I THINK THAT
YOU'RE
SUPPOSED TO
KNOW WHEN IT'S
TIME TO SAY
GOODBYE."

JUDY SHEINDLIN

*Thank you to all of you who have
contributed to make the Express
great this past year. I've certainly
enjoyed my time spent as state
Reporter, and I encourage you all to
continue writing, as it will help you
in whatever field you choose.
- Maggie Bernstein, NYS Reporter*