

The NYS FBLA

Express

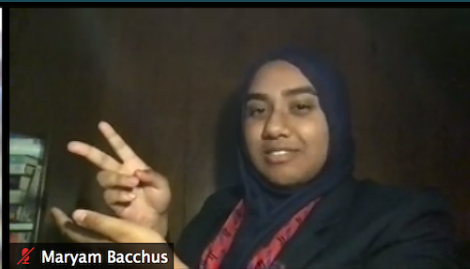
2020-2021



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Mark Yukelis



Maryam Bacchus



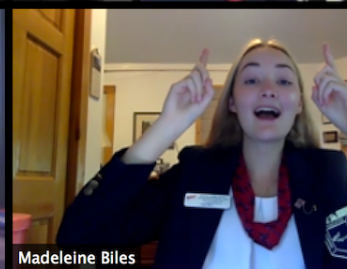
Andrew Fox



Jillian R



Spencer



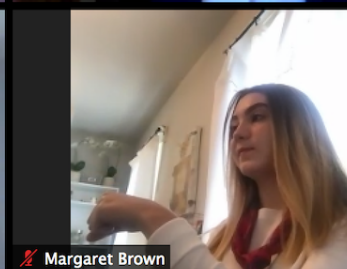
Madeleine Biles



Skyler Mongardi



Matt Edelstein



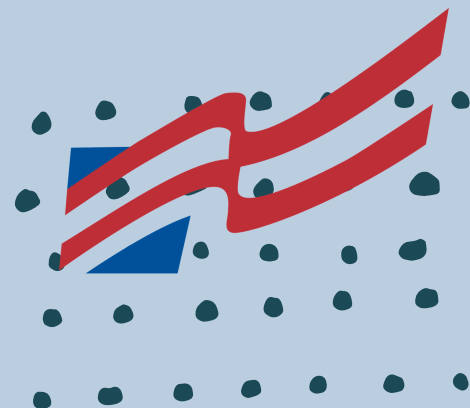
Margaret Brown



Summer Edition

Index

State Officer Introductions	...1
A Letter From the President	...4
Chapter Connection	...5
Shop Local	...6
Crisis Text Line	...7
<i>Express Yourself</i>	...8
POW Participation	...9
Parli Pro IRL	...10
District Updates- 1s	...11
District Updates- 3n	...12
District Updates- 12	...13
District Updates- 13	...14



Introducing...

Andrew Fox State President

Hello New York State FBLA! I will be a rising senior at Little Falls High School in District 7. Some of my hobbies outside of FBLA include volleyball, training dogs, hanging with my friends, and going to the beach. A fun fact about me is that I recently auditioned to be on the reality show, "Survivor".

Jillian Bent EVP

Hello NYS FBLA! I am a rising senior at Sharon Springs Central School in district 4. For extracurriculars, I am a varsity soccer and basketball athlete, involved in class office, National Honor Society, and I work at a local coffee shop. Additionally, I love cats, lattes, and rollerblading. I plan to major in marketing or finance and start my own business before getting out of college.

Maryam Bacchus State Secretary

Hello FBLA! I am currently a rising senior at Valley Stream Central High School in District 1N. I play softball and in my free time enjoy painting, drawing, reading and journaling. I am passionate about psychology and hope to one day pursue a career in academia and/or therapy.

Spencer Dicimbrino State Treasurer

Hello, I am Spencer Dicembrino. I am going into my senior year at Carmel High School. Outside of FBLA, I am the goalie for my soccer team, I work out, play darts, and bowl. My dreams in life are to become fluent in a lot of languages, go into the army or air force, and continue in military science, or business. I also hope to become successful in the stock market. My personal interests include sports, ancient history, spirituality, and classic cars.

Introducing...

Madeleine Biles

State Reporter

Hello! My name is Madeleine Biles and I am a rising senior at Lake George Jr./Sr. High School. I love camping and spending time in the outdoors with my friends. I participate in multiple clubs and sports at my school including Spanish Honors Society, Cross Country Running and Nordic Skiing. I am looking forward to my senior year and making some amazing memories!

Jillian Rehberg

State Historian

Hi New York State FBLA! My name is Jillian Rehberg and I am so excited to be your Historian this year. I'm a junior at Schoharie High School and some fun facts about me are that I listen to a lot of ASMR audios and I like to bake. I am looking forward to the year ahead and can't wait to be a state officer!

Allison Li

State Parliamentarian

Hello New York State FBLA! I am an incoming junior at Williamsville East High School in District 12. Some of my hobbies are drawing, playing piano & violin, and art! Activities I'm involved in at school include Science Olympiad, Mock Trial and my school's newspaper club. Also, I am currently serving as President of the Chinese Youth Club of Western New York. These clubs have taught me the importance of teamwork and leadership!

Skyler Mongardi

SVP 1s

Hello everyone, my name is Skyler Mongardi. While this is my senior year of high school, it's my second year of FBLA. Nonetheless, the involvement offered at my school let my love for FBLA come effortlessly. Aside from FBLA, I am active in Youth and Government, Mock Trial, and School of Rock. In the future I want to improve our country by becoming an advocate for child's rights in the United States. I am looking forward to a great year with the State Officer Team!

Introducing...

Matt Edelstein

SVP 3n

Hello! My name is Matthew Edelstein. This upcoming year, I will be a junior at Monroe-Woodbury High School. Attending NFLC opened my eyes to everything that FBLA had to offer. It has given me motivation to put my all into everything that I do. Outside of FBLA, I am on the Track Team, a member of the Safe School Ambassadors and STARS. In my free time, I enjoy running, hiking, and spending time with my friends and family.

Mark Yukeis

SVP 3s

Hi! My name is Mark Yukelis and I am a senior at Mamaroneck High School. Outside of FBLA, I am the Editor-in-Chief of my school's newspaper, president of my school's computer science club and math team. In my free time, I play video games or listen to music. When I'm older, I'll probably do something related to computer science. However, in my more immediate future, I hope to make it to the Pokémon VGC World Championships! I can't wait to serve you this year!

Margaret Brown

SVP 12

Hello, I am Margaret Brown! I am sixteen years old and I will be a junior at Williamsville East. I run varsity Cross Country and Track at school. I am also involved in many extracurricular activities, including Sources or Strength and Wellness Committee. My future plans are to major in Finance and go to school in Boston. In my spare time I love to watch TV, especially Keeping Up with the Kardashians. I also enjoy shopping, playing with my dog, and eating desserts.

Aspen Hawkins

SVP 13

My name is Aspen Hawkins and I'm a junior from Randolph Central School. I enjoy throwing shotput and discus for track and I am also involved in football cheerleading. Besides sports, I participate in activities such as the school musical, chorus, vocal labs, solo fest, and All-County. Overall, I believe I'm a well-rounded individual and can't wait to see what the future has in store.

A Letter From the President

By: Andrew Fox

Greetings New York State FBLA! My name is Andrew Fox and I am so honored to be back this year leading with all of you as your State President. First, I would like to welcome you all to the 2020-2021 FBLA fiscal year! This year will be filled with new and exciting platforms, with an extremely dedicated and hard working State Officer Team to help make it one of the best years for NYS FBLA.

I hope you and your families have been staying safe and healthy during these unprecedented times. As we move towards an uncertain future, we must remain positive and continue to innovate how we connect over the coming year. I firmly believe that with the help of your State Officer Team and input from local chapters, we will be able to continue our efforts to improve your experience in FBLA.

Over the course of the past three years serving on all levels of FBLA, I have grown to see where improvements need to be made and know how to make sure we see accomplishments in New York FBLA firsthand. These past two years on the State Officer Team allowed me to get to know members from around New York and hear their stories. I understand the hardships that may have arisen, and how it has been difficult at times within your local chapter. We as a state will come together and unite as one, to move towards a future of innovation.

Future Business Leaders of America is the organization we decided to join however long ago. Each and every one of us have a different story and journey of how our time in FBLA has been spent. Although we are all different in one way or another, we must continue to “Aspire” to new heights throughout our future in the organization we call home. Please take advantage of every opportunity that FBLA provides. Whether it be through national programs, applying to serve on a state or national council, or even competing at the National Leadership Conference, all of these, and more, serve a great purpose for members to learn and grow from.

When I joined FBLA almost seven years ago, I never thought I would find a strong family full of creative, outgoing, and exceptional future business people. I know wherever we are throughout this next year, we will continue to strive for greatness. Throughout the Program of Work, State Charity, and the other activities from your State Officers, we are bound to see success rise in New York. We must stay inspired to aspire because we are one state . . . countless opportunities.

Chapter Connection

By: Jillian Bent

Since May, it's fair to say our lives have been completely flipped upside down. Schools closed, FBLA conferences were canceled, and sports seasons were ended. For many of us, a lot of things that were important to us were lost. Life has changed. Classes transitioned online and masks are everywhere. The way we travel, eat out, and see people have completely changed. We are living through a pandemic, but what does that mean for FBLA?

This means staying connected with your FBLA chapter has become a lot more challenging, but not impossible! I am confident with some tips today, you will find your chapters meeting more often and starting to accomplish work together, regardless of the pandemic.

Firstly, you should get in contact with your chapter advisor. Ask them if they are willing to host a virtual call via Zoom, or an alternative app, to meet with chapter members. Once you have a call scheduled, start reaching out to members. Tell them about the meeting and stay in touch to ensure they stay active and come to the meeting. Work with chapter officers and try to get as many members to attend this meeting.

Next, once you have the meeting, keep it fun! You could create an FBLA Kahoot, brainstorm virtual or in-person fundraisers/events, and overall talk about what your chapter is looking forward to this year! Consider making a group chat on GroupMe, or a more mainstream social media, to keep members communicating and active!

While our lives have changed, the effort you put in now will only benefit you and your local chapter in the future. Stay positive and look for the best!

Your 2020-2021 State Officer Team is spending hours preparing to offer New York members countless opportunities during this upcoming membership year. Through our interactive Program of Work, unique Social Media challenges, and lots of other opportunities along the way. Despite the current pandemic, there is a lot to do! Check-in with a state officer through email and make stay up to date with our Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook!



Shop Local!

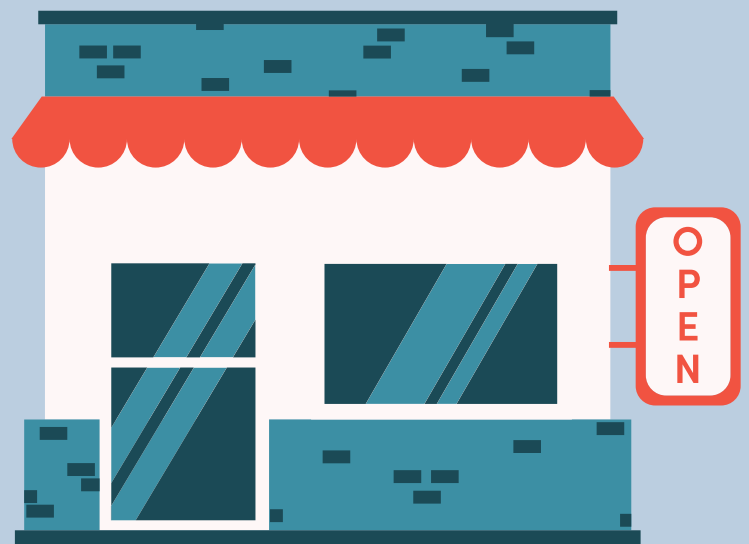
By: Spencer Dicembrino

Small businesses are quite literally America's backbone. When you shop in small and local businesses, an economic cycle is created. Shopping local creates more jobs in the community, which in turn allows for these local workers to continue spending locally, ultimately promoting an economic cycle.

Along with spending locally, they will deliberately patronize other local businesses to create a thriving local economy. Bolstering sales creates strong community bonds and keeps money in the community, instead of sending it to big corporations. With these community bonds comes a community identity, which can allow for an increase in the public's time spent in shopping plazas. A thriving local business plaza reflects vitality, wealth, and social benefits of a strong community, which produces a positive impression of the community overall. Furthermore, thriving businesses equates to an increase in the town's tax revenue which will improve schools, public facilities, and increase property value.

Additionally, the environment will be promoted. Along with 66.3% of small business owners using recycled materials, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reported that clusters of small businesses in a walkable area, or near residential areas, may reduce car usage and encourage biking and walking for shoppers. Traffic is also lessened, making the streets preferable for those driving in the community.

Ultimately, local businesses can function as the town's ecosystem, supporting the community while the community simultaneously supports the businesses.



Crisis Text Line

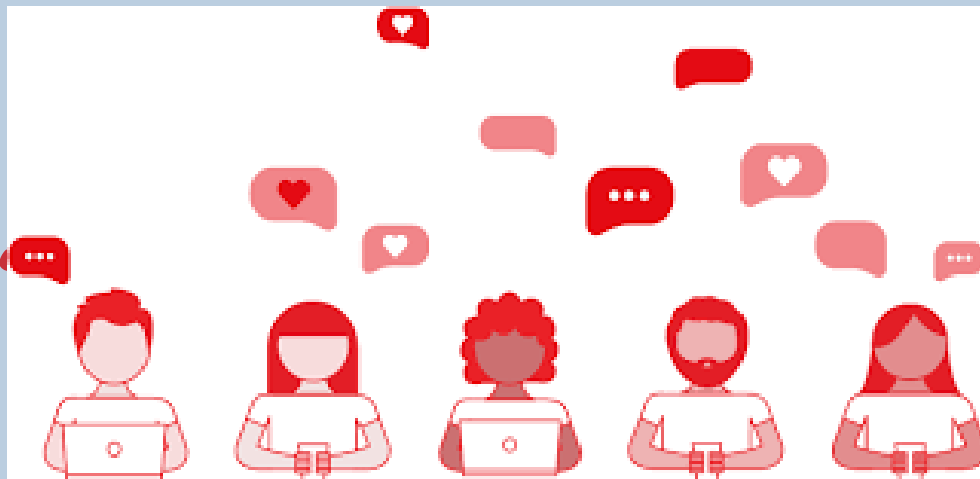
By: Maryam Bacchus

Hello New York State FBLA! My name is Maryam Bacchus and I am your 2020-2021 State Secretary. Allow me to introduce this year's state charity: Crisis Text Line.

Crisis Text Line is a not-for-profit dedicated to providing free 24/7 counseling services through texting. Their methods include but are not limited to cognitive therapy, safety techniques and simple active listening. Their objective is to take texters "from a hot moment to a cool calm". The organization is quickly expanding; it is available in all 295 American area codes in addition to other countries such as Canada, Ireland and the United Kingdom.

The organization is comprised of volunteer crisis counselors who are trained by professionals. Counselors receive 30 hours of training and aim to complete 4 hours of counseling per week. They are dedicated to making texters feel heard and supported. They prioritize the texters health and safety and look to collaboratively develop a plan to assure wellness post-conversation. Texters simply begin a conversation by texting 741741. From there, they are connected with a live crisis counselor who will respond to their individual crisis.

The need for mental health resources is constantly increasing. In the present and future COVID-19 climate, it is essential to have the means to receive support when necessary. If you or someone you know is in need of support, text 741741. Additionally, be sure to check this year's Program of Work for how you can support Crisis Text Line!



Express Yourself

By: Madeleine Biles

Hello NYS FBLA! My name is Madeleine Biles and I will be serving as your 2020-2021 State Reporter. You may remember me as last year's State Vice President for District 5 and I am so excited to serve another year on the State Officer Team!

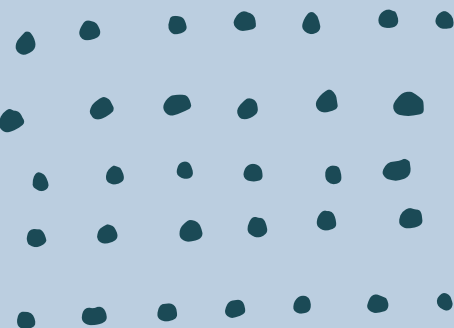
As the State Reporter, it is my job to compile, publish, and advertise the NYS FBLA Express. I feel that this is a great opportunity for me to help our state communicate and grow. However, in order to keep the Express alive, I need your help.

One way in which you can participate is to write articles about events taking place in your Local FBLA Chapter. You and your chapter can write about anything from fundraisers, chapter recruitment, fun team building activities, and more. This is a wonderful way to spread your great ideas across the state and help other chapters.

Another way you can help out is to help advertise the Express on social media. You can repost a NYS FBLA post about the Express or make a post on your instagram story. If you have a chapter instagram or twitter, you can also use that as a tool to spread the word!

And lastly, the best way you can support the NYS FBLA Express is to read it and use it to improve your chapter.

I look forward to a great year with you all. Don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. You can ask questions or submit articles to me at reporter@nysfbla.org!



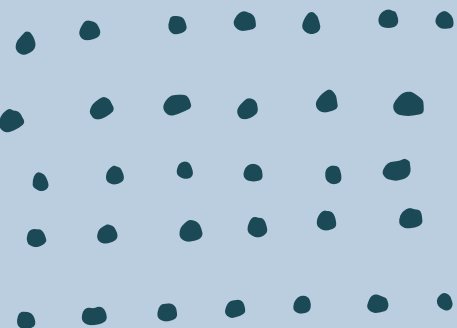
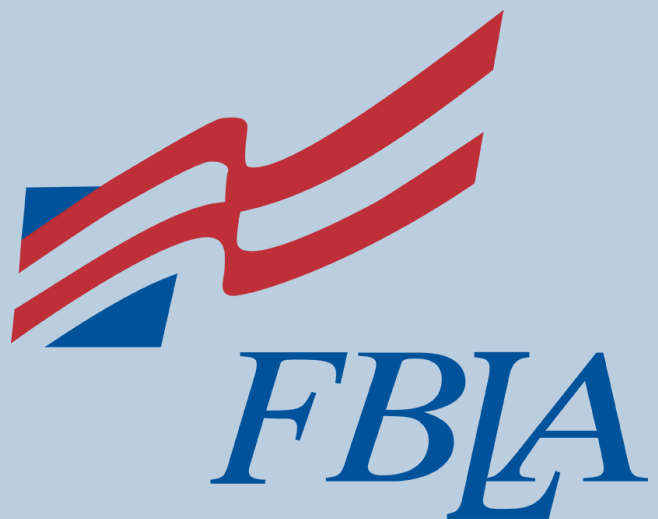
POW Participation!

By: Jillian Rehberg

Hi New York State FBLA! My name is Jillian Rehberg and I am so excited to be your Historian this year. I'm a junior at Schoharie High School and some fun facts about me are that I listen to a lot of ASMR audios and I like to bake. Within FBLA I think that it is so important to stay involved throughout the year and a great way to do that is by participating in the Program of Work.

At times many struggle to stay involved in FBLA during the year, due to a supposed lack of tasks to complete. This lull in chapters' activity can easily be filled by participating in the Program of Work. The Program of Work is split into multiple categories, with its own set of topics to complete. Through completing the Program of Work activities, participants can earn ribbons to wear at states and some of the other activities are scored with the opportunity to earn a plaque. The Program of Work categories are created to both benefit the state, chapters and the members completing them. The Program of work has activities in multiple mediums such as online activities, group presentations and written submissions; the differences in the way tasks are completed is beneficial in helping members improve themselves in multiple different ways of completing tasks and thinking.

Please visit the NYS FBLA website to get started! we can't wait to see your submissions!



Parli Pro IRL

By: Allison Li

Parliamentary procedure is an organized system that allows a group of people to make decisions and conduct business within an organization. Business is brought up and disposed of through motions. In FBLA, we follow the rules outlined in the manual Robert's Rules of Order – Newly Revised. So, why is this important? The principles of Parliamentary procedure lie in protecting the rights of each individual in the assembly, the minority, and those who are absent. However, all decisions in Parliamentary procedure are approved or adopted by majority vote (with a few exceptions)! It's true that "parli pro" may seem complicated at first glance, but don't get discouraged!. It's simply just a system that allows everyone's opinions to be heard, to guarantee an effective discussion with others.

Parliamentary procedure has several important applications outside of FBLA. For example, if you're having disagreements with others, having a discussion by using parliamentary procedure rules can be essential to defuse the situation and resolve the problem. While arguments can get loud and chaotic, parliamentary procedure prevents this by enforcing a logical, systematic form of discussion and debate. Parliamentary procedure ensures that all people get a chance to voice their opinions and that people address each other with respect and diplomacy. Each individual has the right and opportunity to be recognized and permitted to speak. Parliamentary procedure can also be used in meetings to accomplish goals in an organized, efficient manner. As President of the Chinese Youth Club of Western New York, I have had to conduct numerous virtual meetings with my officer team. Parli pro has been incredibly useful in these settings! I use the concept of an "order of business" to keep the meeting going in a timely, scheduled manner. By using an agenda and planning out what will be discussed in the meeting, our time is spent more productively. In addition, by asking for each member's opinions and feedback in turn, people are encouraged to make their voice heard. I have learned about the importance of meetings and how to lead an effective meeting – its purpose is not to simply and check a task off the list, but to motivate and encourage your members to get excited about the club and the activities it's involved in.

There are several resources online that are helpful when learning about parliamentary procedure. To learn the basics, I recommend starting off with a guide written by the 2008-2009 California State Parliamentarian. Another helpful resource are the practice tests that can be found on the National Association of Parliamentarians website. Most importantly, get as much practice as you can! The more you repeat the process, the more familiar it becomes, and the easier it is to recognize the patterns. By listening to others go through the process and practicing it yourself, parli pro will become something that is fun and understandable!

District Updates- 1s

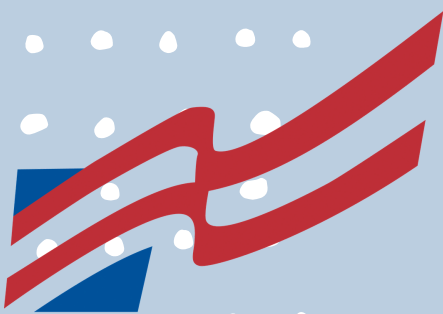
By: Skyler Mongardi

Hello and welcome to the 2020-2021 FBLA year! As I'm sure you're aware, this year will be filled with adversity we have never seen before. We are no longer just waiting to see when businesses reopen; we now have to question if and when schools will reopen. Logistical challenges will inevitably arise while the State Officer Team coordinates this year, but we cannot stop progress the second we face difficulty or nothing will ever get done. It is vital we continue to work towards improvement as individuals and as a program.

We as a district are privileged enough to have more than an SVP. We have three additional appointed positions: district reporter, historian, and secretary. Before I was elected as a State Vice President, I was the reporter for our district. An issue I noticed was the distinct lack of work the district officers had. Each of us were severely underutilized when we could've acted as a bridge between local and state FBLA. To remedy this issue there will be a specific set of tasks for each district officer to complete with corresponding deadlines. Rather than letting them guess when a random assignment may occur, telling them precisely when will let them prepare and manage their time more wisely. It will also ensure they have jobs to do in the first place.

As we learn more about reopening plans and SDM, tasks for each district position will become solidified. In the meantime we can focus on other things within our chapters. Details about the Program of Work will be coming soon. The State Officer Team is working extremely hard to coordinate challenges that can be done individually and as a chapter online. This will help us stay engaged throughout the state despite the status of reopening/ geographic location. I encourage everyone to participate when they arrive; they are a fun way to show your dedication to the program and earn some recognition at SLC.

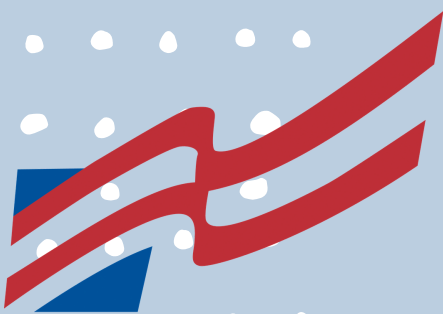
As more of the school year comes into focus we will have a clearer plan for FBLA on a district and state level. Until then, see if your FBLA chapter is currently holding events or will be in the near future. You can also get in touch with members of your chapter to say hello, check in, and prepare for any Program of Work events. Please stay safe, and I look forward to seeing you soon!



District Updates- 3n

By: Matt Edelstein

My hope is to make FBLA prosper by working tirelessly with my officer team. Throughout the course of this year, I want to implement 3 goals to improve NYS FBLA. My first goal is to organize great Fall and Spring District Meetings by ensuring there is a wide variety of workshops and competitions. I will work with board members, advisors, and members throughout the district to plan outstanding meetings. I believe that district meetings are a great way for members to get their feet wet with competition. It is important to me that the members of District 3N have the opportunity to participate in these experiences. My second goal is to improve communication throughout our district by holding monthly conference calls with all chapter presidents to keep everyone on the same page and to share ideas. This will keep everyone in contact which is greatly important because communication is key. My final goal is to expose more students to the benefits of FBLA by managing a District Instagram account, along with my adviser, for the purpose of promoting FBLA. This account will have all of the latest news and announcements which will keep everyone in the loop as well. I look forward to a successful year with District 3N!



District Updates- 3s

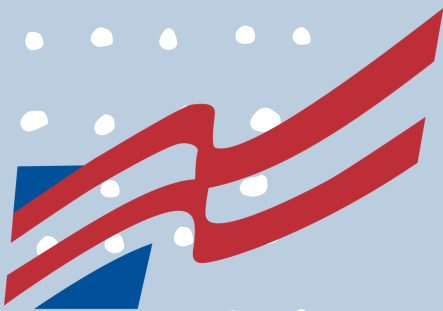
By: Mark Yukleis

Hello District 3S! I hope all of you are in good health. My name is Mark Yukelis, and I cannot wait to get to meet all of you, whether virtually or in person. Of course, this upcoming year will be one that is far from ordinary, but I know that as a district, we will be able to stick together and stay strong.

Okay, with that out of the way, I'd like to focus on a few of my goals for this upcoming year. First of all, my main goal is to retain as many members as possible during these uncertain times. I know that that is very difficult given the current situation, where members are not able to really experience FBLA in its fullest, but I hope that by working closely with chapters in the district I will be able to at least maintain, and hopefully expand, membership. I plan on holding some form of regular communication with chapter advisors, most likely in the form of monthly zoom calls, where I will figure out what I can do to help chapters and use that knowledge to do my best to assist. I also hope that, even though our Fall District Meeting will most likely be virtual, I will be able to create an experience that leaves a lasting impression on members that motivates them to become more involved in FBLA.

On the topic of membership, another one of my goals is to increase FBLA-ML involvement throughout the district. Last year I served as the Middle Level Liaison for the Eastern Region Vice President's council, and in that time, I have gained the experience necessary to provide guidance for new chapters. If any members or officers who are interested in middle level would like to reach out to me, I would love to discuss it with you.

For now, that is all. As the year progresses and we get a clearer picture on what will be virtual and what won't, I hope to gain a clearer vision of my goals and to make strategic steps towards those goals. I wish you all good health and a great rest of your summer.



District Updates- 12

By: Margaret Brown

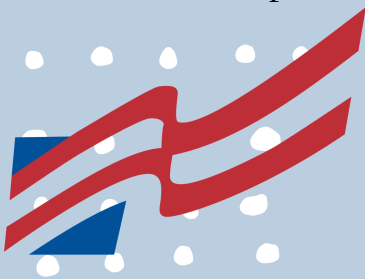
Hello! My name is Margaret Brown and I will be serving as your 2020-2021 State Vice President for District 12. I am very excited for the year ahead and can't wait to start planning for our District meetings. Our district has a record of success, so my main concern is how I will carry this torch. So, my goals for this coming FBLA year include: improving connections between local chapters and state, host a fun and interactive Fall District Meeting, and to charter more chapters in District 12.

Why is my main goal to improve the connection between local chapters and the state? I feel that with the many events and deadlines, all happening simultaneously, it can be hard to keep up, especially for local chapters. Implementing effective communication between myself and local chapter presidents is essential. After all, we as a District are in this together. That is why I plan on having monthly Zoom calls with chapter presidents and advisors, so everyone is informed and prepared. In these conference calls, updates on new changes and upcoming events in the state will be shared and there will be opportunities to ask questions and exchange ideas.

My next goal will be to host an outstanding Fall District Meeting and Spring District Meeting at my school, Williamsville East High School. These meetings will have to be thoroughly planned out by me beforehand. But, with the help of past District 12 State Vice Presidents and the wonderful mainline officers, I will be able to obtain the previously successful materials and be able to add my own workshop to the meeting. I also plan on reaching out to a local business executive and invite him/her to be the keynote speaker for the conference and a workshop presenter.

FBLA is such an incredible organization and we're all grateful that our school, Williamsville East has a chapter. I would like to give the same opportunity we have and extend it towards other schools in our district, particularly in Niagra and Orleans. I will do this by reaching out to schools with strong business programs and inform them about FBLA and all it has to offer. I am hopeful to charter at least two new chapters this year.

In achieving these three goals, our district can continue in creating a passionate atmosphere, where everyone feels welcome and comes eager to participate. I am so excited for this year of FBLA and I can't wait to see what we accomplish.



District Updates- 13

By: Aspen Hawkins

Hello Everyone! My name is Aspen Hawkins, I'm a junior from Randolph Central School and I am the State Vice President for District Thirteen. This year as a state officer I want to connect with as many members as I can, both in my district and the state. This year I have a yearning to teach others through using my past experiences and learn from others as well. Also, as a state officer I look forward to working with the rest of my amazing team. As for my goals for District Thirteen, I want to do more to recruit new members and encourage returning members to get more involved. Even though we are going through unprecedented times due to COVID-19, this could also give multiple opportunities to become more involved. Not only can members become more active with the Business Achievement Awards, but also with the Program of Work that the entire state officer team has worked diligently on. Also, even though fundraising may be more difficult; my goal is to help come up with ways to assist members in going to States and possibly even Nationals. Furthermore, I want to assist more members to become the person that they want to be through FBLA, by focusing on developing aggressive business leadership and being confident, not only with themselves, but their work. I believe that voices are powerful, especially now; having gone through the hardships this year has thrown at us, we have new opportunities. Members should look forward to a year full of new events and new amazing opportunities, that I have worked on, not alone, but with the help that the entire state officer team provides. I cannot wait to work towards a successful year with everyone!

