

# Blossom Into Business



JJM 2022

Spring Edition

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# Message from the President

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Dear New York State FBLA,

It's hard to believe that our State Leadership Conference is only a few weeks away! While in Rochester, your State Officer Team hopes you take full advantage of all the competitive events, networking opportunities, and skill-building workshops. Look forward to interactive activities such as a Goose Chase, talent show, and the dance! The top placers in each event get the opportunity to attend our National Leadership Conference in Chicago, Illinois!

Even if you are unable to attend in-person conferences, not to worry - your FBLA journey does not end here! You can continue to request virtual chapter visits from your state officers at the following link: <https://forms.gle/RhBJUE5e6SnyVnno6>.

In the remaining months of the membership year we have left, we encourage you to start up community service and fundraising activities within your chapters to build unity. Another opportunity to consider is to invite FBLA alumni or professional business people to speak to your chapter members. Keep tabs on the national social media accounts - @fbla\_pbl on Instagram - for a spring initiative to stay engaged throughout the rest of the school year!

Lastly, be sure to utilize this time to prepare for next year's success - familiarize yourself with the State Program of Work, the National Champion Chapter and Business Achievement Award. These are all fantastic opportunities for individuals and chapters to become more involved in FBLA and build leadership skills that will last a lifetime!

Whether your career path is geared towards business or not, FBLA is a community for everyone. No matter where this organization takes you, stay humble, persevere, and take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way. I wish you the best of luck in your FBLA journey, and if you ever have any questions, I'm always one Instagram DM away.

Warm regards,

Allison Li

# Favorite Part of the Job

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Allison Li  
State President

Leading New York State FBLA this year has been a reminder of the unparalleled power of individual connections in building up a strong organization. It has been an honor working alongside such a driven, passionate team. From holding the first-ever fun filled Networking Night and virtual chapter visits to enhancing social media engagement, it has been an empowering experience like no other to pulift our members.

Matthew Edelstein  
State EVP

Hello NYS FBLA, my name is Matt Edelstein and I'm serving as the State Executive Vice President. My term as a state officer this year is certainly one for the books. I mainly attribute this to the amazing team we have full of hardworking a driven individuals. JJM was my first ever in-person meeting with the officer team and it was an absolute blast. It's hard to believe SLC is less than 2 months away, it will definitely be a bitter sweet goodbye!

Margaret Brown  
State Secretary

Wow! I can't believe how quickly this year has flown by. It is strange to think that just eight months ago I started my second term as a state officer. Stepping into the role as State Secretary was no easy task; I was replacing an amazing officer, Maryam Baccus, and I had some big shoes to fill. I am so glad that I stepped outside my comfort zone and challenged myself with this task. Being a secretary for such an accomplished state has kept me busy, but I wouldn't have it any other way. I am so fortunate to be able to work with such an amazing team. My favorite memory thus far has been attending our January Joint Meeting, specifically, our meals shared together. We are very fortunate to have been able to meet in person this year and we had a blast! I have had a fantastic two years as an NYS FBLA State Officer and I can't wait for SLC. Hope to see you there!

# Favorite Part of the Job

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Aspen Hawkins  
State Treasurer

Over the past two years I have been honored to serve as a State Officer. I have definitely seen the various sides that FBLA has to offer, but I truly believe that my favorite part of being a State Officer has been making memories and meeting other individuals that have the same interest as me, but from different backgrounds. With these memories and experiences I have gained, I would highly encourage members to do this as well!

Isabella Esterman  
State Reporter

Being your State Reporter for the 2021-2022 year has truly been an honor. My favorite part would definitely be writing the Express to act as an informative newsletter for members to catch a glimpse of what is going on at the state level. I have highly enjoyed the creativity I get in writing each edition, and hope that you have all enjoyed reading some of the articles!

Julia Giordano  
State Historian

As State Historian, my favorite part of the job is connecting with members and officers through photo taking and sharing. I love editing and incorporating videos into slideshows and I really enjoy the process of putting projects together. But most notably, I love people's reactions to the photos and slideshows. It is very heartwarming to see people brought closer together and become emotional over something that I created.

# Favorite Part of the Job

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Nish Mistry

State Parliamentarian

Over the course of my term serving as your 2021–2022 State Parliamentarian, I've had the amazing opportunity to meet so many members across New York State. Networking and becoming friends with people from all over the state has been an extreme privilege, and I'm grateful for the friends I've made along the way. Going along with that, meeting the State Officer team and working with them during the January Joint Meeting was one of the most enjoyable experiences of my life. I'm thankful for everything that FBLA has done for me!

Derek Li

SVP District 3N

My favorite part about being a State Officer isn't so much the title itself, but the people that I met and the experiences that I had because of it. The State Officer Team has grown from a group of talented individuals into a supportive and loving family. I'll forever be grateful for this opportunity.

Katarina Riekert

SVP District 3S

My favorite part of being a state officer has been the people I've been able to meet and the connections I've made. I've truly enjoyed becoming so close with my State Officer Team and meeting so many incredible members throughout the year. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the State Leadership Conference in April!



# Favorite Part of the Job

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## Sydney VanDeusen SVP District 4

I have dreamed of being a State Officer since I was a freshman, and as a senior, I am living that dream. It is an experience like no other and I have treasured every moment. It's hard to pick a favorite memory or a favorite part of being a State Officer because I truly love it all. If I absolutely had to choose the best part, I would say it's meeting other members. I've met so many great people through FBLA and I have even made some of my best friends at conferences.

## Ryan Chou SVP District 12

The best part of being a State Officer has been connecting with the members! Every one of you are unique, and your boundless drive is what makes FBLA work. See you in April, I love you all.



# District Updates – 3N

## Zongyuan (Derek) Li

Greetings New York State FBLA! I am Derek Li, your State Vice President for District 3N. I hope everyone had exactly the kind of February break that you needed. As February comes to an end, I must speak about the District 3N Spring Meeting that took place on February 10th, 2022 at Monroe-Woodbury High School.

We were joined by 7 chapters across the district. Members started arriving at 2:45 pm, and the opening session began promptly at 3:00 pm. State Executive Vice President, Matthew Edelstein, and State Historian, Julia Giordano, were able to join us and hosted fun workshops such as Improv while members competed in a variety of competitions. The event ran on for about 4 hours. Here, I would like to congratulate our winners that placed; however, please keep in mind that only 1st and 2nd place finishes for the performance events are qualified to represent District 3N at the State Leadership Conference in April.

As spring dawns, please continue preparing for the State Leadership Conference. Also, be on the lookout for the spring edition of our District Newsletter that's coming to you in early March. Thank you. As always, please feel free to reach out.



# District Updates – 3S

## Katarina Riekert

Hello again NYS FBLA! I hope everyone's been doing well and looking forward to some spring weather. I'm so excited to announce that the past few months for District 3S has been such a success.

Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions our Spring District Meeting (SDM) needed to be held virtually this year on February 12, 2022. However, this didn't diminish the enthusiasm and involvement of our members as we had an incredible turnout. Members spent their time competing in both performance and written events while networking and interacting in between their competitions times. The conference truly prepared our members for the upcoming State Leadership Conference (SLC) with the State Officer and Future Business Leader exams where I hope to see our members progress in their leadership opportunities. District 3S also had some impressive winners in various competitions. I'd like to recognize and congratulate the following winners:

### Client Service

1st Place – William Fagan, Lakeland High School

2nd Place – Erin McManus, Mamaroneck High School

### Impromptu

1st Place – Angela Lala, Lakeland High School

2nd Place – Adriana Zazzini, Walter Panas High School

### Introduction to Decision Making

1st Place – Ashley Carozza, Lakeland High School

### Introduction to Public Speaking

1st Place – Juliet Patriot, Mamaroneck High School

2nd Place – Nada Samwell, Lakeland High School

3rd Place – Myles Merchant, Hendrick Hudson High School

### Job Interview

1st Place – Larissa Bertini, Mamaroneck High School

2nd Place – Chloe Casucci, Lakeland High School

### Public Speaking

1st Place – Daniel Saleem, Hendrick Hudson High School

2nd Place – Innocent Acen, Eastchester High School

Competitors were required to prepare and perform before judges virtually and I am incredibly proud of all those who competed. Members gain many skills and experiences through these competitions and it's a great opportunity for them to grow as leaders. Those who placed in the top two at our SDM will have their opportunity to compete at SLC in Rochester this coming April. District 3S is wishing our finalists the best of luck and can't wait to see what you accomplish.

Although our District events are coming to a close there's so much more in store for our members. With the State Leadership Conference and National Leadership Conference coming up there's so much to look forward to. If anyone has any questions or concerns surrounding these events or in general never hesitate to contact me at [svp3s@nysfbla.org](mailto:svp3s@nysfbla.org). I look forward to seeing you all.

# District Updates – 4

## Sydney VanDeusen

This has been quite the year in FBLA. I am so thankful that we were able to host both a Fall District Meeting and a Spring District Meeting this year. The Spring District Meeting was a great success and it was so nice to finally meet members face-to-face. Everyone who participated did such an amazing job in their competitions, and I am looking forward to seeing both District 4 and 8 represented in Rochester at the State Leadership Conference! I am hoping to hold a district-wide officer meeting to check in before the SLC and a following meeting to reflect on the past year. If you would like to be part of this meeting, please email me at [svp4@nysfbla.org](mailto:svp4@nysfbla.org). I look forward to seeing you all at the State Leadership Conference and as always, my inbox is always open to any questions, comments, or concerns!

# District Updates – 12

## Ryan Chou

Hello New York State FBLA! As we continue to press on through the year, the next few months promise to be packed with exciting events, involvement opportunities, and so much more! In April, New York will be holding its annual State Leadership Conference in Rochester, New York, in-person for the first time since 2019. This is an opportunity to be exposed to engaging keynote speakers, meet this year's slate of State Officer Candidates, and connect with hundreds of members across the state! The State Officers met at the January Joint Meeting to finalize and fine-tune our plans for the State Leadership Conference, and we are excited to see it through!

On January 29, 2022, District 12 held its annual Spring District Meeting at Williamsville East High School. Thank you to all our judges, advisers, officers, and Ms. LaSota! This conference would not have been made possible without your hard work and dedication to FBLA. I also want to congratulate the following members from District 12 who have advanced as semi-finalists to the State Leadership Conference:

- Client Service: Austin Hammer (St. Francis High School)
- Client Service: Jasmitha Keesara (Williamsville East High School)
- Impromptu Speaking: Patrick Waggoner (St. Francis High School)
- Job Interview: Adam Guigui (Williamsville East High School)
- Job Interview: Gregory Jones (St. Francis High School)
- Public Speaking: John Mallory (St. Francis High School)

It was great to finally meet so many of you in-person for the first time, and I'm looking forward to seeing more of you in April!