

CHAPTER CONNECTIONS

Maryland FBLA - December 2019



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KEY DATES

- ▶ RLC TESTING WINDOW - CLOSES AT 5PM (DECEMBER 20)
- ▶ NONSTOP NOVEMBER (NOVEMBER 1- DECEMBER 10)

COMPETITIVE EVENTS PREPARATION AND MORE ABOUT REGIONAL CONFERENCES

BY TAMAS MESTER, VP OF DATA
ANALYTICS



Regional Conferences are the first stepping stone on the path to Nationals. They offer the opportunity for members to improve and prepare themselves for the business world. This growth can take place in the form of competitions, workshops, or inspirational keynote speeches. Additionally, members are granted the opportunity to network, engage in group activities, and learn more about leadership.

There are a few key points to keep in mind when preparing for a conference. You want to ensure that you are fully aware of all guidelines and rules for your competition. This information is accessible on the national website. There you will also find great tips and resources for preparation. One of the best ways to prepare is to take the practice tests/competitions on the national website and have a friend, officer, or advisor score you. This will allow you to focus on areas that need improvement. When competing, the key is to have confidence. One of the easiest ways to develop confidence is by practicing. The more you practice your event, the more confident you will become.

A great way to get practice is to host a chapter conference. Talk to your officers about an informal competition in order for all competitors to practice their events. Get teachers, staff, and parents to judge performance events, and create practice exams for objective tests. This experience will be invaluable for gaining insight and confidence in your event.

While you are not competing, you will be in a variety of workshops. These can range in topics like choosing a college, creating a personal brand, first impressions, and much more. To gain the most from your experience, you should be actively engaged and taking notes.

Just remember that conferences are meant to be a fun, engaging, and educational experience. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to ask your chapter President, Advisor, or your State Officers by messaging @mdfbla on Instagram.

Regional Leadership Conferences

REGION 1 | JANUARY 11, 2020

Dr. Henry A. Wise Jr. High School

REGION 2 | JANUARY 9, 2020

Dulaney High School

REGION 3 | JANUARY 15, 2020

Century High School

REGION 4 | JANUARY 4, 2020

North County High School

REGION 5 | JANUARY 18, 2020

Applications and Research Lab



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY HANNAH KLEIN



Dear FBLA members,

I hope everyone is doing well and took advantage of the various events last month! It was wonderful to see so many chapters participate in the MD FBLA Media Madness Chapter Challenge, MD FBLA Spirit Week, American Enterprise Day, and the March of Dimes World Prematurity Day. Keep up the good work!

I would like to encourage everyone to continue practicing their events and continue studying for their tests because Regional Leadership Conferences are just one month away!

Also, the testing window for the Regional Leadership Conferences closes at 5:00 pm on December 20th. If you haven't taken your test yet, it is highly encouraged to do so!

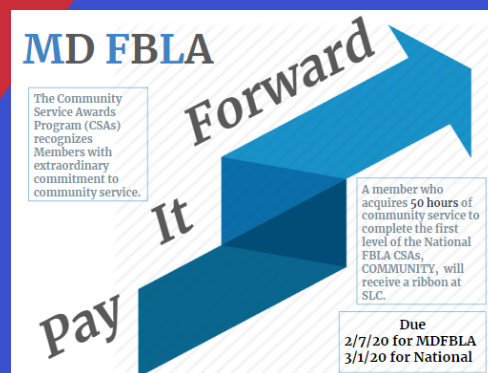
I hope everyone has an excellent month and an exciting winter break! The new year is just a few weeks away, and with a new year comes new opportunities with Maryland FBLA!

Wishing you all the best,

Hannah Klein, State President



[Click Here for Google Form](#)



[Click Here for Two Minute Tuesdays](#)



STATE OFFICER TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS BY HANNAH KLEIN, STATE PRESIDENT AND ALEXIS CASTILLO, REGION 4 VP



Fundraising is extremely important to an FBLA chapter. However, there are so many options to choose from, it can be overwhelming! Luckily, first on the list of State Officer Recommendations are fundraising ideas tried by your very own state officer team! Go ahead and see what works for chapter in order to take the most advantage of this world of opportunity!

- Pura Vida Bracelets - Pura Vida will gladly partner with your chapter to sell custom bracelets. Go to <https://www.puravidabracelets.com/>
- Ice Skating- Contact your local ice skating rink and see if they participate in fundraiser nights where the rink will donate a percentage to your chapter.

Another crucial part of FBLA is **community service**! Use these community service ideas from your state officers to unify your chapter or gain CSA hours!

- Chapter Birthday- Celebrate your chapters birthday by having members donate “presents”. These presents can consist of canned goods, blankets, socks, or similar items that can then be donated to the homeless or those in need.
- Blessing Boxes- In your local community, built “blessing boxes”. These are posts with a wooden box on top that can be opened to find basic needs. When a stranger is in need, they are allowed to take from the blessing box. The only rule is that if you take something, you must give back when you are ready to do so.

You may have heard the expression, “Knowledge is Power”. However, where can one find this knowledge? By **reading**! Reading can not only give you knowledge, but it can also mentally stimulate you, improve your focus and concentration, and destress you! With these benefits in mind, here is a recommendation we believe you will enjoy.

- *Never Eat Alone* by Keith Ferrazzi
 - In *Never Eat Alone* by Keith Ferrazzi, he highlights how important networking is in the business world. He goes in depth about how the secret to making connections is through generosity and why it is important to “*Never Eat Alone*”.

Sometimes, reading can be difficult. Whether you are in a distracting place, always on the go, or simply cannot have a physical book on you, you can still learn about leadership - through **listening**!

- Shane Feldman-Leadership Speaker on Building Community Everywhere You Go - So Called Normal
 - Shane Feldman is a motivational speaker and leader who made a community of his own after being an outsider. He will reach you how to do the same and take you through the steps of leadership from his experiences. He is a guest speaker of the podcast “So Called Normal”, where their main focus is challenging the concept of normalcy through the art of storytelling.

General advice and tips:

- You miss 100% of the opportunities you don't take.
- Be the role model you look up to.
- Reach out! To your state officers, national officers, and even local business persons!
- Use your resources.

PROFESSIONAL DIVISION RECRUITMENT

BY MEHUL SREENIVAS, VP OF DATA INTEGRATION



Is your chapter looking for business professionals to mentor the next generation of business leaders? With membership in the FBLA-PBL Professional Division, THEY CAN!

The Professional Division supports and promotes FBLA-PBL and its goals. Most importantly, its members are a critical link between the middle school, high school, and college members and serve a variety of roles, including:

- Supporting FBLA-PBL programs and serving as liaisons between the workplace and the classroom
- Mentoring FBLA-Middle Level, FBLA and PBL members to strengthen leadership and provide career counseling
- Keeping FBLA-Middle Level, FBLA and PBL members informed on current business trends

Membership Benefits

Business professionals that join the Professional Division receive benefits that include travel discounts, publications, and more!

Travel & Network

Travel to leadership conferences to learn, teach, compete, and have fun. The National Leadership Conference (NLC) is the place to meet and network with fellow business leaders from all industries. Share your experience as an established business leader with your peers and students.

Join the Professional Division

Anyone who has an interest in FBLA-PBL and wants to mentor the next generation of business leaders can become a Professional Division member: former members, employers, educators, FBLA-PBL advisers, parents, and businesspeople.



CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT - MANCHESTER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL, REGION 3

BY COLIN HANSON, REGION 3 VP



The Mavericks are charging up for a great year!

Community Service- With the help of their feeder schools, Man Valley FBLA is holding a jean drive!

Fundraising- On November 23rd they will be hosting a MCW wrestling match, talk about exciting! They will receive a portion of ticket revenues and all funds raised from program sales.

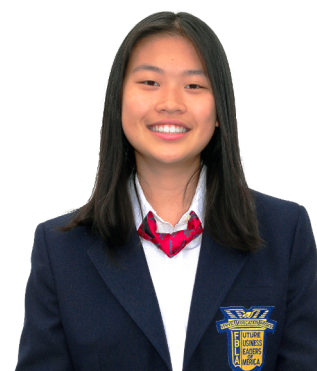
Membership- They currently have 93 members and are always looking hope to one day reach triple digits!

Chapter Officers: Co-Presidents: Abby Brown and Francesca Cuchna; Vice President: Bradley Rodski; Secretary: Sarah Foerster; Historians: Sam Grubb and Brienna Wohlschlegel; Treasurer: Miranda Spears; Parliamentarian: Sara Chesley; Officers of Business Communications: Allison Rhoads and Callie Houck



NFLC AND MARCH OF DIMES SIGNATURE CHEFS AUCTION

BY KATHY YAO, VICE PRESIDENT



On November 1 and 2, Maryland FBLA's State Officer Team attended the 2019 National Fall Leadership Conference held in Washington D.C. One highlight of the officer teams experience was holding workshops for the members of FBLA. The team split up into two groups and presented separate workshops. The first presentation, *How 7 Seconds Can Change Your Life*, was a dynamic and engaging presentation that taught the audience how to master first impressions. The second presentation, *Team Building 101*, allowed members to learn tips on how to lead their teams to success with communication, creativity, trust, and efficiency. Both workshops left a lasting impact upon the audience, leaving them with knowledge and inspiration to take back to their chapters. The second highlight was that the Maryland FBLA State Officer Team was able to meet new FBLA CEO, Alex Graham.

Additionally, on November 14th, the State Officer Team volunteered at the Signature Chefs Auction for March of Dimes, a nonprofit organization working to improve the health of mothers and babies. FBLA is a national youth sponsor of the March of Dimes. The officers took on tasks such as greeting arriving guests, getting necessary materials for chefs, and helping out with the live auction. This all helped lead to a successful event, raising thousands of dollars for the March of Dimes.

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Any chapter that has 10% of their members complete any level of the Business Achievement Awards will receive a ribbon at the State Leadership Conference.



SUBMISSION DEADLINES
Maryland: 2/7/20
National: 3/1/20



HELPFUL LINKS:

- MDFBLA MEMBER CENTER -
<http://www.mdfla.org/member-center.html>
- FBLA-PBL NATIONAL WEBSITE -
www.FBLA-PBL.ORG
- MARYLANDCTEWORKS WEBSITE -
www.mdcteworks.org
- MDFBLA WEBSITE -
www.mdfla.org