

# November 2008



## Maryland FBLA



A group of FBLA members at dinner during the State Fall Leadership Conference.

### State Fall Leadership Conference—Thoughts from a Member

Upon arriving at my very first FBLA conference, I didn't know what to expect. I was a little nervous, but very excited to meet and network with many FBLA and DECA members. In fact, there were over 350 attendees at the conference, a state record! A dance concluded the first day at the conference, and that was very entertaining, getting the opportunity again to meet and socialize with so many new faces. The conference was held in Ocean City, in the Clarion Hotel—right on the beach, which added even more to the already exciting atmosphere.

During the day, we were fortunate enough to have our state officers present their spectacular workshops. In particular, I was impressed with the Chapter Management workshop, the It's How You Act workshop, and the Synergy workshop. All three were very interactive and fun, as well as informative and enlightening. I now feel well-equipped to help lead my chapter through all our procedures, conduct myself during an interview, and work together with others to achieve a common goal. In addition to the officers' workshops, we experienced the Leadership Academy, presented by Tri Leadership. The presenters were very experienced and knowledgeable, and really got us up on our feet in great activities. I learned so much from the time they gave.

Maryland PBL President and National Parliamentarian Mark Comaty spoke to us at the dinner session. His words were very inspiring, and it was great to hear from someone who has been where we are now. Overall, I was extremely impressed with the conference. Our state's FBLA is on top of its game!

Malory Guenoune—Annapolis High School FBLA

#### What you and your Chapter Should be Doing

- Competitions—Begin preliminary testing and prepare for Regionals to qualify for State Competitions at Spring SLC.
- Inductions—Hold an event to induct new members and make them feel welcome
- American Enterprise—November 17th-21st is American Enterprise Week!

### Maryland FBLA and March Of Dimes Signature Chef's Gala Event

Your Maryland FBLA State Officer team volunteered at the Maryland March of Dimes' Signature Chefs event at the Baltimore Waterfront Marriott on October 28, 2008. The Signature Chefs event was held by the March of Dimes to raise money to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality.

The Signature Chefs event began with a VIP reception with Rahman "Rock" Harper (Chef Rock), the winner of Season 3 of Hell's Kitchen. The rest of the evening included tasting stations featuring many top chefs from the Baltimore area, a silent auction, and a live auction. The event was very successful with over 500 guests in attendance and over \$155,000 raised. Your Maryland FBLA state officers played an important role in the success of the event. The officers greeted guests as they arrived and were in charge of the silent auction. The silent auction consisted of over 100 items and required the officers to monitor the items and bid sheets during the auction, move the items after bidding had been closed, and distribute the items once winners were ready to pick them up. The students were responsible for all aspects of the auction from start to finish. The March of Dimes staff was very impressed and thankful for the officers' help. In addition, Kelli Carroll, Maryland Region IIC Vice President, volunteered to sing the National Anthem at the event. Remarkably, Ms. Carroll performed without practicing or being given advanced notice. She did an incredible job!

The officers were very grateful for being given the unique opportunity to volunteer at such an event and were very proud to help out such a great cause.

#### Did you know?

Dow Change on November 24th + 397

U.S. Average cost for Gallon of Gas On Nov 24th \$1.89