

IN THIS ISSUE:

- What is FBLA?, Pg 1
- President's Corner pg, 2
- Meet your State Officers, pg 3
- State Program of Work, pg 4
- NLC & Summit Recap, pg 5
- Alumni Spotlight: Harmon Gill, pg 6



Centennial High School

WHAT IS FBLA?

By Venkata Muriki

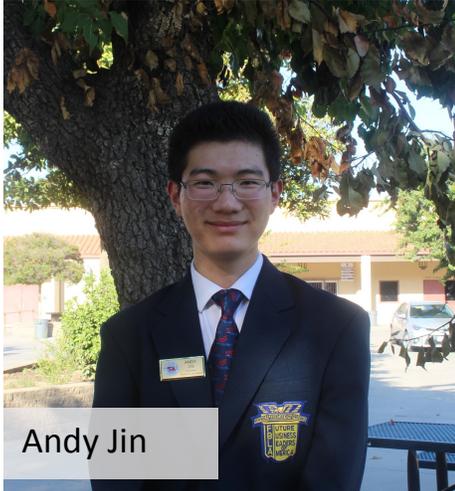
Being the largest student-led organization in the nation, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) appeals to different career paths, develops strong leadership, and encourages students to give back to the community.

With over 70 competitions, ranging from Accounting to Word Processing, FBLA has something for everyone. Of these competitions, some are a 100-question written test, some are 7-minute presentations in front of a panel of judges, and some involve report writing and powerpoints. For example, Management and Decision Making is a case study competition which entails taking a written test and if qualified, moving onto a role-play presentation. This event prepares competitors in speaking at a professional business environment as a consultant. Competitions start at the regional level, then state, and then finish off at the National Leadership Conference (NLC). This past summer, over 12,000 members attended NLC 2017 in Anaheim, California.

In addition to competing, members can also participate in chapter and state projects. The American Enterprise chapter project focuses on educating the community about entrepreneurship and marketing. The Community Service chapter project aims to solve a prevalent problem in the local community. The Partnership with Business chapter project encourages chapters to set up a mutual relationship with an existing business. Numerous state projects involve environmental protection, financial responsibility, career development, and government recognition. A new state project that has been added this year is the Small Business Project, which stimulates collaboration between members and local small businesses.

FBLA also provides opportunities for members to gain real-world business experience. Chapter reach out to local businesses and companies for tours or to invite executives to come guest speak at a meeting. Members can learn about company work life and possible career choices. FBLA also has an internship guide on the California FBLA website in resources. ■

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Andy Jin

Dear California Future Business Leaders of America:

My name is Andy Jin, and I am thrilled to be serving as your 2017-2018 California State President. The State Leadership Team has been working hard to develop and implement our Program of Work. This year, we aim to strengthen communication with members, increase outreach to underserved populations, and enhance accessibility to resources. With these goals, we strive to provide all members with an outstanding FBLA experience and a

platform to Elevate Your Future!

I would like to extend a huge congratulations to all the members who represented California this summer at the National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, CA. We truly applaud your commitment; you represent the best of who we are as an organization, and we hope you continue your passion and dedication to service, education, and progress in the coming year.

The annual Officer Adviser Training Day (OAT Day) and Leadership Development Institute (LDI) are quickly approaching. I strongly encourage all of you to attend these conferences, as they are a great way to kick-start the FBLA year with unique experiences in leadership and networking. You will be able to connect with members and officers from across your section and CAFBLA through interactive workshops and keynote speakers.

Additionally, please check out the California FBLA website, www.cafbla.org, and the California FBLA Facebook and Instagram for resources and updates throughout the year. Many of the state projects have been modified, and we are initiating the new Small Business FBLA chapter project this year. Please refer to the website for project details and submission deadlines.

I look forwards to meeting many of you at upcoming conferences. Please reach me at ajin@cafbla.org if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions. Together, let's have a wonderful year ahead, CAFBLA!

Sincerely,

Andy Jin
California FBLA State President
ajin@cafbla.org | www.cafbla.org

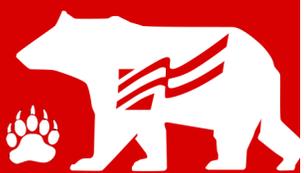


LDI NORTH

- ✓ October 13-15
- ✓ Santa Clara
- ✓ September 1: Online Registration Opens
- ✓ September 21: Hotel Reservations Deadline @ 9:00 pm
- ✓ \$55 per person

LDI SOUTH

- ✓ October 27-29
- ✓ Ontario
- ✓ September 1: Online Registration Opens
- ✓ September 21: Regular Registration Closes
- ✓ September 28: Late Registration Closes
- ✓ Cost: TBA



MEET YOUR STATE OFFICERS!

2017-2018 California FBLA State Officer Team



Hello California FBLA! My name is **Andy Jin**, and I'm honored to be serving as your 2017-18 **State President** and **State Vice President** representing the **Gold Coast Section**. I'm entering my senior year at Westlake High School and fourth year in FBLA. Outside of FBLA, I'm actively involved in the Data Science and Speech & Debate Clubs at my school. I also love math, magic, and music, in a fun way. If you ever like to find out the day of the week you were born on, get a very special birthday gift, or listen to parodies of pop songs, I'll always be around! As your State President, as well as a "math-magician" and "math-musician," I would love to meet you all. I look forward to seeing you soon, and let's have a wonderful year together, CAFBLA!



Hello California FBLA, my name is **Venkata Muriki** and I will be serving as your 2017-2018 **State Secretary** from the **Bay Section**! I am currently a senior at Homestead High School in Cupertino, also serving as the Vice President of Public Relations at my chapter. For the following year, I hope to connect all members through a Facebook group that will be frequently updated with resources, deadline reminders, and more. In addition, I hope to create a Job and Internship Forum to help members start career planning as well as a FAQ page on the website. If you have any questions about your experience as an officer or a member, please feel free to contact me!



Hey there, CAFBLA! My name is **Amber Afzali** and I am proud to be serving as your 2017-2018 **State Public Relations Officer** and **Inland Section VP of Communications**. I am currently a junior at Centennial High School. I have been in FBLA since the start of my freshmen year and have loved it from the minute I joined! Through FBLA, I have made friends from around the world and developed my level of professionalism. Aside from FBLA, I am involved in National Honor Society, my school's Varsity Tennis team, and ASB, serving as my school's Executive Board Treasurer. On my free time, I love taking trips to Disneyland, playing with my adorable puppies, and listening to music from around the world. Catch me at a conference! I'm excited to meet you all!



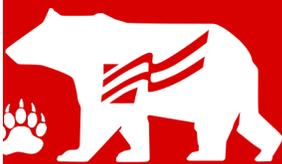
My name is **Anusha Fatehpuria** and I am the 2017-2018 **Bay Section** and **California State Parliamentarian**. I am a junior at Lynbrook High School in San Jose, where I have been in FBLA since the beginning of freshman year. FBLA has allowed me to form close friendships with amazing people, create unforgettable memories at meetings, events, and conferences, and grow as both a leader and a person. Apart from FBLA, I also love to play tennis, do taekwon-do, and delve into biological research, and I am involved with CSF and French Honor Society at school. I look forward to meeting you throughout the year at conferences and socials and doing the best I can to ensure that you all get the opportunity to create your own unforgettable FBLA memories.



Hello friends! My name is **Grace Kim** and I will be serving as your **California State Vice President** representing the **Bay Section**. I am a senior at Homestead High School where I also serve as a local chapter officer. Outside of FBLA, I am a member of the Mock Trial team, Physics Club, and Investments Club. I love to try new food places with my friends, run movie marathons, and volunteer with young children. I'm looking forward to meeting the wonderful members in California FBLA and making unforgettable memories with you all!



Hi there! My name is **Kate Sapasap** and I am serving as your 2017-2018 **State Vice President** representing the **Central Section**. This is my fourth year in FBLA and I couldn't be any happier for staying throughout my high school career. A little bit about me is that outside of FBLA, I play tennis and the violin. I am immensely into NASCAR and I can watch it all day with my little brother. I also have an older sister that I love to travel with. Nevertheless, I love to read, watch the stars, and give hugs! I'm looking forward to a great year with all of you!





ang@cafbla.org

Hello fellow FBLA peers! My name is **Adam Ng** and I am your current **State Vice President** representing the **Inland Section**. Though I love playing basketball in my free time, networking with others, and reading, FBLA has truly been something that has impacted my life. This organization has given me so much these past 3 years – from having late-night conversations with roommates, to meeting amazing people that inspire you, and to finally feeling the adrenaline-rush at the Awards Ceremony from regionals, state, and nationals. I cannot explain in words how far FBLA has gotten me up to this point, and I cannot wait to do it all again this upcoming year!



arios@cafbla.org

Hello, my name is **Anna Rios** and I am your **Northern Section President** and **California State Vice President**. I am a senior at Williams High and have been involved in FBLA since eighth grade. I began as a chapter officer my freshman year, served on the Northern Section Team my sophomore year, and am on to my second year as a State Officer. I am ecstatic to work with you all and wish you the best in your FBLA journey.



hro@cafbla.org

Greetings from SoCal! My name is **Hannah Ro**, and I currently serve as your **State Vice President** representing the **Southern Section**. I'm a senior at Troy High School in Fullerton, CA, where I manage my FBLA chapter, compete for the varsity golf team, and edit for the school newspaper. In my free time, I love to read dystopian novels and sample Orange County's finest boba shops. See you at LDI-South, CAFBLA!



STATE PROGRAM OF WORK

Here's what to expect!

1. Strengthen Communication with Members

Expand Digital Presence through Social Media

Increase face-to-face interactions with members through chapter visits

Implement Chapter Liaison within Each Section

2. Increase Outreach to Underserved Populations

Encourage underrepresented groups of students at schools to participate in FBLA

Reach out to schools in the local community that do not have an FBLA chapter & guide them in establishing a chapter

3. Enhance Accessibility to Resources

Educate members on how to locate resources through videos and direct links to resources

Review existing resources on the CAFBLA website and encourage members to utilize them

We look forward to implementing these goals throughout the year. We also encourage you to email any state officer if you have any suggestions or ideas that you would like to see for CAFBLA.

Follow us!



@cafbla



@cafbla



California FBLA



@cafbla



NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE RECAP

By Anusha Fatehpuria

In 1942, the first Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter was founded in the heart of Tennessee. Now, 75 years later, over 11,000 FBLA members from across the world gathered together in Anaheim, CA, for the National Leadership Conference (NLC) 2017.

The conference kicked off with a stunning opening ceremony, during which FBLA alumni came to star in the parade of the alumni. Attendees included previous board members, national officers, and even an appearance by the very first FBLA national president. The opening session continued with an inspiring speech by keynote speaker and retired Air Force pilot, Rob Shallenberger.



Among the audience were members from California FBLA, the proud hosts of this conference, representing all 6 sections and almost 50 schools. California FBLA members brought home 105 top 10 awards, of which 12 individuals and teams were national champions.

Apart from competition, members had the opportunity to explore the city, while meeting new people across the state and nation. Highlights included pin trading, attending Disney Day, and taking part in a mini-walk for the March of Dimes, one of FBLA's national partners.

Ultimately, NLC 2017 brought students from across the world together in the city of Anaheim to build their legacies of leadership, while creating unforgettable memories. Hope to see you next year at NLC in Baltimore! ■

OFFICER SUMMIT RECAP

By Adam Ng

On Friday, June 23rd, over 60 section officers and advisers from across California gathered at Redwood High School to commence the annual California FBLA Section Officer Summit. Designed for all 2017-2018 section officer teams to introduce themselves and prepare for their tasks throughout the year. The ultimate goal of the Summit was to be able to properly represent FBLA while building long-lasting professional networks.

During the two-day conference, section officers enhanced their public speaking and leadership skills, preparing 30 second elevator pitches about FBLA and visual presentations about the importance of the organization. Additionally, an activity hosted by the state adviser, Dr. Looker, educated officers on the essence of true leadership and its importance in regards to the responsibilities that come with FBLA.

The State Officer Team also introduced the Program of Work, and each section team began to plan for the upcoming Officer and Adviser Training Day (OAT Day) and Leadership Development Institute (LDI). During the Summit, section officers attended workshops on Ambassadorship, State Projects, and Chapter Project Recognition and were introduced to changes and upgrades on the California FBLA website.



Throughout the Summit, both officers and advisers were able to share ideas and best practices on the section and state level as well as establish connections with one another. Most importantly, officers learned about the duties and responsibilities that come with being a representative of CAFBLA and how to work together to improve their individual sections. As the school year begins, the excited section officer teams are ready to guide members all over the state to success in 2017-2018. ■



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: HARMON GILL

By Kate Sapasap



Harmon Gill

FBLA leaves a mark on many individuals, Harmon Gill being one of the most. Harmon Gill, from Gregori High School, class of 2017, and past Central Section President, has provided insight as to how and why FBLA made such an impact on him. Gill joined FBLA during the 'Club Rush' day of his freshman year in high school. He wished to join FBLA because he felt as if he lacked a sense of direction. Furthermore, he looked at FBLA as just a regular organization, but then he grew passionate about it and the decision to join became one of the best decisions he's ever made. "What distinguished FBLA from the other organizations I joined was the

passion that I saw from members, officers, and advisers alike. Passion for helping students, much like myself, find their own passions and pursue their passions. Soon, ten organizations dwindled down to five. Then three. Then finally, I was left with just FBLA. And it was one of the best decisions I've ever made" said Gill.

"And it was one of the best decisions I've ever made."

Nevertheless, to Gill, FBLA exposed him to various businesses and business related career paths through co-curricular programs, leadership conferences, and competitive events. "FBLA also allowed me to connect with some of California's best and brightest students--students who truly are tomorrow's business leaders" Gill stated.

FBLA teaches its members lifelong skills to better them for the future. For Gill, this organization has taught him Time Management, Problem Solving, Teamwork, Leadership, Self-Motivation, Decision-Making, and Communication skills. Through FBLA, he has been able to practice networking skills, elevator pitches, and professional conduct. These are skills that cannot be learned from a classroom setting.

Lastly, being a FBLA alumni comes with many memories. Gill's cherished moment in FBLA is the 2017 State Leadership Conference. In addition, the people is what he misses the most. "From advisers like Dr. Looker, Mr. Avila, and my chapter's own Mr. Wallace, to the amazing state and section officer teams I had the pleasure of working with, to the over 7,000 members of California FBLA, it's people that make the organization truly special. It was truly an honor and privilege to be able to serve the organization. I'll always stand by that notion firmly" expressed Gill. ■

Coming
Up!

○ **SEP. 11:**
OAT Day
Northern

○ **SEP. 16:**
OAT Day
Inland

○ **SEP. 16:**
OAT Day
Southern

○ **SEP. 23:**
OAT Day
Bay

○ **SEP. 23:**
OAT Day
Central

○ **SEP. 23:**
OAT Day
Gold Coast

○ **OCT. 13-15:**
LDI North

○ **OCT. 27-29:**
LDI South

○ **Nov. 15:**
American
Enterprise
Day

