

THE Californian

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NFLC RECAP by Amber Afzali

Each year, the National Team hosts three principal conferences geared towards leadership in the fall known as the National Fall Leadership Conferences (NFLC). This year, they were hosted in Chicago (IL), Albuquerque (NM), and Charlotte (NC). On November 16th and 17th, I had the incredible opportunity to attend the one in Charlotte, North Carolina. In attendance with me were seven outstanding members from the Inland Section. The two California schools in attendance were Centennial High School and Santiago High School, which are both within the Inland Section.

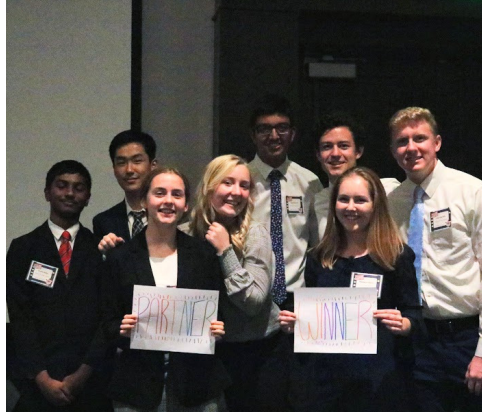


We spent the conference networking with National officers, State officers, and dedicated members from across the nation! There were two phenomenal keynote speakers and several interactive workshops designed to expand one's leadership. The central message of the keynote speakers was to envision your success, own it, and go for it! The Inland Section officers were thrilled to have the opportunity to present! Muskaan Abdul-Sattar, the Inland Section President, and I presented a workshop titled 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teen, and Arti Patel, the Inland Section Leadership Associate, and Jasmine Bae, the Inland Section Vice President of Communications, presented a workshop titled Teamwork Makes the Dream Work. When we weren't networking or partaking in workshops, we were dancing with members, eating delicious comfort food at local diners and cafés, and strolling down the streets of Charlotte. Overall, the National Fall Leadership Conference was an exciting experience for California FBLA members and definitely an unforgettable one! The eight of us proudly represented California FBLA and look forward to sharing the leadership skills learned at the conference with other members. There is no doubt in my mind that the interest in NFLC grow, and I am beyond thrilled to see the amplified presence of members in the years to come.



LDI NORTH RECAP

Members and advisers across the Northern, Central, and Bay Section gathered at the Santa Clara Marriott from October 19th-21st for the Leadership Development Institute (LDI) North conference. At this conference, members had the opportunity to attend a wide range of informative workshops and participate in engaging activities.



On the first night of the conference, members were able to reconnect with friends across Northern California by attending a fun Zumba dance session and take practice tests to kick off the competitive events season. The next day began with the opening session and keynote speaker in which lifestyle entrepreneur and elevator, Jake Kelfer, inspired students to elevate their networks and become stronger leaders. Following the opening session, members attended 6 leadership workshop session led by guest speakers and section and state officers. These workshops covered topics ranging from interview tips to the fundamentals of database and found unique ways to engage members. The night ended off with the Blue Jeans for Babies Dance where the proceeds went to FBLA's national partner, March of Dimes. On Sunday morning, members attended the closing session in which recognition was given to chapters that traveled the farthest to get the conference, brought the most members, and more. Finally, most members were recognized for graduating with honors for participating in all the leadership sessions. LDI provided an overall great opportunity to network with likeminded people and develop as confident leadership.



LDI SOUTH RECAP

The Leadership Development Institute South was held on October 27th and 28th, in the city of Orange at the Doubletree Hotel. The conference was a golden opportunity for new and returning members to reconnect and increase their knowledge of FBLA. Over 700 members, officers, advisers, and business leaders from the Gold Coast, Inland, and Southern Sections participated in various workshops, which were hosted by section officers, state officers and business professionals.

Workshop topics included social media campaign, public speaking, communication, and marketing, as well as workshops by keynote speaker Jake Kelfer. Kelfer delivered inspirational words to encourage members to elevate their network and continue their journey to success and happiness.

The day capped off with an evening social where members could network, play basketball, or dance to the music of a DJ. Feedback from members indicated a great time was had by all and everyone left with excitement to Create, Lead and Inspire!

RUNNING FOR SECTION/STATE OFFICE

FBLA section and state officers have the unique opportunity to create lasting change within the organization on a large scale. Members who are interested in seeing positive change happen at the section and state levels, are encouraged to run for office. Applications for section office, including Section President, are due December 16th, 2018 and applications for the four state office positions, other than Section President, are due March 8th, 2019. Potential candidates should carefully review the officer guidelines to ensure they have the necessary qualifications to run. Once the application has been submitted to the Section Director and the State Officers' Adviser, applicants will be contacted to schedule an interview. Interviews may be in person or by phone. The interview helps the section and state teams to get to know the potential candidate and their qualifications in order to determine who will be allowed to campaign. The Section Director and officers will then notify who has been selected to run for office and those individuals may begin to prepare their campaign. All candidates should review the 2019- 2020 Candidate Guide, which can be found on the CA FBLA website, before completing an application. Being a section or state officer is a life changing opportunity. Be the change you want to see in CA FBLA; together we can Create, Lead, and Inspire!!



STATE-WIDE CANNED FOOD DRIVE



California FBLA is excited to announce that each section will be hosting a canned food drive to support our local communities at our section leadership conferences on February 9, 2019. One of the most important parts of being a leader is being willing to give back to your community. In order to create, lead, and inspire this year, we highly encourage you to bring canned food to your section level conference. All contributions will be used to help provide nutritious meals for those in need. The section contributing the most cans will be recognized at the State Leadership Conference in April. Don't forget to look for more ways to give back in your FBLA chapters, whether it be a campus clean up or coin drive for the March of Dimes. Thank you for your constant generosity CA FBLA, and please feel free to contact a state or section officer if you have any questions!

SECTION CONFERENCE PREVIEW

BAY SECTION

The 2019 Bay Section Leadership Conference will be held this year on February 9th at Westmoor High School in Daly City. The Section Team is incredibly excited to see members kick off the competition season as they compete in various business events. Members also get to enjoy a valuable networking experience, meeting people from all across the Bay Area. There will be a milk tea fundraiser, a Bay Section T-shirt distribution, and also a canned food drive, where members can donate to support the local community. In addition, members who have completed the fun activity on the most recent Bay Breeze issue by 12/15 will receive free ice cream! At the conference, the 2019-2020 Section Leadership Team will also be elected. With all of these exciting events to look forward to, the Officer Team hopes that Bay Section members are ready to spark success. To learn more about the conference, please read through the conference guide that has been sent to your chapter advisor and posted online. Go Bay Section!



CENTRAL SECTION



The Central Section Leadership Conference (CSLC) will be held on February 9th at Redwood High School in Visalia, California. Visalia is located in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley and is the home of four of our Central Section officers. FBLA members from all over the Central Section will travel to Redwood High School to prove their skills in the wide array of events that they have been preparing for and make some amazing memories in the process. The day will start off with introductions and welcomes as well as campaign speeches for those striving to be a part of the Central Section leadership team.

Everyone will then disperse to their events that take place all throughout the day. In between events, members can check out the campaign booths, network with other members, and play some fun games! At the end of the day, the awards ceremony will be conducted where everyone will find out if they qualify for the State Leadership Conference in April. On top of that, one school from the Central Valley will take home the Sweepstakes winner title and the new officer team for the 2019-2020 school year will be announced. Sound like a blast? It definitely will be and you don't want to miss it. See you in 68 days!

SECTION CONFERENCE PREVIEW

GOLD COAST SECTION

The Gold Coast Officer team and Director, Mrs. Mason, are working hard to create an exciting and fulfilling Gold Coast Section Conference. The conference is scheduled on February 9th, 2019, at South Pasadena High School. During the conference members will take tests, deliver speeches, and campaign to be the next Gold Coast officer team. The conference will also feature workshops, a game room and a March of Dimes boba fundraiser. The day will conclude with the Awards of Excellence where members will find out who has qualified for the State Leadership Conference in Sacramento. Be sure to prepare for those competitive events, get excited, and we hope to see everyone there!



INLAND SECTION

The time has almost come Inland Section FBLA! Our Section Leadership Conference will take place on February 9, 2019 at Los Osos High School in Rancho Cucamonga, California. It is crucial to remember that February 9th is an ACT date, so don't forget to keep that in mind while scheduling your test. At this conference, you will be able to compete against members across the Inland Empire in a variety of different events with hopes of advancing to the State Leadership Conference in April.

The competition will be tough, so don't forget to study and reach out to section officers if you have any questions about the competitive process.

Your Inland Section officer team wants to remind you to bring cans for the canned food drive, so that we can contribute to our community and compete against the other sections in CA FBLA! I can't wait to meet all of you in February, keep doing amazing things!



SECTION CONFERENCE PREVIEW



NORTHERN SECTION

Hello there Northern Section! The Section Officer team is delighted to share with you the wonderful news of the 2019 Northern Section Leadership Conference. This year's conference will be held at Cosumnes Oaks High School on February 9th, and it will begin at 8:00 AM. All Northern Section chapters are invited to attend and compete. Whether you are a freshman or a senior, there is certainly a competition for you. If you enjoy math, you should try competing in Business Calculations. If you're good at English, Business Communications is perfect for you! If you are more of a talker, try competing in Creed or Public Speaking. Competing is not the only thing you can look forward to; there will be entertainment from our special guests the Hype Dance Company.

Help us to continue the excitement by purchasing a Northern Section T-shirt for \$20, all proceeds will go to the March of Dimes to help save premature babies! Attending this conference is a great opportunity to have fun, network, and make lifelong friendships. The Northern Section team can't wait to see you there!

SOUTHERN SECTION

The 2019 Southern Section Conference will be held February 9th at Valencia High School. Our Southern Section Team has been putting together an eventful day for Section Conference. This is an important day because you are just one step into competing and placing at State Conference. All members of the Southern Section will be able to take tests on their preferred event such as, Business Communications, Agribusiness, Marketing, Parliamentary Procedures, etc. There will be an area for members to review study materials, snacks will be provided as well, and a raffle will be done during the closing ceremony.

This year, the State Officers are planning to orchestrate a community service event. All chapters in each section will collect canned foods and bring it with them to the Section Conference. Each section will be raising as many cans as we can to deliver them to a homeless shelter food bank. Let's "out-can" the other sections and really give back to our community.

Study! Study! Be prepared to take tests and place in order to attend State Conference in Sacramento. In addition, to those of you who are running for Section Office, we look forward to seeing your campaign and listening to your speeches. The Southern Section Officers are excited to see all of you to compete and see you to do well in future competitions. Bring your chapter multiple wins! Good luck! And see you soon!



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

AMBER AFZALI, STATE PRESIDENT

Dear California Future Business Leaders of America:

On behalf of California FBLA, we thank you for your incredible leadership and enthusiasm at our annual Officer and Advisor Training Days in September and at both of our Leadership Development Institutes in October. It was also an honor to represent California FBLA and see more members partake in the recent National Fall Leadership Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina this November. Our state is successful because of the commitment each member has made to furthering their leadership skills at conferences such as these.



Your state officers have been working diligently to reformat the guidelines for each state project, so they are clear, coherent, and concise. We hope you find the new design useful and effective. California FBLA has several deadlines coming up regarding state projects, and we hope all members and chapters will complete these projects to enhance their time in FBLA. These projects can further one's knowledge about the business industry or inspire members to increase their involvement and service within their own communities. Please be aware that deadlines for FBLA Goes Green and Leaders in Action project are just around the corner, as they are due on December 11th. Furthermore, the Small Business Project has a new activity to obtain a sponsorship on behalf of California FBLA. If you are interested, please reach out to one of your state officers for more information.

The State/Section Officer Candidate Application Form is now available for all members interested in running for office for the 2019-2020 FBLA fiscal year! Members who are interested in potentially being a Section or State officer should carefully read the Candidate Guide, discuss their decision with their advisor, and complete the Officer Application Form, which can be found on the CAFBLA website by selecting Student Resources under the Resources tab. If you have the passion and dedication to serve this commendable organization, I highly recommend you consider applying to be an officer. One of my most memorable and fulfilling experiences in this organization have been serving as a section and state officer. If you have any questions regarding the application or campaigning process, please feel free to reach out to any state or section officer.

Furthermore, be sure to take a look at the updated, official California FBLA website, www.cafbla.org, for more information on all of our upcoming events and resources. The official California FBLA social media is another great way to stay updated throughout the year, so follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. The state team has also recently created a YouTube channel which are composed of both section and state videos to help guide you as a member. I hope you take advantage of the YouTube channel by watching recaps, learning about projects, and utilizing competitive resources.

Good luck to all of those preparing to compete at their Section Leadership Conferences, and I wish you the best of luck in qualifying for the State Leadership Conference! Please do not hesitate to contact any state or section officer for assistance with competitive resources. As always, feel free to reach out to me at a conference, through social media, or through my email, amber.afzali@cafbla.org, if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amber Afzali".

Amber Afzali

California FBLA State President

amber.afzali@cafbla.org | www.cafbla.org