



The Californian

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- President's Corner p. 2**
- College Business Clubs p. 3**
- Section Conferences Recap p. 4**
- SLC Preview p. 5**
- Tips for Competitive Events p. 5**
- Alumni Spotlight p. 6**
- FBLA Senior Reflection p. 7**
- NLC Preparation p. 8**



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President's Corner



Andy Jin

Dear California Future Business Leaders of America:
I hope you all had a wonderful experience at your Section Leadership Conference in February. On behalf of the State Executive Board, thank you for your continued dedication to FBLA and for striving to Elevate Your Future this year. We would like to extend warm congratulations to all the winners and applaud your hard work.

The California FBLA State Leadership Conference (SLC) is approaching soon and will take place from April 12-15, 2018, at the Ontario Convention Center. I look forward to seeing many of you there and building great memories with our FBLA family.

As you prepare for SLC, remember to study hard for your competitive events. Be sure to complete practice tests, rehearse your presentations, and work together with your teams and chapters to achieve higher. At the same time, maximize your experience at SLC by attending leadership workshops and networking with members from across the state. I wish you the best of luck at SLC and hope to see many of you represent our state at the National Leadership Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, this summer.

It has been a great privilege to serve as your California FBLA State President this year. You, the members, have truly been a source of inspiration for me, and I am so glad to have witnessed our growth together this year. While I am sad to bid farewell to California FBLA, I am excited for what the future holds for our organization. Thank you for the unforgettable memories and lifelong friends that I have had the chance to build over these four years.

I look forward to a wonderful SLC, and best of luck in all of your competitive events!

Sincerely,

Andy Jin
California FBLA State President

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College Business Clubs

By Hannah Ro

Seniors: As your time in FBLA draws to an end, it's time to start planning how you will continue your business endeavors in college. The sheer variety of clubs at college will definitely prepare you for your dream career in business.

Phi Beta Lambda— FBLA's sister organization— is the largest collegiate business organization in the world. Similar to FBLA, PBL holds several conferences a year which feature competitive events and workshops. Many PBL events, such as Accounting, Cyber Security, and Parliamentary Procedures, overlap with FBLA's own competitive program. While PBL events cover a smaller range of topics, they are much more specialized; for example, within the topic of accounting, there are events for Cost Accounting, Accounting for Professionals, and Accounting Principles.

Most business schools have general clubs that function as the schools' administrative force. UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business hosts the Haas Business School Association, and USC's Marshall School of Business hosts the Marshall Business Network. Because of their broad-based membership, students can take advantage of networking opportunities such as guest speakers, alumni or faculty led workshops, and even fun events like banquets.

For those passionate about a specialized pathway in business, there are clubs focused on themes such as consulting, finance/accounting, entrepreneurship, and marketing/advertising. Due to their narrow focus, these organizations tend to be more selective and thus have smaller membership. Typically, they aim to connect with businesses or community organizations near the college to provide members real-world experiences. For example, a social impact consulting club in Chicago would reach out to non-profit organizations in the neighborhood to provide consulting services. On the other hand, a technology entrepreneurship club may encourage students to found their own tech service start-ups on campus.

Schools have also begun to establish business clubs that appeal to culture groups. For instance, the Wharton School at University of Pennsylvania features clubs such as Wharton Women, Black Wharton Undergraduate Association, and Wharton Alliance— which caters to the LGBTQ+ communities at the school.

Finally, most colleges sponsor a business journal of some sort. These journals take student and faculty research paper submissions and compile them into a monthly or yearly issue. If you are planning to engage in research during your time in college, you can take advantage of such opportunities to get your work recognized and published.

No matter which college you decide to attend, there is sure to be an organization that fits your interests and career goals. And if by some chance there isn't, start one of your own! ■



Section Conferences Recap

By Venkata Muriki

The Southern Section Leadership Conference was held on February 10, 2018, at Valencia High School. The conference had over 900 members in attendance. Both written and speaking competitions ran well. In fact, tests were taken online for the first time in SSLC history and it was successful. After candidates campaigned throughout the day, the Caucus session was open to all members to watch while voting delegates had the opportunity to ask candidates questions. For entertainment, members watched the movie Big Hero 6. The conference ended off with an amazing Awards of Excellence program where top 10 winners received plaques.

The Northern Section Leadership Conference was held on February 3, 2018, at Cosumnes Oaks High School. In the morning, the section officers joined the candidates who were running for office at a bonding breakfast. Both written and speaking competitions ran smoothly. Testing was done online for the first time as well and it was successful. For entertainment, a dance performance was held and all the members had a great time. The conference finished with a vibrant Awards program.

The Inland Section Leadership Conference was held on February 3, 2018, at Los Osos High School. There were over 580 members in attendance from 13 chapters. After all competitions testing and performances finished, members attended workshops centered on business knowledge and career development. For entertainment, Diamond Bar High School ran a Shark Tank event and there were prizes for the best presentations. For night-time activities, there was a movie night that showed Meet the Robinsons and a karaoke event.

The Gold Coast Section Leadership Conference was held on February 3, 2018, at Westlake High School. All written and speaking competitors finished their tests and did their performances with no issues. After opening session, candidates campaigned, voting delegates had the chance to ask candidates questions. Members attended workshops on topics ranging from college preparation to community service, which were led by section officers. Chapters also participated in a raffle where proceeds from ticket sales went to March Dimes for prizes.

The Central Section Leadership Conference took place on February 3, 2018, at Gregori High School. There were over 440 members in attendance. After competitions finished, candidates answered voting delegates' questions after campaigning. During lunch, members were occupied with board games and activities like Ultimate Frisbee. Chapters also participated in a March of Dimes raffle for prizes. The conference culminated with the Awards program where winners were recognized with plaques.

The Bay Section Leadership Conference was held on February 3, 2018, at Homestead High School. There were over 1100 members in attendance. Both testing and performance competitions went well. After attending workshops led by local business professionals, members helped themselves to a candy bar. There was also a very successful milk tea fundraiser that raised money for March of Dimes. There was also a March of Dimes raffle for prizes. For entertainment, there was a trivia contest in Kahoot-style and the members won gift cards. At the awards program, top winners were recognized and received plaques. ■



SLC Preview

By Anusha Fatehpuria

On April 12, thousands of students from across the state will be convening at Ontario, California for the 68th State Leadership Conference, the largest event hosted by California FBLA each year. Attendees will be competing in various business events, each one hoping to gain their spot to qualify to the 2018 National Leadership Conference in Baltimore, Maryland in June. When not competing, students will have numerous other opportunities to network, gain business skills, and work to elevate their futures. These opportunities include, but are not limited to, various workshops, guest speakers, entertainment sessions, networking with their 2018-2019 state officer candidates, and a March of Dimes walk to raise money and awareness for FBLA's national partner. Your state leadership team eagerly awaits this conference and can't wait to see you there! ■

Tips for Competitive Events

By Grace Kim

Written Competitions

Be familiar with the competencies! Click on this [link](#) and scroll down to the bottom of the page where each competition is listed. If you visit the page of your event, you will be able to find a list of competencies, or subjects, that the competition tests for. It might be worthwhile to look over the list and be able to recognize specific topics in the competencies.

Study the glossary! If you're up for some last-minute studying, focus on the glossary. Often times, many objective written test questions ask about the definitions of vocabulary words. Just knowing keywords can help you make a better guess if you're not completely familiar with the question!

Take practice tests! A no-brainer, but make sure you take a look at some sample questions! You can go the the [FBLA-PBL website](#) for official 10-question sample tests.

Speaking Competitions

Write out your speech! It's scientifically proven that the physical act of writing helps retain information. Especially when you are in the beginning stages of memorizing or trying to solidify a new portion of your speech, take some time to familiarize your hand and mind to the content.

Record your speech and listen to it! While you're walking home from school, waiting in the lunch line, or just sitting around at home, play the recording of your speech. It will help you become more familiar with the structure, wording, and general content of your speech even if it's played as background music. ■

**Are you ready
for SLC?**

Don't forget:

- ✓ Student or Government Issued ID
- ✓ Competition Materials (Projector, Laptop, Flashcards, etc.)
- ✓ Professional white socks!
- ✓ Stay in dress code!
- ✓ Money for pins, snacks and food
- ✓ Have fun!



Alumni Spotlight

Yousuf Husain



My name is Yousuf Husain and I am a current freshman at the University of California, Berkeley, studying economics and data science. I was born and raised in Corona in Southern California and attended Centennial High School.

Being elected and installed as Inland Section President was definitely the highlight of my FBLA career. It was a great pleasure to serve the members of the best section and find new ways to maximize their professional development.

Competitively, I placed second in FBLA Principles and Procedures at the 2015 NLC and sixth in Future Business Leaders at the 2017 NLC. More memorable than these awards were the experiences of attending these conferences and interacting with upwards of 10000 of the brightest students across the nation. I've never indulged in an atmosphere more invigorating and motivating.

I joined FBLA my freshman year, inspired by the seniors at the time who were all well-accomplished individuals. Attending my first SLC was a turning point; I began to see FBLA as a long-term investment in my social and professional growth rather than just a resume booster. I quickly accelerated my participation in the organization, participating in chapter projects and trying my hand in competitions. My sophomore year, I unsuccessfully vied for section secretary, but with the providential guidance of my advisor and chapter, I was able to bounce back the year after and be elected as the Inland Section President. I finished my term as a state officer my senior year grateful and content, ultimately wishing I could go through it all another time.

Everyone develops a remarkable skillset through FBLA – public speaking, communication ethics, time management – but what has and continues to shape me most is the social network I attained whilst in the organization. I met some of my best friends in FBLA, with whom I continue to stay in touch with and share fond memories. Furthermore, these people are always willing to offer professional support, whether it be helping me prepare for an interview or answering any questions I have.

My biggest piece of advice is to meet new people. The organic and meaningful connections you forge with members, advisors, and professionals will far outlast all the plaques you accrue throughout your time in FBLA. These are the people you will turn to when you need support, when you want to socialize, etc. ■

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FBLA Senior Reflection

Anna Rios

By Anna Rios



I remember the day my Computer Applications teacher pulled me out of class and asked me if I wanted to join the brand new Williams FBPA Middle Level Chapter. I was in the eighth grade and did not know much about the organization besides what my older sister had mentioned when she participated at the chapter level. I joined, without the slightest idea that I was making one of the best decisions in my entire high school career.

The first day of my first conference, I got stuck in an elevator with my friend and a bag of candy from the Jelly Belly Factory for 30 minutes. Fast-forward two years and I was preparing my FBPA elevator pitch at the Section and State Officer Summit Training, trying to describe the organization in 30 seconds or less. Many of us spoke at a hundred miles per hour, elaborating on our passion for FBPA, to a stranger who had asked about the logo on our polos or why there was a parade of teenagers blocking the entrance to the hotel lobby.

At my first section conference, I competed in Health Care Administration. As an eighth grader competing alongside high school seniors, I was not expected to place, much less win. I walked across the stage, accepted my 1st place plaque, and shook hands with the section president. Right then, I knew I would dedicate the next four years to the Northern Section and one day deliver plaques and shake hands with its talented members.

I attended my first state leadership conference that same year, in Ontario, and made friends from all across the state. One of my favorite aspects about California is its diverse sections. From the State Capitol in the Northern Section to Hollywood in the Gold Coast Section, our members live in distinct settings and develop separate understandings. To see these perspectives on the State Officer Team come together to achieve one common goal has served as a true inspiration.

I would not be where I am today without the people who have supported me since my first year: my loving family, friends, advisers, and officer teams. As I approach the end of my last, I advise each and every one of you to get comfortable with being uncomfortable. Whether this means networking with the stranger sitting next to you at a workshop, speaking in front of a large audience for the first time, or running for office, take the risk and watch yourself grow into the person you want to become. ■



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National Leadership Conference Preparation

By Kate Sapasap

Upcoming Deadlines

April 12-15th

- ✓ State Leadership Conference – Ontario, CA

April 25th

- ✓ BAA America Level Due

May 22nd-23rd

- ✓ State Leadership Summit

June 27th-28th

- ✓ National Institute for Leaders

June 28th- July 1st

- ✓ National Leadership Conference – Baltimore, MD

Prepping for the FBLA National Leadership Conference can be a lot to handle, however it is actually easier than it seems. There are simple steps when getting ready for NLC. The first one is studying. Studying before the conference is crucial because the competitions become more challenging. Although you are competing at the national level, make sure to not stress yourself out because that makes studying a lot harder. Keep in mind to relax and take your time on things to really understand the material. Make sure to bring your study materials with you so you can do some extra studying on the road or on the plane.

The second thing you want to keep in mind while preparing for NLC is packing. The worst situation can always come up, and you do not want to forget anything at home, for example business attire or ID cards. One strategy to avoid forgetting anything is to make a checklist of all the items you need to bring with you. Another tip is to pack snacks to nibble on for your hotel room or while traveling because not only will food be there when you need it but it also saves you money. Lastly, to keep yourself occupied, you can also bring cards or board games when you do not have anything to do when you're at your hotel or traveling. However, it is also a good idea to get out and tour the place.

This leads me to the third thing to think about which is touring the location. This year the National Leadership Conference is held in Baltimore, Maryland. One place that is interesting is Fort McHenry; the birthplace of the U.S. National Anthem, which sits at the mouth of Baltimore's Inner Harbor. Nonetheless, this harbor area offers shops and attractions like the Civil War era warship and the USS Constellation. In addition, there is the National Aquarium and the Baltimore Orioles vs the Boston Red Sox baseball game on Friday, April 13. If you do not have an event going on, or if you do not have anything planned for a part of the day, it is always a good idea to go out and see parts of the world you have not yet seen.

Overall, members of FBLA fly across the country just to attend the National Leadership Conference. This is a great experience because not only do you get to meet new people from all over the nation, you also get to tour many places. Just make sure to keep in mind to study, pack everything, and tour on your free time. Finally, have fun and make the most of your time because the faces you will meet and the memories you will make will last a lifetime and this is not a conference you want to forget! ■

