



# The Kansas Exchange

Soaring to New Heights!

A Kansas FBLA Publication

Issue 2 • Fall 2002

## Kansas FBLA Attends National Fall Leadership Conference

Kansas FBLA members attended the National Fall Leadership Conference in Denver, Colorado, and began "Soaring to New Heights!" The conference was November 15 and 16 at the Adams Mark Hotel with over 2,000 FBLA members in attendance. At the opening session, members were greeted by the National FBLA officers and inspired by the keynote speaker, Rolfe Carawan. With humor and energy, he encouraged students to make positive changes. On Saturday, members had the opportunity to attend workshops that focused on Business Ethics, Public Speaking, Community Service, or Leadership. The closing

session featured speaker Byron Garret, President and CEO of Lifeworks Inc. At the closing session, Ben Murrane, National Youth Council Liaison, spoke on behalf of March of Dimes. He encouraged members to attend the Blue Jeans for Babies Dance that evening and help FBLA raise \$550,000 for March of Dimes this year. While in Denver, members also had opportunities to tour downtown and eat at the Casa Bonita Mexican Restaurant. They developed leadership qualities to help them become better Future Business Leaders and met other members from the Mountain Plains Region.



To show pride and enthusiasm, the State Officers display the Kansas sunflowers at the opening session.



Kansas FBLA Officers Jodi Schmitz, Ginger Niemann, Laura Wurtz, and Sara Schmitz present their workshop "Talk Much" at the NFLC in Denver, Colorado.



The Battle of the States Competition gave members an opportunity to show their knowledge of FBLA in a unique game based off of the hit TV reality series, Survivor.

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# A Look Back to NFLC...

## Opening Session

By Terra Farmer, Oskaloosa

The Mountain Plains Region's National Fall Leadership Conference started off great on November 15, in Denver, Colorado. The first speaker was President and Chief Executive Officer, Jean Buckley. She had tons of good news for us all! She reported that \$130,000 had been raised by FBLA to buy a brand new pumper fire truck for the New York City Fire Department. She also stated that a \$20,000 Education Challenge had been made with VISA-USA, and there was also an online assessment contract with Brainbench. She encouraged students to go online and participate in this great offer.

Next, we were delighted to hear that President George W. Bush himself had written a letter to FBLA-PBL. He wrote the letter thanking the organization for taking so much pride in its American Enterprise Day. President Bush was also very thankful to each and every one of us for promoting business and leadership into our lives and doing our part to be the best generation of business leaders!

The keynote speaker of the night was Rolfe Carawan. He is the President of Life Matters and promotes Character Revolution. He spoke on the topic of being great in life and how we distinguish between choices. He made a point to discuss self-image, the truth and the lies behind it all. He wanted us all to realize that the statements "you are what you look like" and "having lots of things will make you happy" are definitely far from reality. He taught us that what we really need in life to be happy is to change the way we respond to events and to overcome our negativity.

The opening session was definitely a great way to start off the conference, the message was powerful and got all FBLA-PBL members pumped up and ready for the weekend of business, leadership, and fun.

## Closing Ceremony

By Kyle Kelsay, Oskaloosa

After all the workshops were over, the closing ceremony was the last gathering of the National Fall Leadership Conference. The ceremony was kicked off with an introduction of national PBL officers and the March of Dimes youth officer, Ben Murane. FBLA and the March of Dimes have been supporting partners for many years. This year, FBLA helped raise thousands of dollars for the March of Dimes. After Murane's speech chapter awards of excellence were announced. Kansas received the "Largest PBL Chapter" award. Next on the agenda, was the main speaker, Byron Garrett, who is President and CEO of Lifework's. Mr. Garrett believed what is put in life is what is got out. In order to do this one has to live by integrity. Also, sacrifice is the key to soaring to new heights. Successful people are the ones that can be counted on time and time again. Mr. Garrett continuously urged the importance of taking action and doing a good job at whatever you do. He said, "It's not where you start, it's where you finish." To finish with success, people must make a difference in their lives. This speech was very appropriate for FBLA because we are all coming to a point in our lives where we will have to make a decision about the future.

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## ***Battle of the States***

Six Kansas FBLA members comprised the state's team for the Battle of the States Competition. The game was based on the hit reality TV show, Survivor. Each state at NFLC was represented in the event, and questions were asked about FBLA. The team from Kansas did great, and was in the "Final Four." They were then unfortunately voted off the "island," and the very knowledgeable team from Wyoming was the final "Survivor." Congratulations to those who participated on the Kansas Team!

# Local Chapter News Articles...

## Pomona

By Chelsey Bloomer

Eighteen members from Pomona FBLA attended NFLC in Denver. Everyone had a great time and is very enthusiastic about the upcoming year. Former members will be guests at the PHS Christmas meeting to share some tips about life after high school. Christmas activities include decorating the Pomona Senior Center for the holidays. FBLA members, along with FCCLA and NHS members, will go caroling to senior citizens around the community. FBLA members will also collect toys for ECKAN at the Christmas meeting.

## Oskaloosa

By Terra Farmer

The Oskaloosa Future Business Leaders of America Chapter has been very busy this year! We started off with Teacher Appreciation Day giving each teacher a poster of recognition and a candy bar. We also rewarded our transportation crew with a cookie and brownie treat before they hit the road for their afternoon route during School Bus Safety Week. We celebrated Halloween in several ways by giving educational talks to the Elementary School on Trick-or-Treating Safety Tips and holding a school-wide Halloween Costume Contest for the high school. On American Free Enterprise Day members traveled around the Oskaloosa area awarding business owners with a poster of thanks for their hard work and dedication in helping to make our community successful. Our chapter also went on a Fall Business Trip to the Federal Reserve Bank and Kansas City Board of Trade. Twenty of our chapter members also recently traveled to the National Fall Leadership Conference in Denver, Colorado. We are now in the process of planning our annual March of Dimes Students vs. Teachers basketball game.

## Jefferson County North

By Ryanna Whaley

At the National Leadership Conference, the JCN Entrepreneurship Team (Eric Mies, Kent Mailen and Eric Mies) placed 6<sup>th</sup>. It wasn't all work and no play, however, the participants spent their free time touring the great country capital of the world, Nashville, Tennessee. Shopping, fine dining, and just spending the day walking around the Hotel—the very plush “OpryLand Hotel.” This fun-filled week was also enhanced by a day at the Nashville Water Park. The members that attended from our chapter were Brandon Abel, Suzy Noll, Judee Herring, Shelly Schwalm, Matthew Showalter, Nick Stevens, Eric Mies, Kent Mailen, Nathan O’Neill, and Ginger Niemann.

Several JCN FBLA members attended the Summer Leadership Seminar. According to Judee Herring, “It was fun, the speaker Andrew McCrea was really inspiring.” The other members that attended this workshop over the summer were: Kristin Schuler, Amy Stutz, Kristina Wagner, Matt Becker, Ginger Niemann, Bobby Iles, Matt Kirby, and Joanna Schrick.

Each year JCN FBLA strives harder to either raise or maintain the number of members in the organization. To recruit members, we set up a FBLA booth at our school enrollment session the week before school started and the officer team decorated a bulletin board in the school with the theme “Up, Up and Away with JCN FBLA.”

In the years past, JCN FBLA has been raising money through a fundraising company called QSP. This year we were ready for a change, so with a little brainstorming from the phenomenal JCN FBLA Officer Team, we finally concurred on a raffle fundraiser. A letter was sent to all patrons and business members of the community to see if they would be interested in a possible donation to our organization as a fundraiser. Over sixty businesses and parents from the community

## Jefferson County North

donated something of significant value— a few examples were a Color TV, king-size handmade quilt, and five Highland Credit Classes. Our raffle took place on October 25th, 2002, and brought us a whopping \$7,966.00. Proceeding the drawing, we held a cookout fundraiser supper, making an additional \$400. Financially, JCN FBLA is off to a tremendous start. This money will go towards the state conference meals for all 80 members as well as hotel reservations and other upcoming costs.

JCN FBLA's community service officers, Laura Noll and Jennie Cox, are holding a "Mile of Dimes" fundraiser, by putting donation jars out in various businesses around the community as well as the school. They hope to earn enough money to reach a mile of dimes. They plan to collect 92,160 dimes in order to reach their goal.

In honor of the nation-wide Free Enterprise Day on Friday, November 15, Ginger Niemann, (State President) and Kristin Schuler, (Student Council Representative) held an Elementary Workshop, involving the 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders at JCN. The topic was "When I Grow Up and Own My Own Business, It Will Be \_\_\_\_\_", leaving the blank for students to fill in what their desired business might be. They then drew a picture of their business on poster board. About one hundred elementary students participated in this activity, and it went extremely well. March of Dimes Bears were distributed to the best drawings and ideas. JCN FBLA also recognizes the community annually on this day by taking cookie trays to 150 Jefferson County Businesses. This is a "Thank You" to all of the small businesses and entrepreneurs for being so graciously involved in the various organizations in the JCN School District.

## Labette County

By Amanda McCune

The Labette County chapter conducted their annual FBLA fundraiser during November. Thirty-six member sold approximately \$5,000 worth of merchandise. The top five student salesmen received a check for their outstanding effort. In order, the five sellers were: Bryan Spires, Jill Banzet, Ivey Farrow, Jonie Foister, and Krystal Whitson. Our chapter's proceeds will be used to fund various events throughout the year. The majority of the money will be used to cover expenses for students attending district and state contests.

Our chapter strived to get Labette County's student body actively involved in American Free Enterprise Day. A famous entrepreneur was pictured daily in our school's FBLA display case. The first student to correctly identify the individual received a prize.

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## ***The Kansas FBLA Webpage now includes:***

- State Officer Application
- Kansas FBLA Policies
- November Letter from State Chairman
- State Board Meeting Minutes
- Kansas FBLA Calendar of Events
- And more!

Please send your chapter's webpage address to the State Editor by e-mail at [kmrobbins@ruralnet1.com](mailto:kmrobbins@ruralnet1.com) so links can be added to the website.

***Access the webpage today at [www.ksfbla.org](http://www.ksfbla.org)!***

## Message From President George W Bush

At the National Fall Leadership Conference, the following letter was read from President Bush in regards to FBLA and American Enterprise Day:



*I am pleased to send greetings to members of Future Business Leaders of America- Phi Beta Lambda (FBLA-PBL) celebrating American Enterprise Day.*

*American free enterprise has proven to be one of history's most dynamic and productive systems. Our society rewards hard work and encourages ambition, and our workers, farmers, and small business owners reflect an entrepreneurial spirit that allows them to compete with anyone in the world.*

*Since 1958, the FBLA-PBL has encouraged free enterprise and helped countless young Americans become our next generation of business leaders. I commend the FBLA-PBL and its members for your efforts to encourage business achievement and to promote leadership. Your work strengthens our Nation and points to a brighter future for all.*

*Laura joins me in sending her best wishes.*

*George W. Bush*

## Future Kansas Exchange Information Deadlines:

### Deadline:

February 21, 2003  
April 11, 2003

### Mailing Date:

March 7, 2003  
April 25, 2003

Please Send information to:

Kabel Robbins  
Oskaloosa High School  
404 Park Street  
Oskaloosa, KS 66066  
Fax: (785) 863-3106  
e-mail: kmrobbins@ruralnet1.com

Please keep any e-mail pictures small and save them as jpegs so they can be quickly downloaded.  
Thank You!!

Each edition of the Kansas Exchange is now viewable on the Kansas FBLA webpage. To access the newsletter, simply go to the Kansas Exchange section on the webpage and click on the link. This will allow chapters to print extra copies or have their members read the newsletter on the web.

## Correction:

**Jason Huynh, who placed 8th at the National Leadership Conference, should have been listed from Thomas More Prep-Marian High School in the last newsletter.**



# State Editor's Brain Teasers

Each chapter can submit one answer sheet to the State Editor. Every edition of the Kansas Exchange will include a brain teaser section and all members of the chapter that submits the most correct answers will be rewarded at the State Leadership Conference in March. It isn't too late to send in your answers from the previous edition. After your answers are received, they will be scored and the correct answers will be given to your chapter. Good luck!

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