



Recap on the State Conference

Ben Vial

For those of you who did not have the chance to go to state, you really missed out on an awesome conference. And on that note, we would like to thank everyone who was involved in the planning and put in excessive work hours, many of whom were behind the scenes and went unnoticed.

El Paso had an extra air of excitement from March 8th through the 10th as students from all over the great state of Texas gathered to compete and participate in the annual State Leadership Conference. Our officers arrived a day early to prepare for this big event and were excited to see thousands of students at the opening session. This was just the beginning of an awesome three days. The next day was competitive Friday, as many participated in events ranging from Local Chapter Business Report, to Parliamentary Procedures, to Job Interview. But while this was going on, a special collection was taking place. To benefit the March of Dimes, FBLA members donated money to their favorite, or least favorite (we are not too sure) officer. This also included a secret donation to pie Mrs. Scott. In the end, after the funds were collected and Friday came to a close, we all headed out to Western Playland where games, music, rides, and food awaited us. A fun-filled evening drew to a close as several officers and Mrs. Scott received a taste of some delicious cream as well as trying it on as a new conditioner. I personally would recommend it. However, the night was over, and the closing ceremonies awaited. An exciting time for all of us, we waited in anticipation to hear our names called for our competitions, awards, and scholarships. As it came to an end, the State Action Team was introduced and each gave a farewell speech to the audience. But then came the new state action team. We would like to congratulate them on well run campaigns and withstanding the heat of caucusing. A climax to a great year, the officer team gathered one final time, behind the scenes, at the officer luncheon.

We had a great run this year and have the highest expectations for the incoming officer team. We also would like to thank everyone who helped us and thank all the members for their support. Good luck next year!

Congratulations to the 2007-2008 State Action Team!

President	William "Tex" Munoz
Secretary	Trisha Mantri
Parliamentarian	Meaghan Ryan
Area I Vice President	Chelby James
Area II Vice President	Yazmine Huizar
Area III Vice President	Ann Smajstria
Area IV Vice President	Melisa Hinojosa
Area V Vice President	William Brown
Area VI Vice President	Jake Palmer
Area VII Vice President	Jessica Weathers

Also, Texas is very lucky to support their National Officer Candidate, Fei-Fei Zhang!

My Best Experience with FBLA

Shaun Taylor

Looking back through my years with FBLA one of my best experiences with this organization would be serving as the State Area V Vice President. With all of the training, the planning, and the late nights, I would not take any of it back. The new friends I made and the new people I met meant a great deal to me and added a new chapter in my life.

To the State Advisers, Area Advisers, and my fellow peers thank you for the experiences you gave me through this wonderful organization and through out the year.

FBLA in College Admissions?

Brice Loving

Everyone knows that FBLA's leadership skills are invaluable, but did you also know that the skills you've learned can also help you with the college admissions process? Experience in leadership positions, competitive event recognition, and scholarships will all help prepare you for college. Leadership positions are a great way to prove to colleges that you have the necessary leadership skills for advancement. The positions you hold in FBLA can and should be reported when extracurricular involvement is assessed on applications. Positions in any level will show experience, but obviously higher positions show stronger involvement. Most college applications have sections on awards, so be sure to include your top awards from your FBLA career as these awards are important and should be recognized. Most people don't realize it, but FBLA offers many scholarships on the area, state and national levels. As these scholarships vary in amount, you should be sure to look into all available scholarships: on the state-level by accessing the pre-conference information packet, and the national level by visiting the "Scholarships and Awards" section of the fbla-pbl.org website. With FBLA, "your ticket to the future" can improve your chances for a great college experience!

Nationals: Chicago, Illinois

Matt Pickerd

Imagine yourself this June and July being with over 6000 students all chanting and cheering united in one cause: FBLA's National Leadership Conference. Show spirit for Texas, meet national officers, attend enlightening workshops and listen to keynote speakers which will inspire you to new heights. The National Leadership Conference will be in Chicago, Illinois June 28–July 1, 2007, and FBLA Institute for Leaders is June 26–28. To watch a video about it, please go to <http://www.nlc2007.com/nlc2007/>. Let us represent the fact that Texas is the best to the rest of the nation! The Texas Tour will include a cruise in the morning and attending a performance by The Blue Man Group at night!

While you are in Chicago, why not take some time to enjoy the city! Some common tourist attraction sites can be seen at <http://www.chicagotraveler.com> and at <http://www.fbla.org/docs/NLC2007/TourInformation.pdf>. These tourists sites include ESPN Zone, Six Flags Great America and the Cuneo Mansion and Chocolate Factory.

Also, even if you didn't qualify at State, you still have the chance to win and get national recognition! Open Events includes a number of tests members can take without prequalification or pre-registration. You may only take a test once, but may take all the open tests, if time permits. The open tests will be given on a first-come, first-serve basis on June 30. The Open Events being offered at the 2007 NLC include:

Advertising	Human Resource Management
Computer Operating Systems	Investments
Hospitality Management	Leadership
Oracle	

As a reminder, as you pack your suitcases for this amazing conference; remember to follow the dress code and policies, which can be found at http://www.fbla-pbl.org/docs/Policy/FBLA-PBLDressCode_rev10-17-06.pdf. Get ready and get your ticket to the future now by planning on attending the 2007 NLC in Chicago!

What you have learned from being in FBLA

Mihir Pankaj

Throughout my life, I have always wanted to be accepted as an individual. As a child, I always wanted to do things that would get me noticed and I always wanted to be liked by everyone. Once I reached high school, I started thinking about how I could get more involved in the community and how to further my education. At this point, I joined FBLA. While being a local chapter, area, and state officer for two years, I have gained so much. I learned about teamwork, leadership, and dedication. I also learned that even the best leader could also be a follower, and we all should experience both roles. As I stated above, I have always wanted to be accepted, and FBLA opened up that opportunity for me.

What was your best experience as a State Officer?

Yazmine Huizar

FBLA is a diverse club, full of different activities, cities, and people. It is an organization which offers the chance to compete, learn, and grow as a leader. But for me, FBLA is more than a club...it's a learning opportunity. For me, by far my best experience from FBLA arose from the best occasion I had to meet up with new people...FBLA State Officer Training.

As a person from El Paso, whose population is 76% Hispanic, going to training was an intensely eye-opening experience. El Paso has a sort of different culture than the rest of Texas...different ways of dress, different types of food (We prefer tortillas in the morning instead of toast), and most notably, a *very* different type of speech. This is what I was used to for virtually all of my life...there was nothing else for me. Also, the fact that I was an extreme introvert also hindered my chances for change...I was stuck with the same life, same routine, day after day after day.

That's why when I went to training, it was a completely different experience for me...there I was, an extremely shy person, away from my family, my friends, and my cell phone for an *entire* week with the most different people I had ever seen in my life...it was scary. I was frightened, but also amazed, at how different these people were from me. As the week progressed, though, I had a chance to get to see that the rest of the officers were remarkable, and that they brought much insight and wisdom into my heart that I would have never gotten had I not gotten to meet them. And as the week slowly wore on, I slowly started to come out of my shell. I realized that the officers wanted me to talk and didn't make fun of me when I finally did. And when I did, I started to appreciate the wonder of our different personalities. I of course learned about the roles and responsibilities of holding a State Office, and about all my deadlines, dues and responsibilities...but most of all, I learned about myself. That alone was able to make this experience the best I've had for FBLA.

All about Chicago!

Tex Munoz

A new wind blows this summer in the nation's third largest city. That's right, the Windy City, Chicago, Illinois will host the 2007 National Leadership Conference. Though this isn't news to any future business leaders, what might surprise many of you is the diverse atmosphere and endless possibilities that this enormous city has to offer. Though the big, bad city might scare off some tourists from many things there is no reason to avoid the city's greats.



College is just around the corner for all of us and the University of Chicago has a beautiful campus and during the conference the university will be holding the *Carillonathon!* This is a series of free concerts featuring University Carillonneur Wylie Crawford along with guests from across the United States and Europe at no cost to you. For more information, call 773-702-7059 and free tours of the Carillon are at 5:30 pm.

A less known activity that will please even the most hardened of travelers is the *Taste of Chicago*. This favorite Chicago tradition offers cuisine from more than 70 restaurants, plus entertainment

and activities for everyone in Chicago's Grant Park. This year's Taste of Chicago will take place June 29-July 8. A trip is nothing without a few souvenirs to bring back home and nothing says good shopping like Chicago's *Maxwell Street Market*. For a more international feel take a stroll through the open market and experience a whole host of language and culture. Whether you like to haggle or not, there is something for absolutely everyone.

A taste, a turn, and a tacit look at an incredible city will make this trip one of the best. Of



course, the traditions have never been better. A ride to the top of the Sear's Tower, or a historic pass through the legendary Hyde Park, or even a your own guest-appearance on the Chicago-based Oprah Winfrey Show, assures this years' NLC to be the best one yet.

