



## March of Dimes and Ronald McDonald Houses

### Matt Pickerd

Howdy Texas Future Business Leaders of America, and welcome to another exciting school year! I hope all of you are having fun and are excited about the upcoming FBLA events. As we start this school year, do not forget to be active in giving service. The purpose of FBLA-PBL, in addition to promoting the development of students for business careers, is to promote a sense of civic and personal responsibility. The State Action Team and I have chosen two great organizations to serve: the March of Dimes and the Ronald McDonald Houses.

The March of Dimes has had, for the past 30 years, a successful partnership with FBLA wherein students have raised over \$12 million dollars. March of Dimes is an organization whose goals are to fund research to find the causes of premature birth, to provide support to families affected by premature birth, and to improve treatment and outcomes for babies born prematurely. Every year, nearly 500,000 infants are born prematurely, which is nearly one in eight babies born in the United States. March of Dimes is fighting a fight for those that cannot stand up for



themselves. As students, you can buy wristbands to support and inform others of the fight, donate your old cell phones, buy items from their website, and participate in many other fun ways. Their website, (<http://www.marchofdimes.com/howtohelp/howtohelp.asp>), clearly identifies ways in which you can help their cause.

Ronald McDonald Houses are a home away from home for families of seriously ill children receiving treatment from nearby hospitals. Created in 1974, the

Ronald McDonald Houses have assisted 10 million families in 48 countries around the world and have awarded more than \$400 million dollars in grants and program services worldwide to make an immediate, positive impact on as many children as possible. This organization accepts many everyday items and uses them to help others. One of the easiest items to donate is pop tabs. So far, the charity has received over 400 million pop tabs, generating more than \$4 million dollars. Your donation to Ronald McDonald House Charities will give children and families the gift of greater comfort and compassion in their time of crisis. You can donate new books, toys, pop tabs, and, most importantly, your time. If there is a House near your chapter, you could cook a meal or cookies and deliver them. Their website is <http://www.rmhc.org/rmhc/index.html>.



By supporting these organizations, we lead into the future together and create a better outlook for the world. Let us strive to assist others in their hours of need.

## State Officer Training By Meagan Buford, VP

This year at State Officer Training Camp, I learned a lot about my teammates and even a little bit more about myself. It was amazing to see how a group of ten people who had only met once before in their lives and who came from all over the state of Texas were able to click so readily. We instantly became best friends. We were all excited about the week ahead but nervous at the same time.

It soon became apparent what we were all dreading the most, our speeches. Nobody wanted to give their speech to a room full of advisers just waiting to give constructive "feedback." But one by one, we each went up and gave our speeches. Each of us did surprisingly well, and the advisers were not as critical as we thought they were going to be. Each of us had been told that we were to write a speech over a business topic, but no two speeches were the same. Each one had its own unique idea. In the same way, we all want to be a Future Business Leader of America, but each of us plan on accomplishing this goal in our own unique way.

When we found this out, we began to utilize our uniqueness to use in other aspects of our training, such as the planning of our State Leadership Conference this spring. The group decided to get together without the advisers and plan how we were going to host this huge conference. Once we started, each of us was able to build upon the others' thoughts and ideas, making this conference a little bit of each of us all blended together. None of this could have ever been accomplished had we not been able to work together as a team.

## Membership Recruitment Mihir Pankaj, Secretary

Hello Texas FBLA! I am delighted to see everyone going back to school and starting a brand new year of fun and excitement. I hope you are as ready as I am to gear up for this year's fun-filled year of FBLA. One of the main goals for Texas FBLA is to have more chapters established and more active members. Does your school offer Freshman Orientation, Open House, or Club Day? These days can be vital to promote FBLA. It is always good to provide an information sheet on what FBLA is about, including some of the projects and conferences your chapter plans on attending. Remember to be enthusiastic, friendly, and excited about being in FBLA, and you will be astonished to see how many new members you will have for the upcoming year!

## PDC Convention Yazmine Huizar

Summertime in Corpus Christi! A great opportunity to relax, have fun, and enrich educational skills all at the same time. Of course, you would have to attend the Professional Development Conference to do all those! Commonly known as the PDC, this conference is designed for business and technology teachers who want to enhance their teaching skills. This year, it took place from July 24 to 28. There were many activities that teachers could engage in: there was a variety of workshops available, one which was presented by none other than our own Mrs. Betty Scott, and numerous booths on display, which showcased a variety of products, such as new technology equipment, business clothes, and books. Student organizations also had booths at the conference to recruit new chapters. Four of your State Officers, President Matt Pickerd, Area 6 VP Meagan Buford, Area 7 VP Brice Loving, myself, Yazmine Huizar Area 2 VP, along with past state officer Amar Patel, represented your organization, the Future Business Leaders of America!

As recruitment is one of our most important goals, we worked hard to do a job. At the opening ceremony, Matt Pickerd delivered a short yet insightful speech about the organization which led many teachers towards our booth. Any time the teachers

approached our booth, we eagerly told them about our organization. To draw more people in, we even raffled off a Waterford crystal vase! Finally, we were also armed with recruitment pamphlets and booklets to provide the teachers with more information. Needless to say, this one-two-three method worked amazingly well, as many of the teachers who stopped by expressed a sincere desire to start a chapter.

Hopefully, this year Texas FBLA will see a notable increase in its members! After all, the more members we have, the stronger our state becomes! As for the State Officers, this experience was actually very helpful in learning more about our organization, and it helped improve our aggressive business leadership skills. We also had a lot of fun moments together, which include Megan and I nearly getting eaten alive by seagulls; Matt sporting a new, fashionable beach hairdo; and Brice and Amar interacting with vicious sea life. All in all, it was a very pleasant experience, and with these newfound selling skills, we hope to be able to serve this great state and great organization to the best of our abilities.



## Starting a PBL Chapter

## **Chris Hetherington, President**

Future Business Leaders of America or FBLA, includes thousands of high school in this organization. We have learned so much about leadership, skills, and life lessons for the real world. But I ask you this: “What about after high school in college? Is there really anything left that FBLA can offer us?” I am here to say yes and it is in the form of Phi Beta Lambda or PBL.

Imagine continuing your experience with FBLA through PBL. You attend and compete at conferences throughout the year; this is basically your next step after FBLA as you continue your steps towards success in the business world.

PBL is the post-secondary college-level version of FBLA that allows for more networking and friendships to bloom. However, many colleges do not offer a PBL chapter. This is where you, the FBLA member, can make a difference in the organization. How would you feel starting a new chapter of Phi Beta Lambda in college and helping others realize their dreams in beginning the journey to their success? That is why I am in the process in starting a PBL chapter at the Art Institute of Houston. I was a person who gave a lot to my FBLA chapter and asked little in return; near the end of my senior year I knew my time with FBLA was coming to a close and a new chapter would begin. I decided at that moment to finally break out of my shell and do something most people wouldn't even consider doing—starting a PBL chapter at the college I am attending.

Now, as I am in the middle of my pre-quarter of college at the Art Institute of Houston, I continue to plan out my chapter's PBL with the help and support of my high school FBLA. I know I can make a difference; I just need to work hard and keep remembering why I decided to do this: make a difference and reach my full potential in FBLA/PBL.

In closing, I hope I have inspired some readers to consider and think about starting up chapters now and know it's possible. PBL officers and other chapter members will gladly help you out as much as possible. Just remember, PBL is the next chapter in your life!



## Jennifer Zhou

It was an early Sunday morning. Even the trees had not yet woken up from their slumber. The humid air was still damp with the usual morning chill. But if one took a morning stroll or drive through the streets of Katy, one would see many Cinco Ranch High School Future Business Leaders of America students already at hard work.

For the past seven years, Cinco Ranch High School Future Business Leaders of America has been hosting the annual Cinco Ranch Triathlon with the Katy Rotary Club. Every year the success of this event is due to the several days of planning before the race and the help presented on the day of the race itself. On August 23, 2006, the Wednesday previous to the triathlon, the students gathered in the Large Instruction Room at Cinco Ranch High School at six o'clock in the evening and filled packets with necessary information and materials for the competitors. Then on Saturday, August 26, they proceeded to pass out these stuffed packets to the participants.

Finally, it was the morning of the official Cinco Ranch Triathlon. Students reported for duty as early as five thirty in the morning and worked diligently until one o'clock in the afternoon. Before the competition, several student volunteers set up the racecourse, placing cones at every intersection and turn in order guide the participants and keep them on course. In addition, students were also designated to motivation to the contestants throughout the event. After the race, these volunteers helped distribute food to the competitors. Some passed out pizza slices while others manned the bagel stand. At the end of the entire event, students disassembled down the food stands and cleaned up the premise.

This Cinco Ranch FBLA Community service project was a success. It provided opportunities for students to participate and give back to their community. In turn the competitors received their much-needed assistance in running the race. The Cinco Ranch High School FBLA student volunteers had lots of fun and look eagerly to next year's triathlon.

## Starting Your Own Business

By: Cassandra Perch

Recently, I decided to take my odd jobs involving computer graphics and T-shirt designs and turn it into my own business! I knew it would take a lot of time and effort, but as I'm taking my first steps into the entrepreneurial world, it's been a fun learning experience.

First, I started writing my business plan. That includes things like your product (what you're going to sell), Marketing (how you're going to tell people about it), Finances (how you're going to pay for everything), and Management (how you're going to run things). It also includes things like loan applications, ect.

As I keep going, eventually I'll find investors, get my first client and set of shirts, and hopefully, make some money! Starting a business is a lot of work, but in the end, it's all going to be worth it.

If you want information about starting a business, a good place to start is the United States Small Business Association website at <http://www.sba.gov/>

Fundraising  
Meagan Buford

Who really wants to pay for their trip to NFLC, State, or even Nationals? No one. This is why FBLA chapters statewide fundraise all year for these events. One thing that the Athens High School Chapter of FBLA has found to be very successful would be a "Rock-a-thon." Instead of a typical "Walk-a-Thon," each member will "rock" all night long in a rocking chair. It is an easy fundraiser that any chapter can do. You set up some classrooms with different themes, such as video games, movies, board games, and so forth as long as they can do it while they "rock" it works! All money earned is 100% profit for each student; students can go to different businesses in the community and family members to receive sponsorship. That is the best thing about this fundraiser; each member will get exactly what they put into it.

Marci Luedtke: Mountain Plains Region Vice President  
Shaun Taylor

Texans were at it again making themselves known at the National Leadership Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, this summer. One of our very own members, Marci Luedtke from Cinco Ranch High School in Houston, ran for the Mountain Plains Vice President and won. Her theme, "Marci Luedtke—The Key to Unlocking Your Treasure Chest to Success," led her to this successful victory.

Marci's goals for her term of office include: increasing quality and quantity in membership throughout the region - especially in Texas. "We have so much potential, so let's use it!" says Marci. Other goals include promoting the March of Dimes, our national partner (Saving Babies Together); encouraging chapters to participate in the Target Young campaign; a drive to involve freshman students in FBLA; and to promote the "Sharing the Tickets to Success" program—a new national program in which chapters will compete for recognition of successful programs at the NLC. Congratulations to Marci, we hope that you will take Texas far.

As one of her first responsibilities, Marci will preside at the National Fall Leadership Conference in Denver, November 3-4. We hope to see you there!

## Meeting Ideas Tex Muñoz, VP

There are a hundred and one ways to keep your chapter eager about FBLA at every meeting you hold. Each chapter member is essential to the organization and it is important to keep them interested in what you're doing at your school. Though a full-out dance might not be right for your chapter; the meeting does not have to be dryer than toast. Remember, these are still high school students. Whether you are a chapter president, an Adviser, or member, it does not take much to get what you need done and still have a little fun.

To keep your chapter excited here are a few good meeting ideas and themes:

- ❑ No matter the time, some snacks will keep the growing students happy.
- ❑ A few FBLA magazines like the Texan on the table will keep members occupied.
- ❑ Be proud of your chapter, have pictures out of past projects and years.
- ❑ Short brain teasers or energizers are a good way to get the group awake and ready to participate; these can be found anywhere.
- ❑ Making mini-competitions from meeting to meeting keeps members coming back—like who could bring the most signatures in by the next meeting wins.
- ❑ The door prize is a powerful thing, it does not have to be big, it will be effective no matter what!
- ❑ Do not forget the season; seasonal themes like candy for Halloween or candy canes for Christmas makes for a good time.
- ❑ You are the Future Business Leaders of America; have a day where you dress the part—suit, tie, and all!
- ❑ Most important of all, have fun with it!

Make sure that these activities distract from what you are prepared to do or they will have defeated their purpose!

## Leadership Conference 2006 - the Keys to Your Success!

By: Kassandra Perch, VP

The National Leadership Conference held in Nashville, Tennessee this year was a blast! Texas was well represented in competition, and Marci Luedtke from Cinco Ranch High School was elected to the Mountain Plains Region Vice President! Also, several representatives from Texas placed in national competition.

The keynote speaker, Coach Ken Carter, was invigorating and inspiring! There were also many interesting workshops available to attendees. Attendees got to meet other FBLA members from several states, and even from the Virgin Islands and England! The National Leadership Conference was a wonderful experience for all involved, and everyone should study hard and look forward to going to NLC 2007 in Chicago, Illinois.

## Parliamentary Procedures: Old Fashioned or Applicable?

Ben Vial

Right now most of you are as clueless as I was when I first heard the mention of parliamentary procedures. In my 10th grade year, I was approached by Amber Xu, your past Texas State Parliamentarian, to be on the Parliamentary Procedures team at our school, and I was clueless.

According to Roberta M. McDow, parliamentary procedures, put simply, are “a set of rules for conduct at meetings that allows everyone to be heard and to make decisions.” You might know some of the components of parliamentary procedures already such as “main motions,” “rising votes or ballots,” “nominations or elections,” and other motions such as “subsidiary motions,” “privileged motions,” “incidental motions,” and even “restoratory motions.” Motions, for example, might include Marci “moving” that a car wash be held on a certain date and then Mrs. Ellaby “seconding” it. The motion is then taken to a vote to see whether the group will discuss the topic and so on.

Despite the positives of parliamentary procedures such as the structure they provide to an organization or meeting or the way they filter ideas and expedite the discussion process making ideas more easily acted upon, they are often viewed as old fashioned and outdated by many student organizations. These student organizations see parliamentary procedures as unnecessary to their club and simply a slower, less effective way to run an organization. However, I implore you to look beyond the name and see the true value that parliamentary procedures can bring to the table.

There is a major problem within our organizations, however, in which parliamentary procedures in their truest form will not work. That problem is the lack of knowledge by the students and teachers of an organization. Many corporations and board meetings are able to effectively use parliamentary procedures simply because the employees are familiar with the system and know how to operate through that system. This is impractical for a student organization because one cannot expect every teenager in FBLA to know what the proper order for motions is or that certain motions require a “second” or even that the motion to “Postpone Indefinitely” precedes the motion to “Lay on the Table.” However, by no means does this mean that a student organization needs to forget about parliamentary procedures entirely. Instead, one must realize that the most positive aspect of parliamentary procedures is their adaptability to fit the needs of any organization.

This means instead of focusing on the nit-picking details, such as precedence of motions, organizations should instead have simple motions such as having members stand up and say, “I move that ...” and then have it “seconded,” voted upon and discussed. While there are certain orders of discussing, manners of voting, and limits to discussion, these rules will probably hinder an organization that is not fluent in parliamentary procedures. Bylaws, orders of business, and motions and methods of voting are all key aspects of parliamentary procedures. It is imperative for student organizations to follow the general gist of these components but not follow them so obsessively that the meetings bog down in logistics. If you are able to adapt these procedures to your organization, FBLA in your school will run smoothly and effectively.

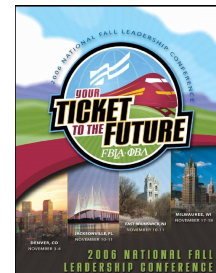
## National Fall Leadership Conference: Represent Texas!

By Brice Loving, VP

This year Texas is fortunate to be home of the Mountain Plains Region National Vice President, Marci Luedtke from Cinco Ranch High School in Houston. With a National Vice President in our state, Texas should have a large presence at the National Fall Leadership Conference, otherwise known as the NFLC. This year's NFLC for our region will be November 3-4 in Denver, Colorado, and is sure to be an exciting conference. Conference attendees will stay at the Adam's Mark in Denver, featuring a towering glass-enclosed lobby looking out onto the 16th Street Mall, a mile-long pedestrian boulevard lined with shops, restaurants and entertainment. State officers and members from different states in our region will be at the Denver conference. This is a great way to network with other FBLA members and meet new people from across the



country. I, along with other Texas State Officers, will be hosting two dynamic workshops, and we look forward to seeing some familiar faces in our workshops. More information, including a promotional video, can be found on the National website at [www.fbla-pbl.org](http://www.fbla-pbl.org). Again, I look forward to seeing all of you in Denver, and ask all of you to help represent Texas and support Marci!



## Back to School Bash

Taryn Wesenick and Shaun Taylor

The East Montgomery County Improvement District hosts a Back to School Bash for the kids in East Montgomery county every year. The New Caney High School FBLA chapter, along with the community around East Montgomery, helps the District with this event. The Bash is designed to get kids excited about going back to school. "It's a very fun and exciting way to kick off the school year," says Shaun Taylor and Taryn Wesenick.

The bash has numerous things for the kids to do such as pony rides, a petting zoo, face paintings, moon walks, clowns, rides, and games. The community also sets up booths for the kids to come around and get free prizes and candy.

## FBLA BAA Awards

## Meaghan Ryan

What are the Business Achievement Awards? Unfortunately this is a question that is asked a lot throughout FBLA careers. The Business Achievement Awards have four levels of leadership achievement, each consisting of business, education, and leadership elements. Once you complete one level, move on to the next, until you have earned all four awards and are eligible for recognition at the National Leadership Conference. You can try to complete them all in one year, or take them over a few years.

The Future Award focuses on basic business skills, an introduction to community service and FBLA on the local level. Upon the finish of the award, pins will be sent to your local adviser to be awarded at the local level.

The Business Award comes after the completion of the Future award. The Business Award focuses on local and regional/district and state involvement; intermediate business skills; and leadership in the community. Pins will be sent to the local chapter adviser for presentation at a local awards ceremony or local FBLA event.

The Leader Award comes after the completion of both the Future and Business Awards and focuses on local, regional/district, state and national involvement; advanced business skills, and community leadership. Names of qualifying students and pins will be sent to the state chairman/adviser so that awards can be presented at the state leadership conference.

And finally, the Future Award is given after the completion of the Future, Business and Leader award. This award focuses on total association leadership, business skills, and involvement in community. Students qualifying for this award will receive pins at the National Leadership Conference.

For those of you who like to work at your own pace, the FBLA Business Achievement Awards are definitely for you! I encourage all Texas FBLA members to become involved, and work towards the Future award!

### *A Note from our MpVP, Marci Luedtke...*

September 3, 2006

Dear State Officer Teams,

As we start off this new school year, I want to welcome you back to what promises to be a great year in FBLA! Congratulations to all of you on becoming the state leaders of this awesome organization – being a member of a state officer team last year taught me so much and afforded me so many memories, as I am sure it will provide you as well.

One of my goals is to work closely with you in the coming year, especially to boost membership in each of your states. I hope to be able to give you some ideas that will make your year more productive and provide some insight that you might not otherwise have that will serve as a springboard from which you may propel into one of the best membership years ever! Before I begin, I want to stress that I am ALWAYS here for you, whether it is proofing an article or getting a copy of a membership brochure. Please also know that when my term ends in Chicago, I will still be here to help you however I can, never hesitate to ask.

I know that you all have been long underway planning for this year, setting forth goals and creating plans to achieve them. Hopefully you have written these down, so that tracking progress and holding officers accountable will be easier, but if not, I encourage you to create a Program of Work. Attached is the National Officer Program of Work to give you some ideas and a format that has proven successful in the past years.

You all are already aware of the extreme importance of communication, especially in your important office. This year I would like for the state officers in the Mountain Plains Region to be able to meet jointly in online chats. At NLC, my platform goal was to meet once a month. Please let me know by September 15 if this is something you all are interested in, and if so how often you would like to meet. In the past, the MPVP has hosted meetings with state teams separately, but in order to truly get the communication flowing, I feel that this would be an even better way to do it. Let me know what you think, and we can get started as soon as possible to meet your needs!

There are two national programs that I am excited to share with you today: the Target Young Campaign, and Sharing the Tickets to Success. You may remember the latter from my campaign. We have altered the name to fit this year's theme, but the project idea remains the same: local chapters will compete for recognition of successful programs on the district, state, and then national levels with the winner being recognized at NLC in Chicago. Please strongly consider promoting this program in your state – we feel that it has the potential to be a great, exciting program if it is endorsed at the state level! I have an article that may be used in your state newsletters-if you are willing to use it, please let me know. The Target Young Campaign is all about involving the freshmen in FBLA. A major way to do this is to set up a booth at freshman orientation to inform these students about the benefits of our organization. With your help, these two programs can flourish! I ask you to make strong efforts to make them succeed this year!

Additionally, I encourage you to get involved with the inactive and new chapters in your states – they have so much promise waiting to be realized. Let your members know about the new competitive events for this year. Don't forget about the March of Dimes, our national partner. We will be participating in the March to Chicago, and would like for you to rally support on the state level.

I know that this is a lot at once, but please consider these ideas and give me your feedback! I look forward to working with you all this year, and with FBLA as Your Ticket to the Future, there is no limit to what we can accomplish together from now until NLC next summer!

Sincerely Yours,

Marci Luedtke  
Mountain Plains Vice President  
Future Business Leaders of America