

# THE **FBLA** EXPRESS



OCTOBER 2024 | FALL EDITION



Leading



Beyond



Limits



“Believe you can and you're halfway there.” - Theodore Roosevelt

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“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” - Eleanor Roosevelt



## Updates on NYS FBLA Program of Work (POW):

### POW Councils:

The POW Council Page is now **ACTIVE!** All members are welcomed to apply!! Please see the NYS FBLA website for more information ([www.nysfbla.org](http://www.nysfbla.org)).

POW Councils are an amazing opportunity to further your involvement in FBLA and make an impact statewide! Members have four possible committees to be selected for: the Executive Committee, the Community Outreach and Engagement Committee, the Career Development Committee, and the Membership Services Committee. All committees are vital to the career and technical education aspect of FBLA, and all council members play a necessary role in them. Applications for POW Councils are due **November 30, 2024!**

### New POW Presentation:

NYS FBLA has released a POW PowerPoint for the POW workshop hosted at each FDM. Make sure to attend this workshop if you have interest in participating in POW this year! This is a very informative PowerPoint and is very helpful when considering taking on a POW challenge.

### Reminder:

All POW competition deadlines are 11:59pm on February 15, 2025 except the Early Bird Challenge.



“I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot:  
together we can do great things.” - Mother Teresa



FALL DISTRICT MEETING REWIND!

“Don't be pushed by your problems. Be led by your dreams.” -Ralph Waldo Emerson



# FDM Season Rewind!!

FDM season is one of the most exciting parts of the FBLA year! From networking to fun workshops and guest speaker presentations, FBLA members get to have fun while learning about the Career and Technical Education side of FBLA! Let's take a peak at what our Districts have been up to! Reminder that many FDMs are still coming up, so make sure you attend your District's FDM when the time comes.

District 4 SVP Ava Jump reported that her FDM was a huge success! Here is what she wrote about her FDM:

“NYS FBLA is happy to announce that District 4's FDM was a great success. The event featured workshops about presenting, lifting your community, individual growth, entrepreneurship and competitive events. The members that participated in FDM were interactive with each workshop and were able to meet other members from District 4. Also, District 4 appointed their own PR Officer! Her name is Devon Oakden and she is a senior at Broadalbin-Perth high school. District 4's SVP, Ava Jump, is beyond excited to work with her in the future. Looking ahead, District 4 is ready to find ways to unite their chapters and bring more members into the organization. They started a District 4 Instagram page, @nyfbladistrict4, where they will be posting important information and updates. Lastly District 4 wants to thank Bryant and Stratton College, Mr. Thomas Mueller, Mrs. Katrina Schweigard, Mrs. Handy, Anthony Leberto, Michael LaMastra, Niesreen Mende, Euella Francis, Ava Jump and Yasmin Issa. All of these individuals were a huge help in the planning and execution of FDM and will forever be appreciated.” -Ava Jump, District 4 SVP

State Reporter Kayleigh Harney also hosted her FDM and reported that it was a fun and educational experience for all attendees. Here is what she wrote about her FDM:

“The District 3N FDM was hosted at Carmel High School on November 1, 2024. I was the presiding officer that over saw the meeting and planned the event with my advisor, Ms. Odell. We had several fun and informative activities, such as workshops ran by our State Charity St. Jude and Carmel Chapter Officers, a presentation by guest speaker Ms. Tara DeTurris who is a Cloud Technologist at Oracle, and the traditional Coin Drop and Battle of the Chapters Competitions (won by Tri-Valley High School and Carmel High School respectively). We also appointed two new District Officers: District Reporter Isabella Felsenfeld from Carmel High School and Sanjita Raja from Monroe Woodbury High School.

I would like to extend my sincerest thank you to Ms. Odell, the Carmel Chapter Officer Team (Emily Furu, Kaitlin Furu, Emily Cardona, Isabella Felsenfeld, Jake Radovich, Mabel Tenesaca, Maia Thompson, Robby Cotza, and Wade Spinelli), Mr. Brian Piazza, Dr. Erin Meehan-Fairben, the custodial staff, all chapters that attended, who made this FDM possible.” Kayleigh Harney, State Reporter Overall, all FDMs were reported to be successful. For example, District 12 (hosted by District SVP Monal Gupta) had their FDM at Rich Products where attendees got to take a tour of the company (wearing hair nets!), listen to a guest speaker presentation by the Senior VP of the Global Supply Chain, sample various food items, and see where the creation and testing of new products happens. What an amazing experience!

If you have any questions about the FDM in your district, please contact your District SVP or Board of Trustee Member. Contacts are on the New York FBLA Website [www.nysfbla.org](http://www.nysfbla.org).




“Hardships often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny.” - C.S. Lewis



# Chapter Chat!

Local Updates + Question Prompt

What has your chapter done to kick off the membership year?



“Everything you’ve ever wanted is on the other side of fear.” - George Addair

# TONAWANDA FBLA FBLA CHAPTER REPORT



**Learn how Tonawanda FBLA is beginning their FBLA year through fundraising and attending their FDM!**



Our group held a “Parking Lot Bazaar” in September as a fundraiser to attend a National Leadership Conference . We sold parking spaces to various vendors to set up and sell or advertise their company and merchandise. The FBLA had a hotdog stand, the freshman class did a basket raffle. We had many crafters and artists as well as bakers and lots of Buffalo Bills merchandise.

As part of our Fall District Meeting, our students got to tour Rich Products and had presentations from our state vice president, participated in an officer induction ceremony, and had a keynote speaker who was the Senior VP of Global Supply Chain of Rich’s. The speaker shared the background of Rich’s, talked about goal setting, stepping out of your comfort zone, and career opportunities. During the tour students got to sample various food items and see where the creation and testing of new products happens.



“The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity.” - *Amelia Earhart*

# EDEN FBLA CHAPTER REPORT



## How Eden FBLA makes a difference in their community!

Eden FBLA painted sweatshirts and participated in the Breast Cancer Walk in their community! What an amazing way to spread awareness and help a good cause!



“When you can’t find someone to follow, you have to find a way to lead by example.” -Roxanne Gay



# CARMEL FBLA CHAPTER REPORT



## Carmel FBLA is starting the year off right with volunteering, hosting events, etc.

Since last year our chapter has been working hard on community service!

### State Officer Training:

Kayleigh Harney, our NYS FBLA Reporter who comes from our Carmel chapter attended State Officer Training to prepare her for a year of hard work, and to make connections with the other State officers.

### Touch a Truck:

A big thank you to all of our officers and members who helped at this event, it was run by the Patterson Rotary Club and our Carmel members volunteered to help with the event. Touch a truck is an event that brings unique trucks and vehicles to the community for kids to explore. It is a fun day with face painting and other activities.

### Barbecue Blues:

Thank you to everyone who signed up to help with this event, since we had enough members volunteering nobody had to stay for the entire time. This event also run by the Patterson Rotary club brings food, music, vendors, Welcome Back! CHS FBLA and entertainment for kids to our community. Our FBLA members helped the Rotary Club run the event.

### FBLA Boards:

Over the summer our officer team spent a day at the school decorating boards for our club. Including boards for the state charity, St Jude's, the state theme, Leading Beyond Limits, and the national theme, Dare to Dream Dare to Lead. They are on display for anyone walking by to see.

### Curriculum Night:

During our schools curriculum night, FBLA members volunteered to be leaders by helping direct parents throughout the building, and we showed up in business attire. The night went great, with many parents and administrators complimenting our club and everybody is extremely grateful for the help we received.

### FDM:

Carmel hosted our Fall District Meeting, running workshops about public speaking, debate skills, elevator speeches, our state charity St Jude's and more! At the FDM it was announced that the District 3N Reporter is Isabella Felsenfeld from Carmel! Carmel also won the "Battle of the Chapters", great job Mabel Tenesaca!

### Currently:

A big thanks to our Treasurer Kaitlin Furu and our Secretary Jake Radovich for collecting and counting all of the money and information for membership registration. Our chapter has also started working hard on our programs of work. We started our one and only fundraiser for the month of November to raise funds for our bid to the SLC.

Good luck Carmel FBLA



"When I dare to be powerful—to use my strength in the service of my vision—then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid." - Audre Lorde



## **H. Frank Carey's FBLA Chapter Update!**

**H. Frank Carey's FBLA has had an incredible start to the school year. We've welcomed over 50 members to our chapter, many of whom are Business Honor Society inductees. To ensure our chapter's success and support as many competitors as possible at the State Leadership Conference (SLC) and, hopefully, the National Leadership Conference (NLC), we've initiated several fundraising efforts to help cover attendance fees.**

**One of our key initiatives is the Parent-Teacher Conference Raffle, where we collaborate with local businesses to organize a raffle for parents. Another successful initiative from past years is our Halloween Bake Sale fundraiser, which we're excited to bring back. We're also planning to donate a portion of the proceeds to a school charity.**

**In addition to FBLA, our members are involved in various school activities. We've integrated FBLA into other school events, such as the annual Halloween Fair, where we work with the local elementary school to host games for the children. Furthermore, we proudly support Relay for Life, a charity event where our members contribute both time and financial resources.**

**Overall, the beginning of the school year has been fantastic for our chapter, and I'm thrilled to see what we can accomplish together!**



**"It's not the load that breaks you down, it's the way you carry it." - Lena Horne**

# COMMACK FBLA CHAPTER REPORT



## Commack's FBLA year is off to a productive start!

Commack High School's FBLA chapter has had an exciting start to the year! To raise funds for the upcoming State Leadership Conference, we held a successful popcorn sale. The funds raised will help support our members as they prepare for the competition.

We also participated in our school's club fair, where current FBLA members shared their experiences with underclassmen and encouraged them to join. Our members were also actively involved in the homecoming game, volunteering to sell shirts to alumni and spread the word about our popcorn sale.

Additionally, our school held an open house where our members handed out brochures outside business classes, informing students about FBLA's activities and benefits.

Currently, we're busy preparing for our Halloween Happening, where we'll be handing out candy to the community. We're accepting donations from members and have lots of exciting plans ahead!

We're looking forward to an incredible year!

“Don't wish it were easier. Wish you were better.” -Jim Rohn





# fficer Outlook

A Closer Look at What it Means to be a Future Business Leader!



## *Look Who Submitted for this Issue!!*



**Lochitha  
Thambeliyagoda  
District 1N SVP**



**Alexandra  
Robinson  
Treasurer**



**Summer  
Trevino  
District 9 SVP**

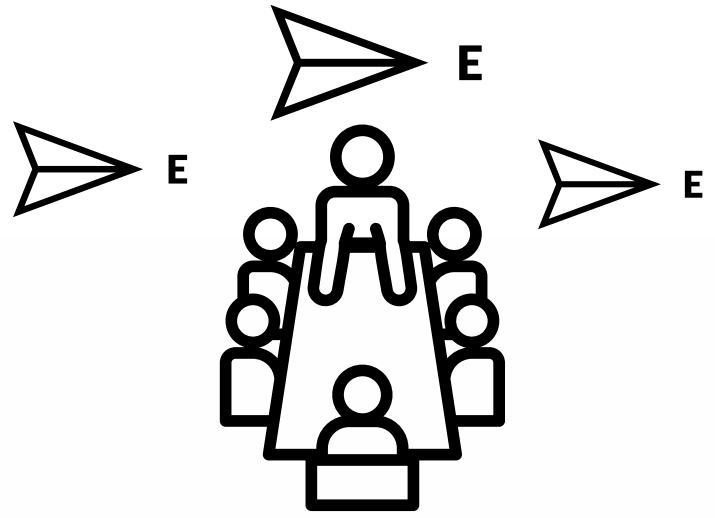


**Yasmin  
Issa  
Secretary**

## *Check it Out!!*

“Follow your bliss and the universe will open doors where there were only walls.” - Joseph Campbell





**By: Lochitha Thambeliyagoda,  
District 1N SVP**

**District 1N SVP, Lochitha Thambeliyagoda on being on the Eastern Region Council!**

As the Eastern Region Media Director for FBLA, I oversee the social media platforms that connect and engage our members within our Eastern region. My role focuses on creating content that is meaningful and impactful for our community, from Instagram reels to informative documents that include resources, about upcoming events, and member achievements.

I work alongside Doris on crafting posts that highlight the opportunities FBLA offers, such as leadership conferences, competitions, and scholarships. I collaborate closely with other council members to ensure we share consistent, inspiring messages that represent our region’s goals. This includes developing strategies to boost engagement, maintain a cohesive brand theme, and keeping our members informed.

Being the media director also means monitoring feedback and staying updated on social media trends to keep our content fresh and engaging. I strive to build a sense of connection among members across the region, encouraging them to get involved and take full advantage of what FBLA has to offer!



Eastern Region Council Meeting



“Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will.” - Mahatma Gandhi



**By: Alexandra Robinson, Treasurer**

**Alexandra Robinson on her Nonprofit**  
Cakes for Communities was founded in 2020 by me, Alex Robinson, alongside my brother, Maxwell Robinson, after a heartwarming experience during a holiday gift drive at UCCW (United Community Center of Westchester). While distributing homemade cookies, we noticed that children and families were often more excited about the treats than the gifts. This sparked a conversation with the charity director, Jackie Agudelo, revealing a significant gap: while many donated gifts, there was a lack of cakes and desserts to celebrate special occasions.

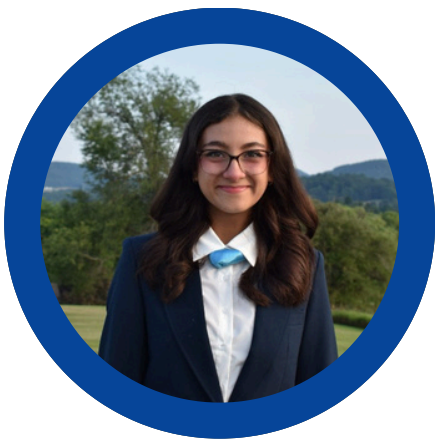
Inspired by this insight, we set out to spread joy and create lasting memories through delectable cakes and desserts. Since our inception, we have grown into a team of over 700 dedicated members, making and donating over 1,000 cakes and 10,000 desserts to families in need. Our efforts have garnered recognition from local and state authorities, and we have raised over \$50,000 to support our mission.

What began as a simple idea has blossomed into a movement, inspiring communities across New Jersey, New York City, Massachusetts, Tennessee, and Texas. At Cakes for Communities, we believe that every cake has the power to bring smiles and create meaningful celebrations, reminding us all of the joy in giving and sharing.



“It's not just about being better. It's about being different. You need to give people a reason to choose your business.” - Tom Abbott





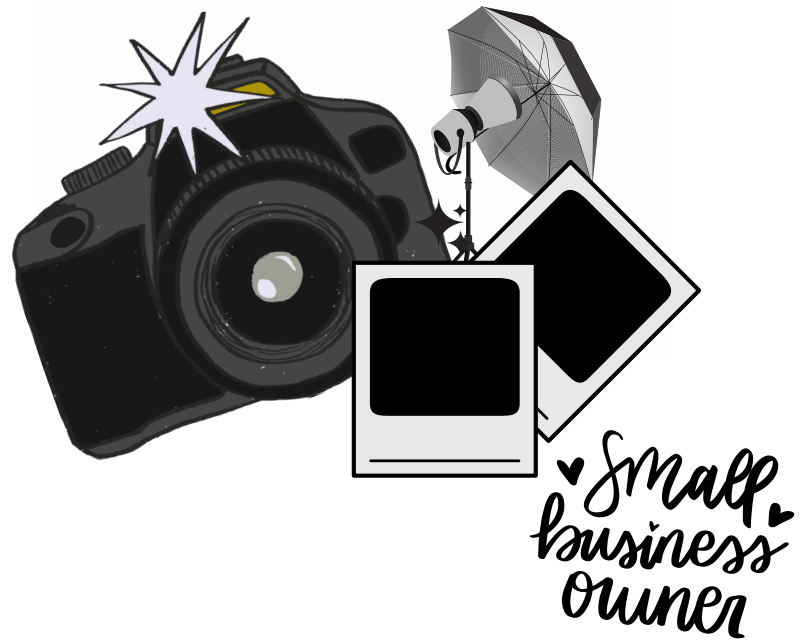
**By: Summer Trevino, District 9 SVP**

**Summer Trevino on her Nonprofit**

From capturing casual photos of household objects and pets to receiving a professional camera as a Christmas gift, photography quickly became a deeply enjoyable hobby. I eagerly began to research to understand the technical aspects of my camera, exploring the intricacies of each setting, and discovering valuable techniques for improving my craft. As my skills evolved, I took on new challenges, starting by photographing my school’s sports events and sharing these images on social media. The response was overwhelmingly positive - people began using my photos in their posts, profile pictures, and even the yearbook. I realized my passion was resonating with others.

The turning point came when a friend asked me to take her senior photos. I was thrilled that my work had garnered enough recognition for someone to want it professionally, and the idea of being paid for my talent was exciting. The success of that session inspired me to turn my passion into a business.

Launching my photography business was both exciting and demanding. It required extensive research, a strong commitment to marketing, and relentless effort to attract clients. The most challenging aspect was building a client base and trying to receive consistent bookings, as I relied heavily on these for my services; however, each time a client booked a session, I found fulfillment in expressing my creativity through photography. I was extremely passionate in branding myself - creating a company name and logo and dedicating a lot of time to editing and dishing out my work consistently as to keep my company on my community's radar. Although the grunt work and logistics of a photography can sometimes be defeating, getting to be creative and artistic as a job makes it all worth it. This journey has taught me the true meaning of doing what you love and letting the money follow.



“Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.” - John F. Kennedy





**By: Yasmin Issa, Secretary**

### **How to Nail the Secretarial Sciences!**

A secretary is expected to complete various responsibilities, but perhaps one of the most important of their duties would be taking minutes, as it helps to provide a record of the business discussed at meeting, delegate different responsibilities, address pertinent deadlines and provide an update for the work of various committees. This may seem like a daunting task, but by utilizing these tips on how to nail the secretarial sciences, you will be able to gain valuable insight to how to stay organized, use parliamentary procedure and present your ideas effectively, as well as ensure your local chapter's success! Throughout the school year, the secretary will be expected to keep an updated record of the minutes for each meeting, as well as help to organize different facets of communications, utilizing email and social media to help stay in contact with members and organize various events.

Managing all of this requires extreme organizational skills, especially when creating the minutes for a meeting. It is best to create an outline ahead of time, using a prepared agenda to have a list of the topics that will be discussed, creating a general flow of how the meeting will run. Not only will this ensure that the notes are created in clear, concise manner, it will make revisions much easier, because everything is organized ahead of time and delegated amongst the categories in the orders of the day (a general outline of the events that happen in a parliamentary procedure session). While in the meeting, pay attention to the things that are being discussed and try to highlight the most important information, rather than unnecessary details. This is much easier to do by having some background knowledge on parliamentary procedure. Regardless of whether all these formalities in parliamentary procedure are employed by your own chapter, is it beneficial to have a fundamental understanding of the different motions, voting and rules of debate. If you ever feel confused by something in a meeting, always feel free to ask for clarification! Finally, once the meeting is over and you are making final revisions on the minutes, proofread the notes thoroughly, by reading them aloud, double checking facts and consulting a second opinion if you ever feel unsure about a piece of information. The best way to ensure the greatest quality of work is to ask questions and be open to constructive criticism. Once you are sure that the

minutes are completed to the best of your ability and are done so within an appropriate timeline, distribute them to all attendees of the meeting, in addition to the people that were absent. There is no ideal way to distribute the minutes, and it can be done through email, a shared document or even handing out hard copies. Regardless of how you choose to distribute them, it must be done in a way that best reflects the needs of your chapter. All this responsibility may seem intimidating, but being a secretary is an extremely rewarding experience, because this individual plays an integral role within their local chapter, by managing communication. Communication is an invaluable asset in the business world, and secretarial sciences are a major part of it. Through effective communication, there is no limit to what you can achieve! Regardless of where your FBLA journey takes you this year, as a member of a Program of Work committee, fellow competitor or local chapter officer, do not hesitate to utilize these tips and reach out to [secretary@nysfbla.org](mailto:secretary@nysfbla.org) with any questions so that we can collaborate for a year of success!



“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” - Helen Keller








By: Kayleigh Harney, Reporter

## It's that Time Again! Time to Think About if You Want to be a State Officer!

Being a State Officer is a huge responsibility. You must strive to embody the core values of FBLA while being a role model to the state membership. NYS FBLA needs strong leaders who are going to create the best possible 2025-2026 FBLA membership year for all members statewide. If you think you have what it takes, please see the NYS FBLA Website for more information.

Good luck to all those running for a State position this year! NYS FBLA believes in you!



“It is the long history of humankind (and animal kind, too) that those who learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively have prevailed.” - Charles Darwin

# HOW DO YOU SUBMIT ARTICLES TO THE FBLA EXPRESS?



**1**

**OPEN UP YOUR EMAIL!**

**2**

**ADDRESS EMAIL TO:  
REPORTER@NYSFBLA.ORG**

**3**

**SUBJECT EMAIL:  
ARTICLE SUBMISSION**

**4**

**FILL OUT INFORMATION:**

**HELLO NYS FBLA REPORTER,  
WE ARE THE (*INSERT SCHOOL NAME*) CHAPTER. HERE IS AN  
ARTICLE SUBMISSION FOR THE NYS FBLA EXPRESS!! WE ARE  
LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING OUR SUBMISSION IN THE  
NEXT EDITION OF THE FBLA EXPRESS. PLEASE CONFIRM  
WHEN YOU RECEIVE THIS EMAIL.**

**5**

**WATCH AS YOUR ARTICLE IS  
FEATURED IN THE FBLA EXPRESS!**



Please submit your articles to the FBLA Express!!

# Thank You For Reading!



## Submission Deadlines:

- **Winter Edition:**  
January 5, 2025
- **Spring Issue:**  
February 28, 2025

Upload to:

Kayleigh Harney

NYS FBLA State Reporter  
reporter@nysfbla.org

**GO NYS FBLA!!**

