

NEWSLETTER

September 2024



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What Is An FBLA Newsletter?

The Maine State FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) newsletter is an informational report written by the FBLA State Board for the FBLA members of Maine. Our newsletters get sent out periodically helping our members be informed about upcoming events. We are available to answer any questions or concerns that you may have.



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www.mainestatefbla.org

MEET YOUR 2024-2025 STATE OFFICERS!



Nate Lewis
President

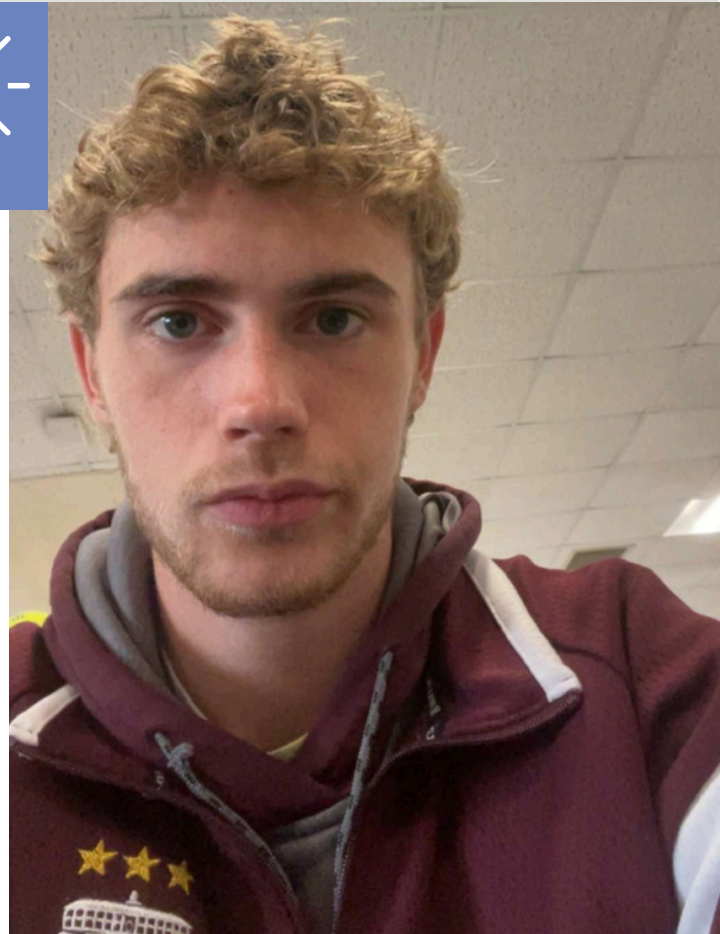


Hello, my name is Nathan Lewis, I am a senior at Monmouth Academy and I am your FBLA State Board President. I enjoy simple things like wrestling and lifting weights. I am passionate about our country and I believe it is the greatest place on Earth. This Passion has led me to the goal of attending one of America's service academies and devoting my life to protecting our Nation and its ideals at the highest level I can achieve. I aim to show this same level of dedication as your FBLA President. This year's FBLA State Board is full of much more remarkable people than myself, they have put together an amazing program of work that we are all very proud of. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to lead this organization and all of you for giving me this opportunity. I am confident that what we have planned will have you all entertained and challenged while strengthening our organization. I can not wait to see what the future holds for Maine FBLA. Thank You.

James Paradis
Vice President



Hello Maine FBLA! My name is James Paradis and I am a senior at Monmouth Academy and your FBLA State Board Vice President. I play soccer at Monmouth and I'm an avid park skier. I'm focused on building a career in the plumbing and HVAC industry. My studies at Central Area Technical School are preparing me to achieve my goal of becoming a skilled professional in this field and eventually owning my own business. I appreciate you all for giving me this huge opportunity, I hope to leave this already wonderful organization better than I found it.





Gabriella Seaberg

Secretary



Hey FBLA members! I'm Gabriella and I am your Maine FBLA State Secretary for this year! This year, I am a senior at Mt. Blue High School and have been part of FBLA since junior year. Aside from FBLA, I am part of my school's International Club and For the Future Anti-Racism Club. In the past, I have played for my school's Track and Girl's Soccer teams. During my free time, I love to spend time with my family and friends and enjoy the outdoors. Being a part of Future Business Leaders of America is an enjoyable and self-growing experience. I cannot wait to see you all during our conference in March!

Delia Custer

Treasurer



Hey everybody! I'm Delia Custer and I am your treasurer for this year. I am a senior at Oak Hill High School and am sad but also excited to be experiencing many of my "lasts", including, last first day of high school, last soccer game, last year being with all my high school friends, last prom, and sadly, last FBLA conference. But thankfully FBLA has given me the tools and knowledge of how I will continue my path in business. My passion is business and more specifically real estate. I love looking at each extravagant house, connecting with people, and helping others. I hope everybody has a fun and amazing school year! I cannot wait to see you all at the conference in March!





Kiana Moran

Reporter



Hello Maine FBLA! I am Kiana Moran and I'm your state reporter for this school year! I am a junior this year at Oak Hill High School and I've been a member of FBLA since my sophomore year. Besides FBLA, I am a part of student council, theatre, national honor society (NHS), tennis and dance. Outside of school, I love to read, bake, and spend time with my family & friends. Thanks to FBLA, once I am out of high school and college, I plan to open up my own dance studio or bakery one day! I appreciate you all for helping me with this amazing opportunity. I hope that everyone has a great school year and I'm excited to see you all at our conference in March!

Maeve Burgess

Historian



Hello, my name is Maeve Burgess and I am a Junior at Monmouth Academy and the Historian for the Maine State Board of the Future Business Leaders of America. At my school, I am the VP of Chapter Relations for my local chapter. My favorite thing about FBLA is how this organization opens up opportunities to compete and meet new people. FBLA has taught me important skills, such as public speaking. I am looking forward to my Junior year at MA, and I am excited to see my teachers and tour future colleges.





Keeley Gagnon

Parliamentarian



I am Keeley Gagnon, the Maine State 2024-'25 FBLA Parliamentarian. I am a senior at Erskine Academy, and this is my second year in FBLA. As a Navy brat, I have moved around a lot, and this is starting on only my third year living in Maine. I am a classic car enthusiast and proud owner of a 1965 Ford Galaxie 500 that I am fixing up with my dad.

Presidential Message

Hello Maine FBLA! Welcome back for another year of FBLA. As your State FBLA Board President, I am excited to kick off the year and I am confident that our board has prepared an amazing slate of opportunities and events for you all. Even with all the planning that we have done for this year, your hard work and enthusiasm is going to be the driving force behind our success and I am eager to see all the achievements that you will undoubtedly make.

I am also excited to announce our state service project which will be in support of "Mission Working Dogs" a Maine based organization that specializes in training service dogs to assist our citizens and veterans struggling with disabilities. I am really looking forward to seeing your participation and the impact that we can make with this meaningful initiative.

Best Regards and Good Luck this Year,

Nathan Lewis
President, Maine State FBLA Board

5 CRITICAL LEADERSHIP SKILLS YOU NEED FOR SUCCESS

Source: [Forbes](#)



EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Emotional intelligence is the silent force behind effective leadership. This nuanced skill intertwines the understanding of personal emotions with the emotional dynamics of others. It's about cultivating an inner awareness that informs external interactions, enabling leaders to navigate the complex interpersonal aspects of the workplace with finesse.

COMMUNICATION

The success of a team is deeply intertwined with the leader's communicative clarity and effectiveness. Leaders are the motivators, the vision-casters who must convey their mission precisely and passionately. A leader must articulate the collective vision with an infectious zeal that inspires action.

PERFORMANCE ENHANCEMENT

Rather than micromanaging, exceptional leaders empower their teams to excel autonomously - it's about unlocking the potential within each individual. This empowerment bolsters performance and allows leaders to focus on strategic roles, enhancing overall time management.

SELF AWARENESS

A leader's journey inward is a quest for self awareness which acts as a compass in guiding their interactions and decisions. This introspection is not an occasional retreat but a constant practice that informs the leader's emotional landscape and leadership style.

RESILIENCE

The business world's tumultuous nature demands leaders' resilience- the ability to weather storms and emerge with new strategies. Disruptions do not daunt resilient leaders; they embrace them as opportunities for growth and learning.

State Service Project

Mission Working Dogs

This year, we the state board have picked Mission Working Dogs as our state service project. Mission Working Dogs is a non-profit organization in Maine that helps improve the lives of people who are living with a disability by providing them with properly trained service dogs to help them live more independently. Mission Working Dogs provide therapy dogs to help with the mental well-being to the people of Maine such as those in nursing homes, hospitals, and schools. The founder of this organization is disabled herself and has a passion for helping both dogs and the disabled



Img. source: [Mission Working Dogs](#)



Img. source: <https://gahumane.org/adopt/cats/>

Volunteering at Local Shelter

This year, the state board has decided to encourage all chapters to try to find a time to help volunteering at a local animal shelter, since our main service project relates to dogs. Chapters can volunteer at their local pet shelter anytime throughout the school year in anyway. This volunteer opportunity is a great way for people to get involved in their community and give back, knowing that they have left an impact.

Important Dates

Thomas College Workshop

Waterville, ME
To Be Determined

Maine Youth Leadership Day

Hyde School
October 24, 2024

Volunteer at Your Local Shelter

Date determined individually by chapters

Spring Leadership Conference

South Portland, ME
March 16 - 18, 2025



Thomas College Workshop Day will be an upcoming fall event for all Maine FBLA chapters, held by the collegiate FBLA chapter at Thomas.

Maine Youth Leadership Day is sponsored by Hyde School, we highly encourage FBLA chapters to attend this event!

Volunteer at your Local Shelter Day will be a volunteering event scheduled individually by chapters, where FBLA chapters can volunteer at their local shelters.