



## CHAPTER SERVICES

The National FBLA office provides many services to the local chapter such as: *Chapter Management Handbook*, membership cards, Advisers' *Hotline*, and members' *Tomorrow's Business Leader*. In addition to the national services provided to the local chapters, the following is a listing of some of the services that are furnished to Arkansas chapters by the state chapter.

1. **Arkansas Business Leader** – The state newsletter is published twice yearly. Local chapters are encouraged to submit articles for publication in the newsletter. The first issue will be published to the website the first week in December and the last issue published the first week in April.
2. **Arkansas FBLA Handbook** – Copies of the state handbook may be downloaded from the state webpage at [www.arfbla.org](http://www.arfbla.org). This handbook includes a history of Arkansas FBLA, the Arkansas FBLA Constitution and Bylaws, state competitive event information, and a district supplement.
3. **Updates** – Updates are done periodically as needed by e-mail. These updates give chapters information about state projects, important dates, and other items of interest to help local advisers and members.
4. **Conference Packets** – Typically, three different conference packets are distributed from the state office during the year. The **National Fall Leadership Conference Packet** is in late August or early September. This packet contains information necessary for local chapter members to attend the conference as part of the state-planned group. In February, the **State Leadership Conference Packet** is distributed to all chapters with the information necessary for registration and participation at the annual state leadership conference. The third and final conference packet for the **National Leadership Conference** is distributed at the State Leadership Conference. This will give chapters all the necessary information for participation and attendance as part of the state-planned trip to the National Leadership Conference.
5. **Chapter Calendar** – A chapter calendar shows all deadlines and offers monthly reminders and hints to help you keep your chapter running efficiently.
6. **Scholarships** – Six scholarships are awarded annually by the state chapter. These scholarships are announced during the Awards Assembly at the State Leadership Conference. They are:
  - A. **Tommie L. Butler Scholarship**. A \$1,000 scholarship awarded annually to the student who is the first place winner in Who's Who in Arkansas FBLA. The scholarship is named for a former FBLA state adviser and chairman.
  - B. **Mildred Brading Scholarship**. Named for an outstanding former FBLA state adviser, this \$400 scholarship is awarded annually to a female FBLA member. Designed to honor an outstanding female member who plans to major in a field of business and demonstrates financial need.

- C. **Mary Alice Elam Scholarship.** Also named for an outstanding former FBLA state adviser, this \$400 scholarship awarded annually to a male FBLA member. Designed to honor an outstanding male member who plans to major in a field of business and demonstrates financial need.
  - D. **Future Business Leader.** A \$500 scholarship is awarded annually to the student who places first in the Future Business Leader competitive event at the State Leadership Conference.
  - E. **Heather Stocks Scholarship.** A \$350 scholarship awarded to a graduating senior FBLA member who has demonstrated high academics, outstanding leadership, active participation in FBLA activities, community activities, church, and civic activities. This scholarship is named for an outstanding state officer who demonstrated all of these qualities.
  - F. **Hettie Lou Martin State Adviser Award.** This \$1,000 scholarship is awarded annually to a local FBLA member and is open to FBLA members who are graduating seniors with a GPA of 3.0 or higher, an ACT composite test score of 22 or higher, with plans to pursue a post-secondary education in business or a business-related field.
7. **Conferences** – FBLA offers a variety of meetings that promote leadership development. Whether at the district, state, or national level, participating in FBLA conferences offers members the opportunity to form useful and lasting networks. In addition, at these meetings, local members come in contact with state and/or national staff. These contacts foster a better understanding of the FBLA-PBL structure and state/national programs.

The following is a description of the various conferences held throughout the year. These conferences have been approved by either the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) or the Arkansas Activities Association (AAA).

- A. **District Fall Leadership Conference.** Each of the districts within the state organization holds a Fall Leadership Conference for members of chapters within their geographic boundaries. Students and advisers have an opportunity to share ideas and participate in professional development and chapter building workshops. These district conferences are held in late September or early October. Information about the conference and registration forms are distributed to each local chapter by the district coordinators
- B. **National Fall Leadership Conference.** These conferences take place in several areas of the country. Students and advisers share ideas and reaffirm common goals while participating in professional development and career opportunity workshops. Participants gain a better understanding of the organization at the national level. The *NFLC Guide*, mailed to each local chapter in late summer, includes information and registration forms. Each local chapter will receive information from the state office with details for traveling with the state group.
- C. **District Spring Leadership Conference.** Each of the districts holds a Spring Leadership Conference in late February or early March. The purposes of these conferences are to elect district officers (including the State Vice Presidents) for the coming year and qualify for participation in the state competitive events program. Each district coordinator distributes a conference packet to local chapters within the district.

- D. **State Leadership Conference.** For many, the culmination of the year is attendance at the State Leadership Conference. This conference is held each year in March or April and features an outstanding keynote speaker, a variety of leadership development workshops, competitive events, and election of state officers.
- E. **State Officer Training.** A training conference is held each year in late May or early June for the newly-elected state officers. This two and one-half day conference prepares Arkansas FBLA leaders to assume their responsibilities for the coming year. This is a required meeting for all state officers, their advisers, and district coordinators. Additionally, many of the district coordinators hold one day training sessions for their district officers.
- F. **National Leadership Conference.** The National Leadership Conference concludes the year's activities and sets the stage for the upcoming school year. It is held each summer in late June or early July in a major American city. Participants get involved in business-related and leadership development workshops, tour business and corporate facilities, elect national officers, and participate in national competitive events. The **NLC Guide** is mailed to all local chapters. In addition, the state office distributes at the state conference, a NLC packet to all local chapters. Those chapters planning to travel with the state group will submit all forms and monies to the state representative. Schools traveling on their own are responsible for all arrangements and will submit forms directly to the designated place given in the *NLC Guide*.