

Productivity



**2004-2005 Rossville FBLA
Community Service Project**

“The Road to Your Success”

RECRUITMENT- MEMBERS

Rossville FBLA works to maintain or boost yearly membership through two recruitment drives during the school year. At the end of the 2003-2004 school year, FBLA members spoke at the Rossville Junior High School Eighth Grade Orientation to inform incoming freshman of the basic principles and ideas of the FBLA organization. Members spoke on conferences, projects, and opportunities available to freshmen through FBLA. Potential members were also given a pamphlet outlining general information about the benefits of joining FBLA. A Desktop Publishing participant on the school's business software formatted the pamphlet.

Students reporting for school in August were greeted with displays, announcements, and invitations announcing plans for the FBLA Chapter Recruitment Party to be held at the Rossville High School. All students listed as former members, potential members, or who just wanted to have a good time and find out what FBLA was about, were invited to attend. Members watched a short video presentation about FBLA and future members were then sent on a "Human Scavenger Hunt" which included finding members with qualities such as, someone older than you, someone with the same hair color as you, ect. The future members then proceeded to eat ice cream and socialize about the upcoming year. The real scavenger hunt was postponed due to a tornado storm. The night came to a close with students waiting out the tornados in the storm shelter of the high school.

Any students interested in joining FBLA were encouraged to attend the first chapter meeting. Chapter meetings are held at Rossville High School during the school day, and only paid, active members are allowed to attend. However, at the first meeting, any student interested in finding out more about the organization was invited to observe. The first few meetings served to familiarize new and potential members with the organization and meet local chapter officers. The officer team was introduced and those in attendance were given a brief description of the opportunities available to them through FBLA during the coming school year. Officers also shared with chapter members the business conducted during the summer. The chapter acted on its regular business agenda to give attendees an idea on how meetings are conducted and a basic understanding of parliamentary procedure.



At the recruitment party there are so many fun things to do! Ice cream sundaes prove to be a big hit!

RECRUITMENT- CHAPTERS

Rossville’s local chapter contributed to chapter recruiting by corresponding with schools that currently do not have FBLA chapters. In all, the local chapter has contacted four area schools concerning the FBLA program, distributing general information about the organization and how to begin a local chapter. High schools contacted include Kinsley, Royal Valley, Silver Lake, and Garden Plain. St. Marys was urged to reactivate also. The Rossville FBLA Chapter is willing to assist any school wishing to begin a FBLA chapter by offering input on leadership and competition.

Professional Member. The Rossville chapter submitted the name of Celin Bock, a Program Manager at Intel in Portland, OR, as a lifetime member of the chapter's Professional division. As an alumnus of Rossville High and the University of Kansas, Mrs. Bock brings her expertise in the field of technology and computers to the local chapter by offering advice on new trends in business software. The chapter keeps in contact with Mrs. Bock through electronic mail.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Any Rossville High student interested in running for a local office is invited to do so in the spring of the previous school year. The adviser prepares a list of questions concerning important chapter issues to present to each candidate. After the questionnaires are returned, the adviser and current chapter officers then determine which office each candidate is best suited to obtain. Each current chapter member votes on the proposed slate of officers.

2004-2005 OFFICER TEAM

| Office Held | Name |
|----------------------|------------------|
| President | Brett Eakin |
| Executive VP | Matt Ebert |
| Vice President | Hailey Hoobler |
| Secretary | Gina Newsham |
| Treasurer | Kaleb Little |
| Reporter | Krystle Thompson |
| Historian | Ashley Shepard |
| Parliamentarian | Meg Guindon |
| Webmaster | Sheldon Newsham |
| Stuco Rep. | Andrew Howard |
| Stuco Rep. | Hannah Sharp |
| Senior Class Rep. | Adam Forman |
| Junior Class Rep. | Rachelle Brown |
| Sophomore Class Rep. | Marc Roth |
| Freshman Class Rep. | Laura Grace |
| Freshman Class Rep. | Lacy Hoobler |



**2004-2005 Rossville High
FBLA Chapter Officers**

Rossville High School Chapter President. Brett Eakin was elected as the Rossville High School Chapter President in the spring of 2004. Brett also served as Chapter President his junior year. His state winnings and state officer position as District III Vice President, made him eligible to attend the 2004 National Leadership Conference. Brett served on the Community Service Project last year, and is currently a chairperson of the Partnership with Business Project. FBLA has had such a tremendous impact on Brett's life, was eager to run for the position of State President his junior year, and now he holds this position. Brett is a great leader and shows his passion for this organization through his dedication and hard work.

Monthly Chapter and Officer Meetings. The chapter officers of Rossville High School believe strong leadership and communication skills are essential to the success of the chapter. Once a month the chapter officers and the chapter adviser, Mrs. Ernestine Gordon, meet to review the performance of the chapter, discuss future activities, and polish leadership skills. These meetings are vital to chapter management and are equally important to the development of leadership among the chapter officers. Regular officer meetings allow officers to gain experience in time management, communication, and teamwork.

In addition to monthly officer meetings, the Rossville High FBLA chapter holds a monthly meeting for all chapter members. The chapter meeting serves to keep members informed on activities within the chapter's governing body and provides an opportunity for members to share their input and participation on chapter affairs and business. Members are always welcome to become part of the meeting agenda and share any information.

Local Officer Training. Local officers begin chapter duties immediately following installation. An organizational meeting is held in the spring following the Annual FBLA Awards Night held at Rossville High School. The objective of this meeting is to discuss basic goals and plans for the coming year, plan a tentative meeting and event schedule, discuss the duties and implications of each office, and make arrangements to attend the Summer Leadership Seminar. Over the summer, in addition to attending the Summer Leadership Seminar, an exclusive officer meeting is held in which specific goals for the organization are outlined for the following year and committee heads and project chairpersons are designated.

Communication Used Within the Chapter. Krystle Thompson, Rossville High School Local Chapter Reported, published three issues of the *News Brief* to keep members informed of activities within the chapter. The issues were also part of the Newsletter competition for the 2005 State Leadership Conference.

Summer Leadership Seminar. This year chapter officers, Hailey Hoobler, Matt Ebert, Gina Newsham, Rachelle Brown, Krystle Thompson, Meg Guindon, Hannah Sharp, Brett Eakin, Sheldon Newsham, Ashley Shepard, and chapter adviser, Mrs. Gordon of Rossville High School's FBLA chapter attended the Summer Leadership Seminar in Manhattan as part of local officer training. The seminar was filled with leadership building activities so that the officers present could take ideas back to their schools. An example of one of the workshops available for participants to attend was "Interviewing Skills" which was led by Rossville's President State Officer, Brett Eakin and State Editor, Matt Ebert.

Officers' Responsibilities. Under the chapter management plan detailed later in this report, each of the 16 officers has a specific responsibility to fulfill during the school year. Each officer must participate in every chapter activity and are often assigned extra duties. In addition, five of the sixteen chapter officers serve as chairperson of a yearlong chapter project. Each officer also has the responsibility of acting as chairperson of one of the chapter's annual activities, such as parties or community events. Since the chapter is large and diverse, all chapter officers must demonstrate strong leadership at all times. The chapter has also found that by encouraging leadership opportunities and enthusiasm among members to hold leadership positions keeps this organization growing.

Any member has the opportunity to serve a leadership position in the local chapter. Rossville FBLA strives to encourage leadership by operating on a type of equal-opportunity leadership program. Any member is invited to serve as a head or member of a project committee, special event committee, or serve on the newspaper or scrapbook staff. All members are encouraged to run for local, state, and national offices or serve as a campaign staff member or manager.



First FBLA meeting for the 2004-2005 school year



Kansas State Editor. In Matt's campaign speech he quoted Vince Lombardi, saying that, "Individual commitment to a group effort - that is what makes a team work." Matt believes in this quote wholeheartedly and finally put it to the test this year as Kansas Future Business Leader of America State Editor. As State Editor, Matt's duties included keeping up-to-date information on the Kansas FBLA Website and producing quarterly state newsletters. These were just two of many responsibilities that make holding a State FBLA Office one to remember. Matt ran his campaign on the slogan "Ebert for Editor". Even though preparing materials for a state campaign can be quite extensive, it is one that Matt says he would do again if given the opportunity. From the beginning Matt started with a vision and feels that he has made steps to himself and KS FBLA with his contributions as State Editor. Matt enjoys the individuals that he has worked with, and the lifelong relations he will never break. Getting to work along side with State President Brett Eakin, also from Rossville has offered Matt the inside track to opportunities and experiences.



Kansas State President. The majority of Brett Eakin's time with Kansas FBLA is spent implementing the Program of Work. This is a list of goals that the state has established for the year. Some of those goals include organizing the Chapter Mentoring Program, increasing membership, expanding the Event Sponsorship Program, and promoting the FBLA organization. Brett presides over all Kansas FBLA State Executive Board Meetings and organizes most of the public relations activities. Brett's second campaign for state office was successful last March. The campaign emphasized his energy, character, and experience. The slogan chosen was "Takin' Eakin to the Top" with an American Idol themed booth. The biggest hit was during the conference when the karaoke machine drew voting delegates to the booth. Many people helped make the campaign a success and one of Brett's greatest FBLA memories. Brett credits the victory to his painted rocks that simply read, "Brett Rocks". These past two years have been life-changing for Brett. This opportunity has allowed Brett to grow as a leader and as a person. He has represented the Rossville Chapter with honor, dignity, and class.

Kansas State Officer Training (CTSO). On June 6-8, 2004, the Kansas FBLA State Officers from four Career and Technical Student Organizations attended a leadership-training seminar in McPherson, Kansas. Rhett Laubach led the workshop. Mr. Laubach taught the officers valuable skills as a leader such as: communication, teamwork, and using resources. Also, Mr. Laubach focused on the sense of teamwork and what standards each separate team of officers wanted to set. Brett Eakin, Kansas FBLA State President and Matt Ebert, Kansas FBLA State Editor attended the training. Meeting state officers from other organizations was a valuable tool. The activities Matt and Brett enjoyed most were the competitive team events. The Kansas State FBLA Officers had a chance to grow as a team. The entire two days came to a close with an executive board meeting.

PREPARATIONS FOR CAREERS IN BUSINESS

The Rossville High School FBLA Chapter has made a commitment to providing information about business careers and encouraging members to gain hands-on experience in the business world. The FBLA chapter believes that through providing opportunities for business preparation, members can be assured of successful futures in the business world.

Rossville Economic Development Committee. The Rossville FBLA Chapter appointed three members to join this special committee within the community. The committee meets monthly and is made up of area business leaders. The committee focuses on attracting new businesses to Rossville and making the town more inviting. This is a good experience for the FBLA members to converse and exchange ideas one-on-one with local business leaders and to share the information with the FBLA Chapter.

American Free Enterprise Day. November 30, 2004 nearly 50 members of the Rossville High School FBLA chapter went on an informative field trip for American Free Enterprise Day. This is a day established to remind Americans that we have the freedom to start our own businesses, run our own companies, enjoy lower prices through competition, and achieve a more productive economy. Members started the afternoon by eating lunch at the mall to celebrate the holiday time together, and then departed for Target's Distribution Center. The 1.3 million square foot building initially employs approximately 650 people, with several hundred team members to be added during the first five years of the facility's operation. The tour of the distribution center was very informative and interesting to learn about. The last stop of the trip was the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce. Members watched a presentation on how the Chamber of Commerce is trying to influence companies, like the Target Distribution Center, that Topeka has the best opportunities and location for them to relocate or establish their business. Members learned that Topeka has state-of-the-art fiber optic cables for the best banking, Internet, and networking opportunities.



Members at Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce

Part-Time Work. Many FBLA members get a head start in the business world through summer or part-time employment. Approximately 47 percent of the chapter members currently hold a part-time job. For example, when the local bank was in need of a part-time teller, the bank Vice-President contacted the Rossville High School FBLA Chapter Adviser to recommend a qualified member as an applicant. Members work at Sam's Club, Target, and other businesses in Topeka. In Rossville three members work at Doug's Pharmacy and Flowermart and two members work at Wehner's Grocery Store.

Business Classes. One of the best opportunities for students to prepare for a career in business is to take business classes in high school. Rossville High offers a wide variety of business classes instructed by Mrs. Gordon, the FBLA adviser, and Mr. Schwisow, another experienced business teacher. Some of the business classes offered at Rossville High School include Keyboarding, Formatting and Text Editing, Computer Applications I and II, Accounting I and II, Economics, International Business, Computer Technology, In-House Training, Business Publications, Personal Finance, and Desktop Publishing. All FBLA members are currently enrolled in at least one business course at Rossville High.



SERVICE TO SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

Service Project for Each Member. School and community loyalty are two major keys to success presently and in the future. All members are encouraged to take part in the service to the school and community that the Rossville FBLA Chapter annually provides. This year each member was required to submit a community and school service sheet, showing what service they offered to other community citizens.

FBLA members serve the school and community in the following ways:

- Serve on Student Council
- Qualify for National Honor Society
- Read to grade school students
- Serve as Teens As Teachers
- Serve on high school extra-curricular organizations
- Participate in high school athletics
- Create displays for showcases located in the school
- Serve as aides in the library, classrooms, or in the office
- Assist children at Santa's Workshop at the Annual Christmas Festival
- Prepare the Easter Egg Hunt at the Rossville Valley Manor
- Serve on the Rossville Economic Development Committee
- Create PowerPoint Presentations for community events.

COOPERATION WITH THE COMMUNITY

Topeka Rescue Mission. Throughout the month of December, the local FBLA chapter gathered paper, toiletry items, and other simple supplies to donate to the Rescue Mission. Chapter members felt that it was important to give to those in need.

Easter Egg Hunt. The FBLA chapter has been assisting Rossville Valley Manor in the annual Easter Egg Hunt held on the manor lawn for the past eleven years. Again, members were involved in hiding Easter eggs, supervising children, and assisting the event's guest of honor--the Easter Bunny!

Rossville Economic Development Committee. Three chapter members serve alongside nine community business leaders to help plan and carryout activities to improve the community of Rossville. Examples of the activities that the committee accomplished would be the Welcome Bags and the Rossville Welcome Signs as travelers enter the town.

Healthy Community Healthy Youth. Many FBLA members serve on the Healthy Community Healthy Youth organization in the Rossville community. They organize, with the help of the adult volunteers, many activities throughout the community for high school, junior high, and elementary students. The point of the organization is to build a strong youth program by providing activities to keep local youth involved.

Santa's Workshop. During Rossville's Community Christmas Festival eleven FBLA members helped at the Santa's Workshop held Saturday morning, December 11, 2004. Members helped children shop and wrap their presents for the holidays. Over 20 booths displayed crafts that were priced under five dollars. The workshop was open from 10 a.m.- 3 p.m.



**Allyson Porter, Ashley Heptig, and Brandi Gannon
volunteering at Santa's Workshop**

PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC RELATIONS ACTIVITIES

To create good public relations the Rossville FBLA Chapter uses the following media to promote the chapter's image in the community.

- Publish articles in four different newspapers and newsletters
- Promote activities through RCTV, a local television station in Rossville, and Topeka's television stations
- Serve on the Rossville Economic Development Committee
- Serve on Healthy Community Healthy Youth Committee
- Provide parents of athletes with sports picture buttons
- Invite community members to help run the District III Conference to observe the business skills members use to compete in competitive events
- Make presentations to community groups using skills learned in the multimedia event
- Contribute to National, Regional, State, and District website development

SUPPORT OF STATE AND NATIONAL PROJECTS

Active participation in state and national programs allows Rossville High School FBLA to take an active step in developing communication, organization, and confidence. All members were involved in challenging and exciting programs to develop strong business leadership.

FBLA Website Contributions. State Editor and Webmaster, Matt Ebert, works with the National Communications Adviser to keep the National FBLA website updated. State officers, Brett Eakin and Matt Ebert, submitted content to the Regional Mountain Plains website. Matt Ebert also worked with current state officers and advisers to update and develop the Kansas FBLA Website at www.ksfbla.org.

March of Dimes. Like other chapters, the Rossville FBLA chapter decided to raise money for the March of Dimes organization. On December 21, 2004, FBLA and Student Council co-sponsored a dance with proceeds contributed to March of Dimes. Also at the local level chapter officers sold bracelets to raise funds. At the State Leadership Conference Brett Eakin and Matt Ebert will work with the Southeast March of Dimes Representative to sell wristbands as Kansas's official March of Dimes Project. At the 2004 National Leadership Conference at Denver, Colorado Rossville FBLA attendees participated in the March of Dimes Walk America Rally.

FBLA-PBL Week. The Rossville High School FBLA Chapter celebrated FBLA-PBL Week on February 13-20, 2005. This week spotlights the benefits of membership development, community service, business education, competitive events, business integrity, and career development through school to work programs. During this celebration, FBLA chapters collaborate with state and local officials to declare FBLA-PBL Week through proclamations. The Rossville Chapter had many different activities scheduled throughout each day in celebration of FBLA-PBL Week. On Adviser Appreciation Day, flowers were sent to Mrs. Gordon, as a thank you for all of the hard work and time she contributes to this organization. A proclamation was published in the *St. Marys Star* by the Rossville City Mayor.



FBLA Quality Member Award. At the 2004 State Leadership Conference Gina Newsham, Matt Ebert, and Caitlin Alvarez were selected as Kansas FBLA Quality Member Award winners. To qualify for this award, participants must fill out application with specific requirements and write an essay of a given topic. Rossville FBLA is very proud that three of the ten winners chosen were from its own local chapter.



**FBLA Quality Member Award Winners:
Caitlin Alvarez, Matt Ebert, and Gina Newsham**

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

2004 State Leadership Conference. The competition, hands-on experience, and educational opportunities offered at all state and national conferences are essential to building strong successful leaders. The Rossville High School Future Business Leaders of America Chapter traveled to Topeka, Kansas on April 1st and 2nd to attend the 2004 FBLA State Leadership Conference. This year the theme of the conference was Lead, Achieve, Succeed. Rossville's 41 participants competed against 72 other chapters while carrying the chapter to third place in the Most Outstanding Chapter category. Thirteen members placed at the 2004 State Leadership Conference and eight Rossville FBLA members qualified to attend the 2004 National Leadership Conference in Denver, Colorado. The Rossville chapter had two members who ran for a state office position, Brett Eakin was elected State President and Matt Ebert was elected State Editor.

Summer Leadership Seminar. This year the Summer Leadership Seminar was held in Manhattan. Officers Hailey Hoobler, Meg Guindon, Matt Ebert, Krystle Thompson, Sheldon Newsham, Ashley Shepard, Hannah Sharp, Rachelle Brown, Gina Newsham, Brett Eakin, and Chapter Adviser Ernestine Gordon represented the Rossville FBLA chapter at the seminar. The summer leadership seminar for the Rossville High School chapter was a new experience compared to the past years. It was unique, because two of the Rossville High local members Brett Eakin and Matt Ebert held office of State President and State Editor. After the workshop activities, a fun time was planned with a talent show for all State Leadership Seminar participants.

National Leadership Conference. The 2004 National Leadership Conference was in Denver, Colorado. Eight Rossville chapter members attended the National Leadership Conference on July 9-17, 2004. The RHS participants traveled on a charter bus with two other Kansas FBLA schools. The conference was held at the Denver Convention Center. Rossville delegates and their adviser attended general sessions, regional meetings, workshops, event performances, a state meeting, and the March of Dimes Walk America Rally. There were also numerous fund raiser exhibits and campaign booths to visit. The opening session featured a keynote speaker, Eric Chester, who inspires teen audiences with presentations that are challenging and encouraging. At the awards program the Emerging Business Issues Team of Nathan Miller and Tom Gorman, were presented a fifth place trophy. A dance with proceeds donated to the March of Dimes followed the formal awards program. The National Leadership Conference was not only a great opportunity for the participants to challenge themselves but to do things they never experienced. The members had fun through sightseeing, going to a Colorado Rockies baseball game, touring, shopping, and eating out.

Attendees: Matt Ebert, Nathan Miller, Kaleb Little, Tom Gorman, Brett Eakin, Hailey Hoobler, Meg Guindon, Gina Newsham, Mrs. Ernestine Gordon



2004 National Fall Leadership Conference. Brett Eakin, Matt Ebert, Andrew Howard, and Sheldon Newsham, officers of the Rossville FBLA Chapter, and their adviser, Mrs. Gordon, traveled to Omaha, Nebraska on November 5, 2004 to attend the National Fall Leadership Conference. NFLC is a two-day conference that focuses on leadership development, preparation for competitive events, net working with members from other states, and sharing ideas for fundraising, community service, and chapter activities. The Rossville officers joined with Hartford, Olpe, and Burlington for the three hours ride by a chartered bus. Brett Eakin, State President and Matt Ebert, State Editor were presenters of one of the workshops offered. The other local officers attending went to many other workshops and listened to keynote speakers.



2005 District III Conference. The 2005 District III Conference was held at Jackson Heights High School on January 26, 2005. There was an opening session in which State President, Brett Eakin, presented a welcome speech. The candidate for the 2005-2006 District III Vice President was introduced. Following opening session, this busy day was filled with, tests, interviews, speeches, and presentations. When the day was completed and the Rossville chapter departed to school to have a chapter meeting. The Rossville High School Chapter received first place, which is currently the 15th plaque from the District Conference for the Rossville High School Chapter to win. 41 Rossville local chapter members qualified for the State Leadership Conference held on March 31 and April 1, 2005, by placing in the top ten of each event.



Ashley Ingwerson, Hannah Sharp, and Andrew Howard preparing to compete in the Vocabulary Relay at the 2005 District III Conference