

FBLA BYLAWS
FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS OF AMERICA-PHI BETA LAMBDA, INC.

ARTICLE I
Name

Section 1. The name of this division of FBLA-PBL shall be "Future Business Leaders of America" and may be referred to as "FBLA."

ARTICLE II
Purpose

Section 1. The purpose of FBLA is to provide, as an integral part of the instructional program, additional opportunities for secondary students (grades 9–12) in business and/or business-related fields to develop vocational and career supportive competencies and to promote civic and personal responsibilities.

Section 2. The specific goals of FBLA are to:

- develop competent, aggressive business leadership;
- strengthen the confidence of students in themselves and their work;
- create more interest in and understanding of American business enterprise;
- encourage members in the development of individual projects which contribute to the improvement of home, business, and community;
- develop character, prepare for useful citizenship, and foster patriotism;
- encourage and practice efficient money management;
- encourage scholarship and promote school loyalty;
- assist students in the establishment of occupational goals; and
- facilitate the transition from school to work.

ARTICLE III
Membership

Section 1. FBLA membership shall consist of members of chartered local chapters. These members shall hold membership in their state and national chapters. Individual members shall be recognized only through a state chapter of FBLA except that, in the case where there is no state chapter, the member shall be recognized by the national office.

Section 2. National FBLA, as well as the state and local chapters, shall be open for membership to these classes of members:

- *Active Members* shall be secondary students who become members while enrolled in business and/or business-related fields, who accept the purpose of FBLA, subscribe to its creed, demonstrate willingness to contribute to good school-community relations, and possess qualities for employment. Active members shall pay dues as established by FBLA and may participate in national events, in accordance with the guidelines of the National Awards Program, serve as voting delegates to the National Leadership Conference, hold national office in accordance with Article VI, and otherwise represent their state and local chapters as approved by their respective state and local advisers.
- *Professional Members* shall be persons associated with or participating in the professional development of FBLA as approved by state chapters. Such members may include local and state chapter advisers, business teachers, business teacher educators, state supervisors of business and office education, employers or supervisors of cooperative work-training students, advisory council members,

- businesspersons, and other persons contributing to the growth and development of FBLA. Professional members shall pay dues as established by FBLA; but shall not participate in events, serve as voting delegates, or hold office.
- *Honorary Life Members* may be elected to a state or local chapter by a majority vote. They shall be persons who are assisting in the advancement of business and office education and/or who are rendering outstanding service to FBLA-PBL. Honorary Life members shall not vote or hold office and shall not be required to pay dues.
- *National Honorary Life Members* may be recommended by the membership and shall be accepted upon approval by the board of directors of FBLA-PBL. They shall be persons making significant contributions to the field of business and office education and/or to the growth and development of FBLA-PBL. National Honorary Life members shall not vote or hold office and shall not be required to pay dues.

**ARTICLE IV
Dues and Finance**

- Section 1. National dues based on fiscal reports by the national center, and on recommendation by the national executive council and the board of directors, shall be determined by a majority vote of the state voting delegates at the National Leadership Conference. National dues of members shall be forwarded directly to the FBLA national office or shall be submitted through state chapters at the discretion of the state chapter.
- Section 2. Annual dues from 1990 through 1993 shall be \$5.00. Annual dues from 1994 until reconsidered shall be \$6.00.
- Section 3. The affairs and property of FBLA shall be managed by the board of directors, which shall have the powers and duties of a board of directors, according to the current D.C. Code.
- Section 4. The association president and chief executive officer shall administer all FBLA finances, submit an annual budget to the board of directors for approval, and provide the board of directors and members with an annual audit.
- Section 5. The fiscal year of the Future Business Leaders of America shall be August 1 through July 31.

**ARTICLE V
Organization**

- Section 1. FBLA shall be an association of state and local chapters, each operating in accordance with a charter granted by FBLA-PBL. Only chapters that have received charters and numbers issued by FBLA-PBL and that are currently in good standing, shall be referred to as "Future Business Leaders of America" or "FBLA."
- Section 2. The board of directors of FBLA-PBL shall serve as the policymaking body of this organization and derives its authority from the Articles of Incorporation of FBLA-PBL and the laws of the District of Columbia. It may be referred to as the board of directors. Members of the board of directors shall be nominated by state chairmen and elected by the local FBLA-PBL chapters of their respective regions for three-year terms in accordance with the nominating and voting procedures determined by the board of directors.
- Section 3. The administration of FBLA shall be vested in the association president and

chief executive officer of FBLA-PBL.

Section 4. There shall be a national executive council, which shall make recommendations to the board of directors and perform other duties as prescribed in these bylaws.

Section 5. There shall be five administrative regions.

- The *Eastern Region* consists of Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, DoDDS-E (Europe), Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Virgin Islands.
- The *Southern Region* consists of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.
- The *North Central Region* consists of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin.
- The *Mountain Plains Region* consists of Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming.
- The *Western Region* consists of Alaska, Arizona, California, Canal Zone, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

Section 6. State chapter charters shall be issued upon approval of the board of directors. A state chapter shall have at least five local chapters with all members holding national membership in FBLA and hold one annual meeting to elect state officers and conduct business in order to qualify for a charter. Each state chapter shall have a state committee composed of professional educators in the areas of business and office occupations.

Section 7. A state committee chairman shall be recommended by the association president and chief executive officer and approved by the board of directors.

Section 8. Each local chapter shall have an adviser who shall be a faculty member who believes in the mission and goals of the association. A local chapter may have as many special-emphasis groups under the chapter charter as it deems necessary to meet the interests of all students. The local chapter of FBLA shall assume full responsibility for coordinating the program for these interest groups.

ARTICLE VI Officers and Elections

Section 1. National Officers. The national elected officers of FBLA shall be a president, five vice presidents representing the respective regions, a secretary, and a treasurer. The parliamentarian shall be an appointed national officer.

Section 2. Qualifications for National Office.

- A. Only active members are eligible to hold national office.
- B. Only those applicants who are present at the National Leadership Conference and officially certified by the officer screening committee shall be eligible for nomination.
- C. To be considered for an office in FBLA, a candidate shall:
 1. Have at least one full year remaining in his/her business program.
 2. Hold or have held an elective office in his/her local or state chapter.
 3. Be recommended by the chapter advisers and endorsed by his/her local and state chapters.
 4. File an official application with the association president and chief executive officer at FBLA-PBL by May 15.
 - a. If no state chapter submits an applicant for a particular office by the

May 15 deadline, then the deadline for the particular office shall be extended to June 15.

- b. Applicants for national office who become candidates for office as of the second deadline shall have to prepare a campaign for office like all other candidates, including a requirement to pass the officer screening committee and caucus in state chapter meetings.
- c. If no candidates are submitted for a particular office by the first or second deadline, then candidates may apply for office at the National Leadership Conference and shall comply with all guidelines that other candidates comply with during the conference.

Section 3. Nominations.

- A. The president, secretary, and treasurer shall be nominated by a state chapter at a general session of the National Leadership Conference. The national vice presidents representing the regions shall be nominated by a state chapter at their respective regional meetings at the National Leadership Conference.
- B. Only candidates approved by the officer screening committee shall be nominated.

Section 4. Elections.

- A. The president, secretary, and treasurer shall be elected annually at a general session of the National Leadership Conference by the state voting delegates. The national vice presidents representing the regions shall be elected annually at their respective regional meetings at the National Leadership Conference by the local voting delegates of the respective regions.
- B. The president, secretary, and treasurer shall be elected by a ranked ballot vote of the state voting delegates. The national vice presidents shall be elected by a ranked ballot vote by the local voting delegates of respective regions. A majority vote shall be required for elections.
- C. No two national officers shall be elected from the same state chapter.

Section 5. Nominations. Term of Office. National officers shall be elected for one year or until their successors are elected or appointed, and their term of office shall begin at the close of the National Leadership Conference at which they were selected.

Section 6. Vacancy in Office. A vacancy in any office, other than that of president, shall be filled by appointment by the president with the approval of the president's region shall automatically become president.

Section 7. Appointment of Parliamentarian. The person scoring highest on the Parliamentary Procedure written test shall be appointed by the incoming national president to serve as parliamentarian. This individual shall have at least one year remaining before being graduated from a secondary school.

ARTICLE VII
Duties of FBLA National Officers

Section 1. The president shall:

- A. serve as chairman of the national executive council;
- B. preside over the council meetings and business meetings of FBLA;
- C. serve as a member of the board of directors;
- D. appoint appropriate committees and committee chairmen;
- E. serve as an ex-officio, nonvoting member of all committees;
- F. appoint the parliamentarian; and
- G. perform other duties for the promotion and development of local, state, and national FBLA.

- Section 2. The vice presidents shall:
- A. assist the president in the promotion and development of FBLA in the regions that elected them;
 - B. assist in planning Regional Leadership Conferences; and
 - C. preside at regional meetings at the National Leadership Conference.
- Section 3. The secretary shall:
- A. keep an accurate record of all business meetings of the National Leadership Conference and the national executive council;
 - B. supply promptly at least one copy of the minutes and substantiating reports to the FBLA president and the association president and chief executive officer; and
 - C. initiate communication with state officers to promote quality articles for national publications.
- Section 4. The treasurer shall:
- A. assist the national office in keeping an accurate record of national officer travel expenses and disbursements, and in planning national officer travel; and
 - B. present an annual financial report to members at the National Leadership Conference.
- Section 5. The parliamentarian shall:
- A. advise the president of the orderly conduct of business in accordance with FBLA bylaws and Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised;
 - B. shall initiate communication with his/her state counterparts to promote expansion of parliamentary knowledge and awareness; and
 - C. serves as an ex-officio member of the national executive council.
- Section 6. These officers shall serve on the national executive council, perform the duties prescribed in these bylaws, and perform such other duties as are directed by the FBLA president and the association president and chief executive officer and the board of directors and not inconsistent with these bylaws or other rules adopted by FBLA.

ARTICLE VIII
National Leadership Conference

- Section 1. A National Leadership Conference shall be held each year. A date and location will be recommended by national staff and approved by the board of directors.
- Section 2. Each state chapter in good standing shall be entitled to send two voting delegates and one alternate from its active membership to the National Leadership Conference.
- Section 3. Each local chapter in good standing shall be entitled to send from its active membership, two to four local voting delegates and one alternate for each voting delegate to the National Leadership Conference in accordance with the following:
- Under 50 members—two voting delegates.
 - 50–100 members—three voting delegates.
 - Over 100 members—four voting delegates.
- Section 4. All voting delegates of local and state chapters shall be officially certified by their respective advisers and their names submitted to the national

office postmarked no later than 20 days prior to the National Leadership Conference.

Section 5. Voting. State voting delegates shall be entitled to vote on all matters that come before the general session. Local voting delegates shall be entitled to vote on all matters that come before the regional meetings. There shall be no proxy voting.

Section 6. Quorum. The quorum for all business meetings of the National Leadership Conference shall be a majority of the registered voting delegates.

ARTICLE IX National Executive Council

Section 1. The national officers of FBLA shall, with the ex-officio, nonvoting members, constitute the national executive council. The chairman of the board of directors, the association president and chief executive officer, and a state committee person for each national officer shall be ex-officio, nonvoting members.

Section 2. Duties. The National Executive Council shall:

- A. adopt policies of operation of FBLA as deemed necessary, by a three-fourths vote subject to the approval of the board of directors;
- B. approve committee appointments and the creation of new committees by the president;
- C. approve appointments by the president to fill vacancies in office;
- D. review all proposed amendments to the bylaws;
- E. present to the voting delegates at the National Leadership Conference, with recommendations, those proposed amendments approved by the board of directors; and
- F. perform such other duties as are prescribed by these bylaws.

Section 3. Meetings. Meetings shall be called by the president, or upon the written request of three voting members of the national executive council, upon approval by the association president and chief executive officer.

Section 4. Voting by Mail. Business of the national executive council may be conducted by mail at the discretion of the FBLA president upon the approval by the association president and chief executive officer. For adoption, action by mail shall require a three-fourths vote of the members eligible to vote, and shall be recorded in the minutes of the next regular meeting.

ARTICLE X Committees

Section 1. Advisory committees to assist in the growth and development of FBLA may be appointed as deemed necessary by the board of directors. Recommendations of persons for such appointments shall be requested of state chapters.

Section 2. Local and state chapters may select advisory committees to assist in the growth and development of their respective chapters.

Section 3. The president of FBLA shall, with the approval of the national executive council, establish committees, appoint their members for a period not to exceed his/her term in office, and assist these committees in their activities.

- Section 4. An officer screening committee, composed of national officers and board members, shall be appointed by the FBLA president in consultation with the association president and chief executive officer. The officer screening committee shall, after careful consideration of applicants for officers of FBLA, approve candidates for nomination.
- Section 5. Committee business may be conducted by mail at the discretion of the chairman. For adoption, action by mail shall require a majority vote of the members eligible to vote and shall be reported to the committee members not later than the next regular meeting.

ARTICLE XI Emblem and Colors

- Section 1. The official emblem and insignia item designs are described and protected from infringement by registration in the U.S. Patent Office under the Trademark Act of 1946. The manufacture, reproduction, wearing, or display of the emblem shall be governed by the board of directors.
- Section 2. Emblems and insignia shall be uniform in all local and state chapters and within special-emphasis groups: they shall be those of FBLA. Only members in good standing may use official emblems and insignia.
- Section 3. The official colors of FBLA shall be blue and gold.

ARTICLE XII Parliamentary Procedure

- Section 1. The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern FBLA in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the rules of FBLA-PBL, these bylaws, or any special rules of order the FBLA may adopt.

ARTICLE XIII Amendment

- Section 1. Proposed amendments to these bylaws shall be submitted in writing by local or state chapters or by a national officer to the association president and chief executive officer no later than April 1. The proposed amendments shall be submitted for review to the division president and the bylaws committee of the board of directors by April 15. Proposed amendments approved by the bylaws committee shall be returned to the association president and chief executive officer by May 1. Each state chapter will be sent copies of the approved amendments by May 15. The national executive council shall present approved proposed amendments with recommendations to the state voting delegates at the National Leadership Conference. A two-thirds vote of the state-voting delegates present and voting at the National Leadership Conference is required for adoption.
- Section 2. The president and chief executive officer of FBLA-PBL shall be authorized to revise these bylaws to correct punctuation, grammar, cross- references, article and section designations, and to make such other technical changes as may be necessary, where these changes shall be minor in detail and shall not alter the meaning or intent of the bylaws. Notice of changes made under this authority shall be communicated in writing to the PBL national executive council, the board of directors, and to the state committees within 30 days.

Adopted: July 1, 1969
Amended: December 1988
Amended: July 8, 1989
Amended: April 1997
Amended: January 1999
Amended: July 3, 1999
Amended: June 28, 2002
Amended: June 28, 2005
Amended: July 2, 2016
Amended: May 6, 2019
Amended: July 2, 2021
Amended: March 24, 2022