



## Ultimate E-NEWS

*Sponsored by NYS FCCLA and NYSAFCSE*

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### Message to our members:

It is often very hard to explain what FCCLA is in just a matter of sentences, since FCCLA has such a wide range of opportunities, program's, and competitions. When you become a member or advisor you are guaranteed to gain leadership skills for a better future with the experiences that FCCLA provides. Our organization is always looking to increase membership, to share the opportunities provided by FCCLA, which include: STAR Events competition, a variety of leadership conferences, many National programs, a chance to meet new people, and develop skills that you will have and use throughout your lifetime, and so much more. As the only national student run organization with family as its central focus I encourage you to become more involved in FCCLA, and help increase membership. FCCLA currently has more than 220,000 members with nearly 7,000 chapters across the USA. The organization has involved more than 10 million youth since its founding in 1945. FCCLA has affected the lives of so many people in a positive way and will continue to do so with the help of advisors, alumni, and members!

Caroline Spink, NYS President

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School is just around the corner and summer is coming to a close but that doesn't mean the fun we've had this summer with FCCLA has to end as well. Going to Chicago and finding our inner stardom at Summer Leadership have hopefully left you with some great ideas to take back to your chapters. This past year, New York increased in membership so let's keep the momentum going. As a state we should have a goal of increasing membership. What if we all increased our chapters by 5 members, imagine how large of a statewide increase that could be! Each chapter adviser should be getting the 2010-2011 Membership Kit so we can start the school year off with a bang. You may be saying, "I want to increase FCCLA awareness in

my school, but I'm not sure how to approach it." I would say hang up flyers inviting people to your first meeting, ask your administration if you can have an assembly, or even start a Facebook page. There are many ideas similar to these and many more on the CD you will receive in your membership kits.

While we work towards gaining members we should also work to keep our current members. Many members are in FCCLA all throughout high school so I feel we should celebrate senior members, after all their work with the organization. Maybe you could hold an all senior member meeting and tell them of all the great things that FCCLA has for them even after they graduate. Or have them talk to new/prospective members and tell them of their experiences with FCCLA. And even reward them for their many achievements.

Remember, goals are the fuel in the furnace of achievement. So set goals for your chapters and districts and these achievements will get recognized. If you would like to share ideas or have any questions for me, you can e-mail me at [b.vennard23@yahoo.com](mailto:b.vennard23@yahoo.com)

Briana Vennard  
2010-2011 NYSFCCLA  
Membership/  
Alumni and Associates officer

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Cat's Corner-

#### **How to Pick a Theme:**

Whether you're working on a theme for a chapter, district, state, or even national meeting, there are many things you have to take into consideration. The first thing that you should think about is; Does your theme idea appeal to everyone? Would all boys enjoy a princess theme? FCCLA has members of many religions, ethnicities, and life styles. And this should be kept in mind when picking a theme.

Next you should think about how practical is your theme? Will you be able to find decorations that will make people more willing to attend your meeting? For some themes they may be harder to find activities and games that match the

theme. This however doesn't mean you shouldn't do a theme because it is more of a challenge.

If your brain dead on a new theme always look at the surroundings of the time of year and always look back to FCCLA because there is always a theme to be found there. Look back into past state meeting themes and you can use them, or use innovation to bring a new twist to it to make it into something new! Use seasons to your advantage also, be careful of holidays because remember not everyone celebrates Christmas or Easter.

When picking a theme always remember you want to make it fun so people will want to attend your meeting and so they will want to attend your next one. Themes can make or break whether or not members want to come back. And truly if your brain is stopped always turn back to FCCLA, for example this year National conference revolved around the 65 years of Leadership that FCCLA has offered its members.

Cathrine Nelson

2010-2011 New York State FCCLA Secretary/ Voting Delegate

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#### Community Service....Get it Done and Have Fun!

At Summer Leadership, I was given the opportunity to present a workshop on Community Service. At the workshop (Making the World a Better Place with Community Service), I discussed many projects that could be done with your chapter. My plan is that by reading this, you will have many ideas to begin a community service project. Your chapter can start simple. For example, go to the park and pick up litter or plant multiple trees where there are very few. If your chapter is a little bit larger, then you might want to go with a more in depth of a project. For example, you may want to coordinate with a variety of groups and plan a community wide cleanup day. You could also form a council to address the ongoing cleanup issues in your community.

Always remember, you will get recognized for your project at the state level and maybe even at the National Leadership Conference IF you fill out the application on the National FCCLA website: [www.fcclainc.org](http://www.fcclainc.org). If you fill out this application by March 1, 2011, you could be in the running to win \$1,000 for your chapter! With that said, don't you want to run out and start doing community service, now?

Kayla Grey

2010-2011 Communications Officer

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Hey guys, it's me, Gabby Marriott again! As public relations officer, I want to know what you'd like to see at our state meeting on March 30<sup>th</sup> through April 2<sup>nd</sup>, to make it the best state meeting you've had yet! This year, my council and I are working hard to make sure you have a great time, and learn a lot that you can take back to your chapter. Anyone who is planning on, or contemplating to compete in STAR Events this year, there is a manual on the national website to help you with the guidelines. For those of you who want to attend one of the cluster meetings, there will be three; one in Charlotte, NC, one in Albuquerque, NM, and one in St. Louis, MO. Rates and information on the cluster meetings can be found on the national website. Don't forget that the state project this year is the Children's Miracle Network. Fundraisers for this could be a root beer float sale, a school competition in raising money, or a car wash. The possibilities are endless! To be recognized for this, your chapter needs to fill out the New York State Reporting Form found on the state website. The form is due March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011. I recommend that a representative that attended Summer Leadership in July should report back to your chapter and district. Even though not everyone attended, you can still learn about the skills that were applied at Summer Leadership. Attending meetings within your chapter and district is key to being an involved, successful member. With school just around the corner, please remind your school administrators about dates of important meetings, as they may wish to attend. Also, I know many of you play at least one sport, so try to avoid conflict in your schedule, and if two or more events are going on at once, you should try to work around it. Even though FCCLA is a very important part in our lives, you need to focus on academics before doing anything else. I'd like to remind everyone that appearance is important when you are at meetings. As you all should know, FCCLA's main focus is family, and to keep ourselves looking family-friendly, I suggest dressing conservatively (dress to the knee, no deep necks, dress shirt and shoes, etc.). If you would like to chat with me about STAR Event help, fundraising ideas, or any other questions you have, you can contact me at [GMarriottFCCLA@aol.com](mailto:GMarriottFCCLA@aol.com). Thanks guys!

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#### From our Coordinator: Karen Thomas

- It is not too early to see what will be happening in March at the NYS FCCLA meeting. Please go to [www.nysfccla.org](http://www.nysfccla.org) to learn more about our keynote speaker scheduled for the state meeting.
- Advisors are you ready to begin your Advisor Mentor and Master Advisor Award applications. Please contact Mrs. Thomas and then your Advising Coach will be assigned to make the job easy! Please sign up as soon as possible. The application is broken into short weekly assignments. All you have to do is respond to a weekly email from your coach.

- FALL PLANNING Meeting is in Syracuse. All registration materials are on the website.
- STAR Event winners are attached as a separate document for everyone to view. Congratulate your local winners as well.
- Have a great start to another wonderful school year. Begin by affiliating your FCCLA during the first two months!



Officers at Summer Leadership show students how to develop leadership skills and have fun at the same time!



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