

ALABAMA CHAPTER OF FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS OF AMERICA

Alabama has a current population of 4,447,100 and over 75,000 students are enrolled in commerce and information technology education classes throughout the state. The Alabama State Chapter of Future Business Leaders of America has just completed its 64th year as an organized unit.

In 1948, Guntersville, Alabama, became the site of the first Alabama FBLA chartered chapter. In recognition of the importance of student organizations to career preparation, the Director of Career and Technical Education promoted FBLA through business education programs. During the last 64 years, Alabama FBLA has grown into a successful student organization.

The first Alabama State Conference was held in 1951. The purpose of the conference was to become organized to take steps to receive a state charter. On May 21, 1952, Alabama received its state charter and began the activities of Alabama FBLA.

Beginning in 1952, Ms. Lucille Branscomb, instructor at Jacksonville State University, served as state chairman. Dr. Eva Carr served in this position from 1966-1972. Dr. Sandra Yelverton assumed the position in September of 1972 until 2001. Ms. LaHolme McClendon became the state adviser of FBLA, along with her duties as district specialist, in 1966 and continued through 1972. The first full-time executive secretary of the organization was Ms. Anita Petrie, who served for 16 years. Beginning in 1989, Mary Tindel; and in 1991, Wondal Shellhorse served as district specialist and executive secretary. From 1993 to 1996, Dr. Melinda Maddox was the state adviser. Mrs. Paggie McSpadden served as state adviser from 1996 to 2001 and as state chair from 2001 to 2009. Mrs. Lisa Weeks serves as the current Alabama FBLA state adviser. Alabama is divided into six districts. There are eight state officers, which include a president, secretary, and a vice president from each district.

The state association is located in the Career and Technical Education section of the State Department of Education in Montgomery, Alabama. The FBLA State Executive Council is made up of the state officers and their local advisers, the state chairperson, and the state adviser.

For 64 years, the Alabama State Chapter of Future Business Leaders of America has worked to provide secondary education students with the motivation, guidance, and knowledge for the transition from the classroom to the business world. The students are trained through many activities. Conferences are held in which the students may compete and attend workshops to further their leadership and business skills. For many members, Alabama FBLA is an integral part in the transition.

Alabama FBLA has been active on the national level. Several candidates have run for national office. Alabama has been represented at the national level five times. Dr. Eva Carr served on the FBLA National Board of Directors from 1970-1972. For the 1975-1976 year, Denise Holland served as National FBLA secretary. Dr. Sandra Yelverton completed a three-year term as a national board member for 1998-2000 and as board chair in 1999. Mrs. Paggie McSpadden served on the national board from 2002-2006, and served as national chair in 2003. Mrs. Lisa Weeks served on the national board of directors from 2010 – 2012. Ms. Weeks served as board chair in 2010-2011. Mrs. Lisa Weeks was re-elected to the National Board of Directors again in 2015 and as chair-elect for 2015-2016. Miss Alexis Crane, Saraland High School, was elected as the Southern Region Vice President for 2015-2016.