

November Newsletter 2013



Fall Conference Follow Up

Fall Conference 2013 was a HUGE success! We had wonderful speakers, great attendance, and best of all, a lot of fun! With the positive feedback we received after the conference was over, we know Iowa BPA is off to a great year! Please follow us on Twitter @IowaBPA or like our page on Facebook at Iowa BPA!

Save the Date!

Spring
Conference
Secondary
February 23-25

Spring
Conference
Post-Secondary
February 24-25

Nationals 2014
April 30-May 4

Contact Information

President: Arijan Alagic
Email: alagic27@gmail.com

Vice-President: Erin Taber
Email: ektaber@gmail.com

Marketing VP: Raven Morris
Email: morris.raven@yahoo.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Scott Hastings
Email: scott_hastings12@yahoo.com

Reporter: Maddie Kleese
Email: m.kleese981@gmail.com

Parliamentarian: Katy Wellington
Email: katywellington96@gmail.com

Greetings From President Double A

Welcome back BPA. Thank you to all of you for helping make the start of our year a success. We hope you were able to utilize FLC to enhance your leadership skills, meet new people, and get a taste of what BPA has to offer. Just because the conference has passed doesn't mean you should let your involvement with BPA reduce. We are just a few days away from our first statewide chapter social week, November 18-22. Take this opportunity and build better relations within your chapter. Do something together! Take pictures during your event, and send them to the officer team so we may post them on Facebook. We are looking forward to hearing how your activities went. In addition, our planning for SLC has just begun! We aim to please so if you have any suggestions, we are always available and willing to listen.

BPA presents each of us a world of opportunities. Use this to your advantage and make the most of everything that is in front of you. Let your actions better yourself, your chapter, and your community. All the different things we are able to do as members are truly unique. For those of you who want to develop your skills while giving back to BPA in the process, you should consider running for state office. It is one of the most beneficial and rewarding experiences you can have in BPA. Whether it be leading from the front by becoming an officer, or being a leader within your own chapter, take the initiative. BPA will take you as far as you want it to, as long as you are willing to do the work. The quality of leaders are reflected in the standards they set for themselves. Aim high in your goals and don't let anything stop you from reaching them.

T-Shirt Design Contest

**Katy Wellington
Parliamentarian**

Do you want to design Iowa BPA's t-shirt? Well you can! Design the front or the back of the shirt and submit it! Your teacher should have all the details on the requirements for the shirts! What do you get if you win the contest? Your design gets to be on everyone's shirts at National Leadership Conference! The deadline is December 1st. Make sure you submit your design on or before that! Have fun designing!!

Chapters Giving Back

**Maddie Kleese
Reporter**

As we all know, the holidays are just around the corner. This holiday season, the Iowa BPA officer team challenges you to go out of your way to do a service project. It can be anything from donating food to ringing the Salvation Army bells. This would be a great way to spend your chapter social week that is coming up, November 18-22! Make sure you tell the officer team all the awesome things you are doing to help your community this season.

State Leadership Conference

**Scott Hastings
Secretary/Treasurer**

Let's get down to the real reason we are all in BPA--to win medals. Jokes aside, BPA offers a wide variety of competitive events. With 68 events to choose from, there really is something for everyone.

The events are broken down by content into five different categories: finance, business administration, management information systems, digital communication and design, and finally management, marketing and communication. These five categories can further be broken down into individual, team, and open events. When determining what competitions you want to do, decide what you are really good at like speaking, typing, math, conflict resolution, or design. Then find a competition where you can utilize that skill.

Step out of your comfort zone. Pick one competition that you would not normally see yourself doing, and try it. You may just discover a new skill or interest. If after districts that event is just not your thing, then you do not have to compete in it again at the State Leadership Conference.

Finally, be sure to compete in as many open events as you can. Open events are competitions that are just a simple multiple choice test, and there is no limit to how many you can take. Whether you think you are good at them or not, take them anyway. It is a pretty sweet feeling when you find out you placed in an open test that you thought you knew nothing about.

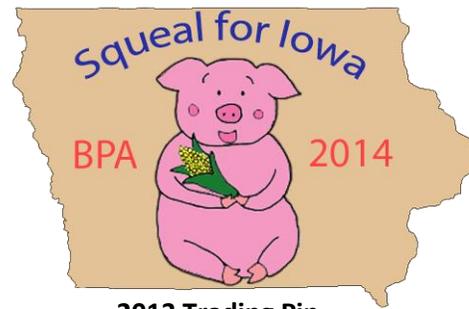
Surprises are nice, but it is even nicer when you actually spend a lot of time studying and preparing for your event and then you are rewarded with some hardware and qualify for nationals. There are a lot of resources out there to help you prepare for your event. The number one resource there is out there is your BPA advisor. Your advisor teaches business. That is a pretty good qualification right there. That does not mean he/she knows all the answers or can help you 100% of the time, but your advisor is a good resource for help.

Also, be sure to take advantage of the BPA website, bpa.org. The website provides information about the format and requirements for each event in the WSAP download center. Finally, know that the amount of work you put into your events relates to the rewards you reap. If you do not spend much time preparing, do not be surprised when there is not a place for you on the stage.

Trading Pin Contest

Congratulations to **Ashley Clendennen** of the Waterloo West chapter for designing this year's Iowa BPA trading pin! Your state officers chose Squeal for Iowa for Iowa's 2013-2014 trading pin.

Pins will be available for your purchase at State Leadership Conference.



2013 Trading Pin

Give the Gift of Your Time

Erin Taber

Vice-President

We often take for granted what we have during the holidays, so consider helping someone less fortunate this holiday season. Your efforts can truly make a difference in the lives of others. Everyone is in the spirit of giving so why not give back to the community, and earn Torch Award points in the process? One easy way to give back and get everyone in the chapter involved is by organizing a chapter service project.

Some ideas include (but are not limited to):

- Helping at a soup kitchen or homeless shelter
- "Adopting" an underprivileged family in your community for Christmas
- Volunteering for the Salvation Army-- packing presents or ringing bells
- Fundraising money for any charitable organization such as Special Olympics or the Ronald McDonald House
- "Adopting a US Solider" by sending care packages overseas

Any of these events can be categorized in the Service Category, Activity 216, and is worth 10 points.

Remember that earning enough Torch Award points in each category can earn you a trip to the National Leadership Conference in Indianapolis in late April, early May! Be sure to log all points earned in your online resume at BPA.org.

Happy Holidays!

Social Networking

Raven Morris

Marketing Vice-President

Social networking is a part of most of our daily lives. To better serve the members, our BPA officer team has created both Facebook and Twitter accounts for our Iowa chapter. The accounts will contain information on upcoming events (i.e. Chapter Social Week and Spring Conference), upcoming national events (i.e. National Leadership Conference), information on different parts of BPA, and occasionally fun contests and give aways.

These accounts will also provide us a way to personally keep in contact with all of you. You can send us questions or thoughts that you have about BPA. We will be ecstatic to answer them and listen to your ideas. We want to be in touch with you, so connect with us today!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BPAIowa>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/IowaBPA>

We also encourage you to send us pictures of your chapter's Social week. These pictures will be put on Facebook, Twitter and our website. Please send these pictures to morris.raven@yahoo.com. Have fun, be creative. Capture those memories, snap those pictures!

