

# DECA Times

September Issue

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## Running For State Office

By Ginger Hansen

When I was a freshman at the DECA state conference in 2005, I looked up at the state president and thought, "Is he even in high school? I wonder what he feels like right now, standing in front of hundreds of people." Never once did I consider running for state office that year—it simply didn't cross my mind. The next year, when I was a sophomore, I became the Delaware DECA State Vice President. When I was a junior, I became the Delaware DECA State President. And yes, it surprised me too.

Looking back, I never once regretted running for state office. I have learned so much, about everything from being a leader to public speaking, from teamwork to knowing more about DECA itself. With that came experience in the professional world, and I have been through more etiquette workshops than I can count. But now I know that you only do the top button in a two-button blazer; and when you have more forks next to your plate than you think you are going to use during the meal, just work from the outside in.

It may seem complicated, but it is much more fun than you might think. The officers get to know each other during a five-day training session in the sum-

mer, and you have meetings together to plan conferences so that no one is overwhelmed.

Anyone in grades 9-11 can run for any state office. The positions include president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, reporter, historian, and parliamentarian. Each office has its specific responsibilities (go to [www.deca.org](http://www.deca.org) for details), but the officers also share many common duties, like attending all meetings, contributing creative ideas, and working together. The state advisors are there to help the officers all along the way, and to contribute ideas of their own.

Running for state office is only for people who are up for new experiences. Have you ever planned a conference? Held a workshop? Met with business professionals? You will as a state officer. Officers get to travel all over the state, visiting schools and going to conferences, having fun the whole time.

Go ahead, consider running for a state position. It is a great learning opportunity, one which allows you to have a good time while also gaining new and valuable experiences. I can't fit everything here though, so if you are interested then be sure to visit the national (or state) website and check out a position. I am sure you will love it!

## Anticipating 2007-2008 State Career Development Conference

By Debra Starr

It is February and time for one of Delaware DECA's most anticipated events, the State Career Development Conference! It is now the time for putting together presentations, writing essays, preparing speeches, and practicing role plays. And you realize it was time worth spent!

The conference will take place at the Sheraton Hotel in Dover. A continental breakfast will be served in the morning, followed by a buffet lunch and a formal dinner. Be prepared to look and perform your best during your competitions, where you will be in front of a variety of business professionals throughout the region. Furthermore, the 2008-2009 state officer candidates will be campaigning throughout the conference. Please be sure to visit the campaign displays and meet the people who could be your new leaders! The new officers will be announced towards the end of the conference.

On top of competitions, DECA members may attend several workshops at the conference. Amy Neckles from Johnson and Wales University will be hosting workshops on the university itself, transitioning into college, and entrepreneurship. Also, Robb Strobridge, representing FAME racing, will be at the event with his NASCAR and Sprint Car simulators and will conduct an entrepreneurship presentation. Be sure to participate in our etiquette workshop "Don't Slurp Your Soup—A Quick Guide to Table Etiquette."

Don't forget to participate in our Delaware DECA Community Service Event. All of the chapters should bring can goods to donate to the Food Bank of Delaware, an organization that feeds many needy families in the Delaware area. We greatly encourage all members to get involved!

## Looking Into Atlanta

By: Brittany Louie

The International Career Development Conference (ICDC) is quickly approaching. After the Delaware State Career Development Conference, those hardworking lucky members will get to advance to the ICDC at Atlanta Georgia in hopes to win and make it on stage. Last year, Katie Zarebicki and Koltyn Risser made it on stage at the conference in Florida.

Members of Delaware DECA will be staying at the Hilton Garden Inn if they go to the ICDC. Members don't always want to hear about the competitions so here's a little incentive to make it past the state conference. The hotel features a fitness room, pool, and many other great amenities. The Hilton Garden Inn is an extremely nice hotel!

There are so many wonderful opportunities that members of DECA can look forward to at ICDC. Scholarships opportunities are available, as well as chances to talk to professionals that can tell you about the field of work/business that you are interested in going into. At ICDC, members get to network with so many other members from all across the country as well as a few outside countries. There are thousands of new people to meet!

Atlanta, Georgia is an amazing place to be. The hotel is located in the middle of a shopping district. Perimeter Mall is located a mile away from the hotel. The congress center is located less than twenty miles away, along with Six Flags and the aquarium. These are some of the many things that Atlanta has to offer you!

Want to help your DECA Officer Team achieve their goal of increased community service? Here are some ideas:

- Ronald McDonald House
- Retirement centers
- Homeless shelters
- Reading to children at a library
- Mentoring/tutoring
- Coins for Kids
- Polar Bear Plunge
- Raising charity money
- Planning a Red Cross Day in your town or school
- Clothes/food drive

Delaware DECA is holding a



Cans will be collected at the Delaware DECA Career Development Conference on **Wednesday, February 13th.**

DECA will be collecting any and all canned goods to donate to the Food Bank of Delaware.

### President's Corner

Delaware DECA,

Now that two of the four major conferences of the year are done with, how do you feel? If you attended either the Leadership and Training Summit or the Fall Leadership Conference (or both), you should most definitely feel a little spark. The officer team has prepared you for competitions, with personal, in-depth training workshops. The State Career Development Conference is just around the corner, and you should have your presentations ready.

If you are not competing at States, then get your community service hours up with our newest activity, a canned foods drive. We are doing a collection of any and all canned foods, which will be collected at States from various participating schools and given to the Food Bank of Delaware.

So for those competing, I have one word: Practice!

For those not competing, I have two words: Get involved!

Either way, get ready for the busiest time of year for DECA members, and just remember to have fun (while learning, of course).

Sincerely,

*Ginger H.*

So DECA: get out there, have fun, and meet new people!



## Getting To Know Your Officers

Ginger Hansen  
President



School: Middletown High School

Grade: 12

Interests: Shopping, hanging out with friends, and reading

Plan For DECA: Lead the way into the 2007-2008 DECA year

Favorite Quote:

"Life is 10 percent what happens to you and 90 percent how you take it."

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Katie Zarebicki  
Vice President



School: Middletown High School

Grade: 12

Interests: horseback riding, shopping, DECA, hanging out with friends

Plan For DECA: bring the chapters together and increase membership

Favorite Quote:

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Ashley Kempczynski  
Secretary



School: Christiana High School

Grade: 12

Interests: DECA, National Honor Society, law, history, psychology, volunteering, reading, music, hanging out with friends

Plan for DECA: increase communication, increase membership, promote community service

Favorite Quote:

"A woman is like a tea bag. You never know how strong she is until she's in hot water." Eleanor Roosevelt

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Debra Starr  
Treasurer



School: Middletown High School

Grade: 12

Interests: hanging out with friends, baking, working

Plan for DECA: I would like the whole state to participate in a lot of community service, and plan for a community service activity for the whole state of Delaware.

Favorite Quote:

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Brittany Louie  
Reporter



School: Middletown High School

Grade: 12

Interests: DECA, hanging out with friends, going to the beach, planning events, tennis, soccer, swimming

Plan for DECA: Bring the State together and get everyone more involved. Increase Communication through more newsletters and the website

Favorite Quote:

"It Is a fine thing to have ability, but the ability to discover ability in others is the true test"

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### Fun Fact!

There aren't any billboards in the state of Vermont