

BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS OF AMERICA ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION FACT SHEET FALL 2025

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Illinois State Board of
Education, 100 North First
Street, Springfield, IL 62777

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BPA IL ASSOCIATION

Business Professionals of
America Illinois Association is
an organization for students
enrolled in Middle School, High
School, and Post-secondary
Schools with Business/Office
Education, Marketing, and
Computer Education Programs
who are interested in
developing and utilizing
personal leadership and
business skills.

Chairman of the Board, Illinois
Association, **Cori Irvin**

Vice Chairman of the Board,
Position Open

Secretary of the Board,
Position Open

Business Professionals of
America Illinois Association
**Professional Services
Contractors:**

Executive Director/State
Advisor, **Rosie McManamon**,
Glenbrook South H.S. (GBS)

Alumni Director & PS Virtual
Chapter Advisor, **Position
open**

Competitive Events Director,
Dave Saunders

Assistant Competitive Events
Director, **Graham Brown**,
Oswego East and **Rosie
McManamon**, GBS

Technology Liaison - **Chris
Skryzpkchak**, Waubonsie
Valley H.S.

Assistant Competitive
Events Director, **Steve
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Assistant Conference Director,
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Leadership Director, **Ashley
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Assistant Leadership Director,
Kelly Pecka, Hinsdale South
H.S.

Web Master, **Steve Bridges**,
Willowbrook H.S.

**Business Professionals of
America Illinois Association
State Officers:**

President, **Irene Ahn**,
Glenbrook South H.S.

V. P. -- Special Recognition
Awards, **Debanshi Day**,
Neuqua Valley H.S.

V. P. -- State Newsletter,
Aanya Shah, Hinsdale Central
H.S.

V. P. -- State Projects, **Emily
Park**, Waubonsie Valley H.S.

V.P. -- Torch Awards, **Aastha
Jindal**, Neuqua Valley H.S.

Secretary, **Mahi Chikani**,
Glenbrook South H.S.

Treasurer, **Ekansh
Mohapatra**, Waubonsie Valley
H.S.

Historian, **Zaara Singh**,
Hinsdale Central H.S.

Business Professionals of
America (OEA) was
established in Illinois during the
1967 - 1968 Membership Year.

Professional and student
2024-2025 membership in
Business Professionals of
America Illinois Association was
2,294.

State Membership dues: **\$10**

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The state service project for Business Professionals of America is **Special Olympics**.

The **State Leadership Conference** (SLC) will be held at the **Doubletree Oak Brook**, **February 26-28, 2026**.

The **Illinois Association Professional Cup Award** was established in the spring of 1992. The first chapter to win the Cup was **Morton East**.

The Leadership Award Scholarship was renamed the **Rita Brake Leadership Scholarship** in 1989, in honor of the late Rita Brake, a past state officer.

Senator Debbie DeFrancesco Halverson, was the first recipient of the **Illinois Association Hall of Fame Award**, established in 1998.

Additional **Illinois Association Hall of Fame Members** are: **Glenna J. Magee Pyzik** and **Marquez Brown**.

Each year an **Outstanding Advisor** is recognized at SLC with the presentation of the **Ron Ciastko Outstanding Advisor Award**.

ICCCTSO (Illinois Coordinating Council for Career & Technical Student Organizations) includes the following organizations:

- **BPA**
- **DECA**
- **Emerging Educators Rising**
- **FBLA**, Future Business Leaders of America
- **FCCLA**, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America
- **FFA**
- **HOSA**, Health Occupations Students of America
- **PAS**, Post-Secondary Agricultural Students
- **PBL**, Phi Beta Lambda (Collegiate Business – FBLA)
- **Science Olympiad**
- **Skills USA**
- **TSA**, Technology Students Association

NATIONAL BPA

Executive Director, National Business Professionals of America, **Patrick Schultz**

National Secondary President, Business Professionals of America, **Rishabh Barve**

National Post-Secondary President, Business Professionals of America, **Allyssa Norman**

National Business Professionals of America headquarters:
**1365 King Avenue
Columbus, OH 43212**

Business Professionals of America (formerly OEA) was organized in **Wisconsin in 1966**.

The Office Education Association legally and operationally became **Business Professionals of America, July 1, 1988**.

Four Divisions of Business Professionals of America: **Middle Level, Secondary, Post-secondary, and Alumni**.

Representing all Divisions there are **18 chartered state associations** with National Business Professionals of America Members as well as members from Puerto Rico, South Korea, and China.

2024 - 2025 National Business Professionals of America membership was **61,000**

National Membership dues: **\$14**

The membership pin is worn on the **left side**

The official colors of Business Professionals of America are **navy blue, red, and tan**

2025-2026 National theme:

Amplify Your Impact



Business Professionals of America Emblem:



Our **emblem** signifies **honor, dignity, and the importance of business in America**.

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The **four points** represent **ambition, leadership, sociability, and poise.**

The **stripes** represent **education, citizenship, loyalty, patriotism, competency, and dependability** essential characteristics of every successful business professional.

The **bar** represents the **service provided by those engaged in business occupations**, to themselves, to their employers, and to their nation.

The **quill and inkwell** represent those early leaders who developed American independence, our free enterprise system, our democratic system of government, and our codes of social behavior that has brought this nation to a position of world leadership. This portion of our emblem signifies **leadership, scholarship, character, and courage.**

The **torch** signifies the **ambition** of our members as they strive to achieve goals that bring recognition to

themselves and to our national organization that is composed of state associations and local chapters.

The seven torch categories that symbolize the ideals of Business Professionals of America are **Love, Hope, Faith; Cooperation; Knowledge; Service; Leadership; Friendship; and Citizenship.**

There are **four levels** in the Torch Awards program:

- **Executive Award**
(Local level – 10 pts)
- **Diplomat Award**
(Area level – 30 pts)
- **Statesman Award**
(State level – 50 pts)
- **Ambassador Award**
(National level – 70 pts)

The **national service project** for Business Professionals of America is the **Special Olympics.**

The national **Professional Cup Award** was established in **1990** as part of the Special Recognition Program. The first state to win the Cup was **Michigan.**

Business Professionals of America Week is always the **2nd full week in February.**

The **2026 National Leadership Conference** is scheduled to be held in **Nashville, TN from May 6-10, 2026.**

The **Workplace Skills Assessment Program** is an integral part of Business Professionals of America. The goal of the program is to provide all business students with the opportunity to demonstrate workplace skills learned through business education curricula.

The Workplace Skills Assessment Program is divided into the following six areas: **Finance; Business Administration; Management Information Systems; Digital Communication & Design; Management, Marketing, & Communication; and Health Administration.**

Virtual Competitive Events are offered only at the **National Level.**

Area Competitive Events are scheduled in November 2025 through January 2026.

State Competitive Events are part of the State Leadership Conference February 26-28, 2026.

National Competitive Events are part of the National Leadership Conference – May 6-10, 2026.

Business Professionals of America Pledge:

We are met in a spirit of friendship and goodwill as we prepare for careers in a world-class workforce. We work together to develop professionalism and leadership through Business Professionals of America and pledge our loyalty to our nation.

Rosie McManamon
Illinois Association
Executive Director/State Advisor
Last updated 01/09/26