

# BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS OF AMERICA FACT SHEET

## General Information

### Meaning of the Organization's Name

- **Business:** The field for which we prepare our students; emphasizes that we educate our members to work efficiently, not only in an office setting, but also in a wide variety of business situations.
- **Professionals:** Our students indicate they join Business Professionals of America to take advantage of a wide variety of professional development opportunities.
- **of America:** Symbolizes pride in our country and its free enterprise business system.

### 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.

### Official Colors

Navy blue signifies the success achieved through leadership and professionalism. Tan represents the bountiful fields of opportunity in America. Red symbolizes the friendship obtained through the teamwork of our organization.

### Use of the Acronym

The acronym (BPA) is acceptable in casual conversation and personal correspondence to identify the organization. Once the name is spelled out in full, the acronym may be used in text. The acronym may not be used for cover titles or headlines.

### Annual Theme

The theme this year is "Accelerate Your Future."

### Tag Line

Today's students. Tomorrow's business professionals.

### Mission Statement of Business Professionals of America

The mission of Business Professionals of America is to contribute to the preparation of a world-class workforce through the advancement of leadership, citizenship, academic, and technological skills.

### National Officers

The Executive Council is comprised of the National Officers for Secondary and Post-Secondary Divisions. National Officers are elected annually at the National Leadership Conference.

The Executive Council for the Secondary Division includes President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, and Parliamentarian. The 2013-2014 Secondary National President is Joe Wathika.

The Executive Council for the Post-Secondary Division includes President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Parliamentarian. The 2013-2014 Post-Secondary National President is Tracy Adamson.

## National Officer Candidate Requirements

In order to run for National Office, a member must:

- Be in good standing for the current year, as of February 15.
- Have at least a 2.5 grade point average for the current year.
- Be currently serving, or have served, as an elected officer of a local, regional/area, or state association of BPA.

In order to represent the organization in a sufficient manner, National Officers are **required** to travel at least 3 times during their term of office.

- National Officer Training: **July** - *Columbus, Ohio*
- National Leadership Conference Planning: **January** - *Site of the National Leadership Conference during their term*
- National Leadership Conference: **May** - *Site of the National Leadership Conference during their term*

## National Center

The National Center is located in Columbus, Ohio.

There are currently eight staff positions at the National Center. The positions include: Executive Director, Director of Member Services & Events, Director of Education, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Director of Finance, Interactive Marketing Communication Manager, Executive Staff Assistant, and National Officer Coordinator.

The Executive Director of Business Professionals of America is Kirk Lawson.

National Center staff provide services to individual members, local chapters and state associations.

The National Center staff and National web site (<http://bpa.org>) serve as your primary contacts for help with the Membership Registration System, the National Leadership Conference, WSAP Event Guidelines, National Officer Elections, and other National programs such as National scholarships, the Torch Awards Program and BPA Cares Program.

## BPA Attire

The official BPA blazer is navy blue and has the logo on the left side.

The nametag is worn on the right side of the jacket.

The highest torch award pin earned is placed on the right lapel.

The national merit pin is placed on the right lapel.

The year membership pin is placed on the left lapel.

The officer pin is placed on the right lapel above the nametag.

## Online Publication: *The Wire*

The official online magazine of the organization includes local chapter and state association news, activities, programs, professional development, national officer blogs, and current trends in business.

## Social Media

BPA social media is designed for up-to-the-minute news flashes targeting advisors and students. The National Officer Team utilizes social media to encourage direct student participation in decision making opportunities.

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

Twitter: @National\_BPA

## Webinars

BPA Webinars are offered monthly online to students and advisors. Webinars are designed to train, inform and gather feedback. Visit <http://www.bpa.org/about/webinars>.

## The SOURCE

*The SOURCE* is a BPA online, interactive community dedicated to Advisors, classroom resources and chapter resources. Log into [www.bpa.org/source](http://www.bpa.org/source) to access links, tools, curriculum and communication exclusive to BPA advisors.

## Miscellaneous

Business Professionals of America Week is a great opportunity to promote local chapters. It is the second full week of February in coordination with Career and Technical Education month.

Business Professionals of America is a not-for-profit association.

Membership dues must be paid by February 15 to compete on the national level.

Business Professionals of America has four divisions: Secondary, Post-Secondary, Middle Level, and Alumni.

## Programs

### Workplace Skills Assessment Program

This program is conducted on regional, state, and national levels, and tests competency in various areas of business/office occupations. The five categories include Finance, Business Administration, Management Information Systems, Digital Communication & Design, and Management, Marketing & Communication.

### BPA Cares

This award program allows students to receive recognition at the national level for engaging in worthwhile projects. BPA Cares is divided into three categories with 15 different awards offered (each award is outlined in the BPA Cares Handbook):

- Service Learning Awards Program – Community Service Award, Environmental Action/Awareness Award, Service Learning Award Individual, and Special Olympics Award
- Special Recognition Awards Program – BPA Marketing and Public Relations Award, BPA Merit Scholar Award, Chapter Activities Award of Excellence, and Member Recruiter Award
- Professional Awards Program – Advisor of the Year Award, Emerging Advisor Award, Emerging Professional Award, Hall of Fame Award, Outstanding Service Award, and The Professional Cup Award

Make sure to review the BPA Cares Handbook for details about each of the above at <http://www.bpa.org/members/1/docs/BPA%20Cares.2.pdf>.

### Torch Awards Program

The Torch Awards Program recognizes outstanding actively involved members on the local, regional, state, and national levels. There are nine torches in seven activity divisions. The torches are leadership, service, cooperation, knowledge, friendship, love, hope, faith, and patriotism.

Local Award	Executive	10 points per category
Regional Award	Diplomat	30 points per category
State Award	Statesman	50 points per category
National Award	Ambassador	70 points per category

## **Special Olympics**

Special Olympics is BPA's national service project. The National activity is the Chain of Love.

## **Conferences**

### **National Leadership Conference (NLC)**

The 2014 National Leadership Conference location is Indianapolis, Indiana.

The 2015 National Leadership Conference location is Anaheim, California

## **History of Business Professionals of America**

**1963** The Vocational Education Act authorizes a major expansion and redirection of vocational education. The need for a student organization for students enrolled in career/technical office/business programs was recognized.

**1964** The American Vocational Association conducts a study of 43 states indicating that 67% of the state vocational education supervisors wanted a career/technical youth group for students in office/business programs.

**1965** Another study confirms the 1964 study findings revealing the desire for a career/technical youth group for students in office/business programs. State supervisors meet to develop guidelines for a youth group.

**1966** In July, the Vocational Office Education Clubs of America (VOECA) takes form, founded by the states of Iowa, Kansas, and Wisconsin. In August, VOECA convened a meeting of youth group representatives to decide the most effective means to implement the office occupations youth group. After intensive effort, the Articles of Incorporation for the Office Education Association (OEA) is established. The first three states to affiliate were Iowa, Kansas, and Wisconsin.

**1971** The Office Education Association establishes the National Center in Columbus, Ohio. The Board of Trustees also approves the Alumni Division.

**1973** OEA employs its first full-time Executive Director.

**1982** OEA purchases the National Center located at 5454 Cleveland Avenue, Columbus, Ohio.

**1983** In July, OEA conducts a dedication ceremony for the National Center.

**1984** The Board of Trustees commissioned Market One (an integrated direct marketing agency in Beachwood, Ohio) to complete a marketing study of the OEA. The resulting long-range marketing plan recommended reform of the national image of the OEA.

**1988** Using the recommendations of the marketing study—the OEA became Business Professionals of America.

**1992** Business Professionals of America pays off the National Center and the mortgage is burned at a ceremony at the National Leadership Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio.

**1998-2002** Delaware, Florida, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas pilot a New BPA Middle Level program.

**2002** The Board of Trustees approves the Middle Level Program.

**2003** BPA Corporate approves the Middle Level Program. The BPA Middle Level Division is born.

**2004** The Middle Level Division members participate in the National Leadership Conference.

**2006** BPA celebrates its 40th birthday.

**2009** The first rescheduling of a National Leadership Conference was in Dallas, Texas. This rescheduling was due to the H1N1 Influenza.

**2010** The BPA pledge is changed from "We are met in a spirit of friendship and goodwill as we prepare for productive lives in business and office careers..." to "We are met in a spirit of friendship and goodwill as we prepare for careers in a world-class workforce..."

## **Governance**

### **Board of Trustees**

The Board of Trustees provides oversight to the creation, direction, and supervision of the activities of Business Professionals of America. The secondary and post-secondary presidents serve as voting members of the board. The chairperson is Kim Simpson.

### **State Association Advisory Council (SAAC)**

Comprised of the State Association Advisors, the council advises the Board of Trustees on all State Association matters.

### **Classroom Educators Advisory Council (CEAC)**

This advisory council consists of local advisors from each state appointed to serve as a liaison between the chapter advisors and the Board of Trustees. The council recommends changes and/or additions to the Workplace Skills Assessment Program and other programs.

### **National Business Advisory Council (NBAC)**

The NBAC, National Business Advisory Council, provides a liaison between business and industry and the Board of Trustees.

## **Parliamentary Procedure and BPA Constitution and By-laws**

### **Constitution and Bylaws**

In order for voting to take place, a quorum must be present. A quorum consists of a majority of voting delegates.

The Current edition of Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised will govern Parliamentary Procedure of all meetings.

The five types of motions are Privileged motions, Subsidiary motions, Main motions, Incidental motions, and motions that bring the question again before the assembly.

**The purposes of this organization are:**

- To assist local chapters members in leadership and development.
- To unite in a common professional bond without regard to race, creed, sex, or national origin of students enrolled in classes with business employment as their objective.
- To develop leadership abilities through participation in career and technical education, civic, recreational, and social activities.
- To assist students in establishing realistic employment objectives.
- To create enthusiasm for learning.
- To promote high standards in ethics, workmanship, and scholarship.
- To develop the ability of students to plan together, organize, and carry out worthy activities and projects through the use of the democratic processes.
- To foster an understanding of the functions of labor, entrepreneurial, and management organizations in the American free enterprise system.
- To develop competent, assertive leaders in business education.
- To develop and strengthen members' confidence in themselves and their work.
- To provide satisfactory social and recreational activities.
- To foster practical application of business education skills through competitions.

The Constitution and Bylaws were Adopted in April 1989 and Last Amended May 2013.

The constitution or bylaws may be amended by two-thirds vote of the voting delegates at the National Leadership Conference, if:

1. The amendment has been presented in writing by the state association proposing the amendment to all state associations of Business Professionals of America, the Business Professionals of America Executive Director, and the national president on or before December 15 preceding the National Leadership Conference; and
2. The Executive Director and National President are responsible for making the proposed amendment known immediately to the Executive Council who must consider the proposed amendment during their next meeting; and
3. The Executive Council has approved the amendment and the Executive Director has presented the proposed amendment to the Board of Trustees of Business Professionals of America, Inc. no less than sixty (60) days prior to the National Leadership Conference; and
4. The Executive Director has announced its approval by the Executive Council and presentation to the Board of Trustees to each state association and has posted the proposed amendment on the Business Professionals of America web site no less than thirty (30) days prior to the National Leadership Conference.