Association Purpose:

- Promote interest and quality in all phases/levels of education for and about business throughout the state of Arkansas.
- Promote professional growth of business educators.
- Stimulate quality instruction in business classes which is relevant to current business practices and technological advances.
- Cooperate with other state and national organizations, businesses, and individuals concerned with or interested in Business Education and its further development.
- Serve as a representative body which may speak with authority for the business educators of Arkansas.
- Build professional strength and encourage maintenance of high standards through group action.
- Promote the business student organization, Future Business Leaders of America/Phi Beta Lambda, as an integral part of the instructional program.
2016-2017 BOARD MEMBERS:

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PBL State Adviser
Phillip Tew, ASU
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Membership:

ABEA has a current membership of 316. The board members are working hard to continue to reach our goal as we move toward a 10% increase in membership. Our seven District representatives are responsible for encouraging professional membership in their district area. Recruitment techniques include mail outs and e-mails to business educators, presentations at student organization conferences, presentations to college business education classes, and distribution of benefits information.

State association members are strongly encouraged to join affiliated professional organizations, including SBEA and NBEA.

Our President, Tracie Opolka, President, Kelley Todd and our SBEA Representative, Jana McWhorter will be attending the 2016 SBEA Conference in Myrtle Beach and the 2017 NBEA Conference in Chicago to attend leadership training and bring back information to our members across the state.
Annual Conference:

The Arkansas Business Education Association held its annual conference on August 2 & 3, 2016 at the Hot Springs Convention Center in Hot Springs, AR. Two hundred and eighty six area business teachers came together for “Surfin’ ABEA”. Our Vice President, Tracie Opolka, planned an information packed two days. At registration teachers received a t-shirt and a backpack with several goodies inside. Business teachers were welcomed to the opening of the conference on Tuesday to a “board walk” where they were able to walk around and visit with many different business teachers and receive projects and lesson plans. New this year, the ABEA added vendors, so during this time business teachers could also visit with several vendors and find out about the latest in books and software and so much more! Teachers could bid on items at the silent auction and raffle. The proceeds from this go to the Arkansas FBLA Foundation which provides money for our national competitors to attend Nationals each year.

At our opening session, Dr. Jeff Standridge was the guest speaker. Dr. Standridge is the Vice President for Audience Solutions at the Acxiom Corporation headquartered in Little Rock, AR. He spoke to our members about the importance of “soft skills” and how they need to be developed at an early age.
On the second day teachers could attend many different interest sessions that lasted fortyfive minutes each. Session ranged from Basic Keyboarding, FBLA Updates, Google, Microsoft IT Academy, Uses for Perkins, Managing Your Classes, Computer Science, Marketing Updates, as well as a few vendor presentations. Our next annual conference is scheduled for August 1-2, 2017 in Hot Springs, Arkansas.
2016 Awards and Recognition:

The ABEA held its annual awards ceremony on Wednesday, August 3, 2016. Each year we recognize several outstanding business teachers and leaders from across the state of Arkansas. Our President, Dr. Cheryl Wiedmaier, presented each winner with a beautiful plaque to commemorate the award.

Outstanding Supervisor-Kim Bayliss  Arkansas Career Education

Outstanding Leadership-Tammy Ward
Collegiate - Becky Cunningham  Arkansas Tech University

Secondary Teacher - Debby Mauldin (Not Pictured) receiving her award for her Sheri Smith

Junior High/Middle School Teacher - Pam Jones  Crossett Middle School
New Teacher- Molly Bennett  Paris High School

Not pictured:  Post Secondary-Karen Heslep   Arkansas State University

Our 2016 scholarship is presented in honor of Phyllis Smith, a long time business educator in the state of Arkansas. This year’s recipient, Tara Hunt, received a certificate and a check for $1,000 from our Executive Director, Angie Hutson.

Scholarship Recipient, Tara Hunt, Arkansas Tech University
Public Relations:

Our Editor/Webmaster, Jennifer Curry, designed a new webpage for our association this year. The sleek new look includes so much information for our members. Members can get up-to-date conference information, renew membership, apply for scholarships and awards, learn about the board members, and scan archives of documents and presentations from conferences in the past.

Jennifer does a great job of keeping all of our members informed by using various means of social media.

Website: www.abea.us

Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/ARBusEdAssoc

Twitter: @ArkansasABEA
Student Organization:

Jim Anglin, Arkansas FBLA-PBL (Future Business Leaders of America—Phi Beta Lambda) Foundation Board Member, continues to serve as a liaison between the Foundation Board, FBLA Executive Council, and ABEA Board. Tim Collier, Arkansas businessman, serves as Foundation Board Chair. The Arkansas FBLA-PBL Foundation’s function is to provide financial assistance to FBLA and PBL members to compete at the national conference. Financial assistance was provided in the amount of $25 per competitor for the 2016 National Leadership Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

ABEA organizes a silent auction and raffle auction to benefit the Arkansas FBLA-PBL Foundation each year during the annual ABEA Conference. Members bid on items donated by board members and businesses. A check for $5,000 was presented to the Foundation.

2016-17 Arkansas FBLA State Officers
Arkansas FBLA
2016 National Leadership Conference Winners
Atlanta, Georgia

1st Place
Introduction to Business Presentation—Georgina Bautista and Hannah Powell, Piggott High School

1st Place
Local Chapter Annual Business Report—Omaha High School

1st Place
Securities & Investments—Equasya Samuels, Conway High School

3rd Place
Community Service Project—Brittany Fulmer and Emily Richey, Paris High School

4th Place
Word Processing—Joanna Roberts, Omaha High School

5th Place
Help Desk—Allan Chalk, Rose Bud

6th Place
Word Processing—Monroe Carr, Armorel High School

7th Place
Agribusiness—Haylee Rich, DeQueen High School

7th Place
Business Financial Plan—Sophie Price, Cara Shipley, and Kate Truitt, Fort Smith Southside High School

8th Place
Personal Finance—Mason Westphal, Bentonville High School

9th Place
E-Business—Priscilla Foreman, White Hall

9th Place
Introduction to Business Presentation—Joni Inman and Eliciah Kury, Paris High School

9th Place
Job Interview—Zack Baxley, Bauxite High School
Additional High School Recognitions

- Tyler Peters of Piggott High School was named as Arkansas’ first place winner Who’s Who in FBLA and recognized at the National Leadership Conference.

- Megan Johnson, FBLA Adviser at Rose Bud High School, was named Arkansas’ Outstanding Local Adviser and recognized at the National Leadership Conference.

- Arkansas received recognition for 4th place overall in March of Dimes money raised by state chapters.

- Nettleton High School received recognition for 2nd place overall in March of Dimes money raised by local chapters.

- Arkansas Candidate Emily Richey was elected 2016-17 Southern Region Vice President.

- Arkansas FBLA members participated in the National Business Achievement Awards program. Students earned 57 Future Level, 14 Business Level awards, 12 Leader Level, and 7 America Level awards.

- Arkansas FBLA members participated in the National Community Service Achievement Awards program. Students earned 11 Community Level (50 service hours), 29 Service Level (200 service hours), and 4 Achievement Level (500 service hours) awards.

Middle Level Recognitions

- American Enterprise Project—Beebe Junior High School and Ozark Junior High School

- Career Exploration—Braelynn Reid, Mansfield Middle School, and Stephanie Trammel, Maynard Middle School

- Community Service Project—Bryant Middle School and Bethel Middle School

- Computer Slide Show—Jaydan Adney and Evelyn Riley, Hector Middle School, and Isabelle Horton, Marshall Junior High School

- Desktop Publishing Applications—Alexis Adams, Olivia Passmore, and Mattie Pifer, Guy Perkins Middle School, and Olivia Brewington and Gwenna Byer, Harmony Grove Middle School

- Introduction to Business Communication—Savannah Beaupre, Cabot Junior High School, and Harlee Hill, Beebe Junior High School
● Keyboarding Applications I—Janell Collins, Henderson Middle School, and Westin Henderson, Paragould Junior High School

● Keyboarding Applications II—Cheyenne Gibson, Beebe Junior High School

● Local Chapter Activities Report—Armorel High School

● Spreadsheet—Anara Ali, Conway Junior High School, and Ashley Brink, Elkins Middle School

● Web Page Creation—Dean Bradley, Paris Middle School, and Marcel Lemmer and Evan Mobley, Morrilton, Junior High School

● Outstanding Middle Level Member—Alex Savage, Norphlet Middle School

● Outstanding Middle Level Adviser—Donna Stillwell, Ozark Junior High School