

MSNA Slate of Officers



Slate of Candidates

The Leadership Development Committee (LDC), led by past MSNA President Amy Thering, Anoka-Hennepin; Glen Ritter, Inver Grove Heights; Kathy Faust, Crosslake Community School; and Valerie Johns, Eden Prairie, announces the 2022-2023 slate of officers for the 2022 election to be held between May 1-15, 2022.

Vice President

Glen Ritter

Secretary/Treasurer

Ross Larson

Leadership Development Committee

Note: One Open Position Available

Kim Harren

Andrea Schaak

Candidate Bios

Vice President

Glen Ritter

Food Service Director

Inver Grove Heights and South St. Paul Schools

- Leadership Development Committee Member (2020-2021)
- SNIP Conference Committee Member (2013-2014)
- Attended the Minnesota Legislative Conference in 2018
- Attended MSNA's annual conference since 2017



I have been an active member of MSNA since 2008, but have worked in school nutrition since 2004. I served on the SNIP conference planning committee in 2012 and 2013. I attended the SNA Leadership Conference in 2014. From 2014-2016 I served as treasurer with the School Nutrition Directors of Minnesota group. During my career, I always strive to lead employees to do what is best for the students in our district. I feel that it is the responsibility of School Nutrition Professionals to teach the next generation of students to be 'Adventurous Eaters' and to develop healthy eating habits at a young age that will carry them into adulthood and give them the tools to be healthy adults.

Goals:

1. Increase membership overall.
 2. Increase numbers of members with certifications.
 3. Create opportunities for all members to be heard through the use of technology.
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Secretary/Treasurer



Ross Larson

Food Service Director
Waseca ISD 829

- Annual Conference Registration Co-Chair (2017-2019)
- Annual Conference Exhibit Hall Chair (2020-2022)
- Treasurer, Dan Patch 19 Chapter (2017-2019)
- Attended the 2021 SNIP Conference and numerous MSNA annual conferences since 2016

Over the past years, I have grown as an individual and a leader for spotting a problem at work and finding a solution to resolve the problem. Over the last seven years in the school nutrition role, I accept constructive feedback as a learning opportunity. I also ensure school nutrition departments work closely with the districts' other departments. I feel some of my best skills are communication, creativity, and the ability to adapt to the constantly changing work and living environment around us today. In the past, I was part of the Dan Patch Chapter 19, and served as treasurer for two consecutive years. My passion is seeing kids eating school meals and making healthy choices that they will make for themselves and years to come.

Goals

1. Professional development for members with more scholarship grants to promote career growth.
2. Focus on training for MNSA members to improve kitchen skills and successful school meal programs.
3. Work with local media outlets to help promote district school nutrition programs.

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Leadership Development Committee (1 of 2)



Kim Harren

Director of Nutrition Services
New Prague Area Schools

- SNIP Conference Committee Member (2020-Current)
- Nutrition Conference Chair (2015)
- Nutrition Conference Committee Member (2013-2014)
- Attended the SNIP Conference in 2017, 2019, and 2021, the MN Legislative Conference in 2017, and attended the MSNA annual conference from 2017-2019

I have worked in school nutrition for the last 13 1/2 years – nine years as an assistant director and the last four and a half years in a director role. During that time, I have been active in MSNA and SNA by attending chapter meetings, annual conferences at both the state and national level, as well as the Nutrition Conference, Legislative Conference, and School Nutrition Industry Partnership Conference. I have served on the planning committees for the SNIP Conference twice, the Nutrition Conference, and was Nutrition Conference planning committee chair. I also served as the secretary for the School Nutrition Directors of Minnesota group. I've always emphasized the importance of being an MSNA member and earning a certificate to the staff in the districts I've worked in. I enjoy getting together with other directors to share and learn, and I feel that with my experience, it is my turn to be able to give back.

Goals

1. Identify qualified candidates that are passionate about school nutrition to hold board positions.
2. Promote the value of leadership opportunities for personal and professional growth.
3. Encourage and assist new directors and managers in getting involved with MSNA.

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Leadership Development Committee (2 of 2)

Andrea Schaak

Assistant Director of Student Nutrition
Hopkins Public Schools #270



Level 4 Certificate

- Workshop Committee Member (2017-2018)
- Legislative Action Committee Member (2017)
- Speaker, MSNA Annual Conference, Topic: Scratch Cooking (2018)
- MSFBG Voting Member (2017-2019)
- Attended the SNIP Conference in 2015 and 2017, the Minnesota Legislative Conference in 2017, the MSNA annual conference from 2015-2019, and attended the 2018 Future Leaders Program in California (Scholarship)

I have been in leadership positions for over 30 years. I have been a leader in school nutrition for over 17 years and have been involved in MSNA for over 15 years. I am a life-long learner and continue to improve my leadership skills. I hold a Master Degree in Organizational Leadership. I love mentoring my staff and helping them achieve their career goals. I excel at problem solving, people skills, and communication. I enjoy team building and staff development. I have a passion for wellness, health, and positive change among school food service staff and strive to bring that passion to our students in our district. I know how important the future of MSNA is to our profession and believe that I can help bring future leaders to our association by advocating for MSNA and educating other leaders of the importance to being involved in all the great works of MSNA for child nutrition programs in our state.

Goals

1. Help identify qualifying individuals for leadership positions.
2. Educate qualifying individuals as to the importance of being involved in MSNA.
3. Advocate for MSNA open positions to find the best qualifying individuals.