



Slate of Candidates

The Leadership Development Committee (LDC), led by past MSNA President Carrie Frank, Carrie Frank Services and Formerly Dover-Eyota Schools; Kimberly Harren, Lakeville Area Schools; Andrea Schaak, Hopkins Public Schools; Deanna Cooley, Princeton Schools, and Jennifer Walters, Winona Area Public Schools, announces the 2023-2024 slate of officers for the 2024 election to be held between May 28 and June 10, 2023.

Vice President

Glen Ritter, St Michael-Albertville District 885
Ashley Schneider, Moorhead ISD

Leadership Development Committee

Note: One Open Position Available

Valerie Johns, Eden Prairie School District
Amy Kimmel, Spring Lake Park School District
Andrea Schaak, Hopkins Public Schools

Scroll below for candidate bios

MSNA Slate of Officers



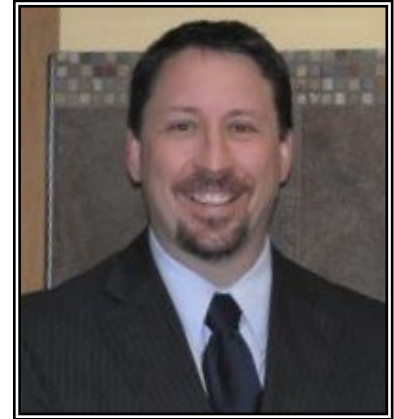
Vice President

Candidate #1

Glen Ritter

Food Service Director
St. Michael-Albertville Schools

- Leadership Development Committee Member (2022-2023)
- Industry Conference Committee (2011-2013)
- Presented at Annual National Conference (2012)
- Attended MSNA's SNIP Conference (2011-2015)
- Attended the Minnesota Legislative Conference (2015-16, 2019)
- Attended MSNA's Annual Conference (2008-2013, 2015-2022)



I have been working in School Nutrition for 19 years, and the part I love the most is helping to make an impact on the health of our students. Instilling healthy eating habits will carry over into adulthood. I use this passion to lead and inspire my staff in the St. Michael-Albertville school district. I would like the opportunities to share this passion with other members of MSNA.

Goals:

1. Increase MSNA membership overall.
2. Increase the number of members with certificates.
3. Inspire members to positively impact the future health of Minnesota students.

MSNA Slate of Officers



Vice President

Candidate #2

Ashley Schneider

Director of Food and Nutrition Services
Moorhead Area Public Schools

Level 4 Certificate

- Ad Hoc Committee, Nutrition Lead (2022-23)
- Annual Conference Co-Chair (2022-2023)
- Annual Conference Workshop Co-Chair (2020-2022)
- Attended MSNA Annual Conference for five years
- Attended SNA ANC (2022)
- Speaker, MSNA Annual Conference (2016)



I have worked in Food Service for 20 years. When I started a family of my own, I was looking for work/life balance, which led me to School Nutrition. Over the last 10+ years, I have worked my way up from being a cook in a high school to a Director of a SN program, working in every grade level. Having worked in several districts over the years, I have experience in both small and large districts, which has led me to be able to help understand and lead with the understanding that not all things work for both. This experience has also provided me the opportunity to work with diverse backgrounds as well as different programming and collaborate with school nutrition professionals around the state as well as the country.

My passion for school nutrition and ability to think outside the box, while remaining in the box, are two of the biggest skills I have to bring to the MSNA table. Our role in a school system is to make the lunchroom the best place in a school for our kids, and that is exactly the enthusiasm that should be put towards our members as well. I have the ability to capture that passion and bring it to the room no matter what the subject we are learning/talking about is.

Goals

1. Continue to work on increasing membership to give every school district a lifeline to make their district the best that it can be.
2. Help establish pathways for school nutrition professionals who want to advance in school nutrition.
3. I want to create more hands on experiences for our members and bring the passion into learning that they exhibit every day to the students.

MSNA Slate of Officers



Leadership Development Committee

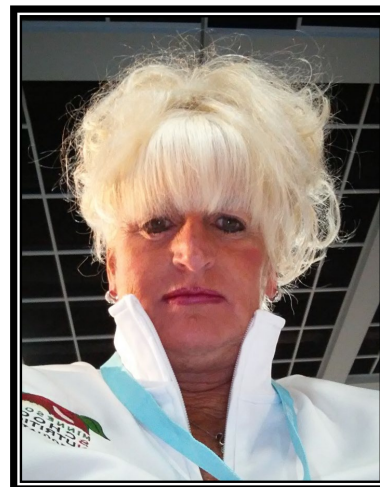
Candidate #1

Valerie Johns

Food Assistant II
Eden Prairie Schools 272

Level 4 Certificate

- MSNA Annual Conference, Membership Chair (2019)
- Chapter 14 President (2021-2023)
- Chapter 14 President-Elect (2018-2021)
- Chapter 14 Treasurer/Secretary (2014-2018)
- Attended the MSNA Annual Conference (15+ years)
- Attended SNA Annual Conference (2018)
- Attended Nutrition Conference and Skills Camp (2014)
- Recognized for a Chapter President Star Award multiple times
- Recognized for a Chapter President Awards 2 times



I have been very active and supportive of MSNA in a variety of positions within our Chapter 14 for the past 17 years. I am currently the 2023-2024 President for our Chapter. I have used my organizational skills and experience to recruit new members for our Chapter by recruiting new members, providing all members with team-building and in-person meetings with educational speakers.

We have 70-90 members attend our chapter meetings. I keep close contact with chapter members through phone calls, emails, and social media. I credit my high volume of participation to my interactive communication skills.

I am a self-employed trainer that reaches out to all foodservice staff, offering assistance on a variety of topics and levels of certification. In addition, I am currently a union steward for Eden Prairie School foodservice. I maintain my status as a ServSafe instructor.

Goals

1. Maintain member awareness.
2. Explain and promote MSNA/SNA vision and values.
3. Promote membership and teach the benefits of certification.

MSNA Slate of Officers

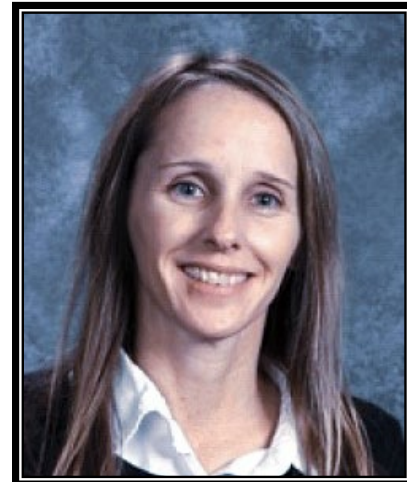


Leadership Development Committee

Candidate #2

Amy Kimmel

Director of Nutrition Services
Spring Lake Park Schools



Level 4 Certificate

- Annual Conference Planning Committee, Chair (2020)
- SNIP Conference Committee Member (2016-2018)
- Chapter 9 Member, Event Planning (Prior to 2020)
- Attended MSNA SNIP Conference (2018-2019)
- Attended MN Legislative Conference (2018)
- Attended MSNA Annual Conference (2018-2022)
- Attended MSNA Nutrition Conference (2018-2019)

“Leadership is more than checking a box on a to-do list. It’s a choice I make each day. One that is intentional and serves as a reminder that I’m, ‘ridiculously in charge.’” This is taken from the book, “Boundaries for Leaders” by Henry Cloud, and to whom I credit throughout my own leadership story going on 23 years. I’m proud to be an employee and leader for the past 13 years with Spring Lake Park Schools. As a member of the district leadership team, I made a commitment to align my work of which I wear many hats, with the district’s purpose, *“High Expectations. High Achievement for all. No Excuses.”* Over the years, I’ve cultivated its meaning, developed it into a practice, and set it as my standard in how I plan for my department and lead my team of 40 employees.

During my tenure, I set my own personal leadership goal using a tool called personal transition and development. This tool brought awareness to what skills and characteristics I needed to learn and grow for overall success of my team and department. What I discovered was I lacked courage. Thus began my journey about courage, and this is what I found: *Leadership absent courage is a farce. It takes courage to break from the norm. Challenge the status quo. Seek new opportunities. Cut losses. Make the tough decision. Listen rather than speak. Admit my faults. Forgive the fault of others. Accept failure. Remain true to my core values.*

Each day I have to choose how I want to lead, but regardless of my choice, I’m still ridiculously in charge. It’s my goal each day to have the strength and conviction to lead with courage, by doing the right thing when it would just be easier to the things right.

Goals

1. Design a communication tool (questionnaire) as a resource to communicate within the pipeline of eligible candidates.
2. Create a program/process to assist ineligible candidates interesting in serving to become eligible.
3. Design a marketing strategy to recruit at MSNA held events, chapter meetings, conferences etc.

MSNA Slate of Officers



Leadership Development Committee

Candidate #3

Andrea Schaak

Director of Student Nutrition
Hopkins Public Schools

Level 4 Certificate

- Leadership Development Committee Member (2022-2023)
- MSNA Annual Conference Coordinator (2017-2018)
- Legislative Action Committee Member (2017)
- Speaker, MSNA Annual Conference, Topic: Scratch Cooking (2018)
- MSFBG Voting Member (2017-2019)
- Attended MSNA SNIP Conference (2015, 2017)
- Attended Minnesota Legislative Conference (2017)
- Attended MSNA Annual Conference (2015-2019 & 2022)
- Attended Future Leaders Program in California (Scholarship – 2018)



I have been in leadership positions for the past 30 years. I have been a leader in Student Nutrition for over 18 years. I have been involved in MSNA for over 16 years. I believe in life-long learning and continue to grow as a leader each year. I hold a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership and use my degree to help mentor my staff by helping them achieve their leadership goals as well as their career goals. I have strong problem-solving skills, people skills, and communication skills. I enjoy team building and staff development. I have a passion for wellness, health and nutrition. I am always striving for positive change among school food service staff, building staff and upper administration.

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 of being involved in the great work MSNA strives for child nutrition programs in our great state of Minnesota.

Goals

1. Help identify high quality individuals for open leadership positions
2. Educate qualifying individuals as to the importance of being involved in MSNA.
3. Be an Advocate for MSNA by filling all open positions with great candidates.