

Executive Director Update | April 2023

Hello members!

As winter slowly, very slowly turns to spring, MSNA turns its eyes towards the ending of the school year, the installation of new officers, and the 66th Annual Conference.

We have seen the fruits of our labors with the passing of the MN Free School Meals legislation. There is still work to be done, as described by Public Policy Chair, Darcy Stueber, and MSNA Lobbyist, Sam Walseth, in their update. If you haven't shared your comments on the USDA proposed nutrition standards, please do so [here](#) before May 10.



It was a pleasure to attend the SNA Legislative Action Conference in Washington D.C. with President, Cheryl Pick; President-elect, Michele Hawkinson; Public Policy Chair, Darcy Stueber, and many of MSNA's industry and school nutrition professionals. It was especially exciting to walk up the stairs of the capitol and walk the halls of Congress. I hope you all get an opportunity in the future to take part in the LAC.

President Cheryl Pick, the MSNA board, and MSNA association staff have worked diligently over the past year to bring the MSNA Strategic Plan to fruition. From Ad Hoc committees on membership, public policy, industry collaboration, and increasing the visibility of school nutrition professionals, we are working to keep MSNA a vital and important resource to you, the school nutrition professional.

At the same time as work continues on the Strategic Plan, the 66th Annual Conference Committee has been planting the seeds for a terrific conference in August. Led by Co-Chairs, Julie Kronabetter, Burnsville-Eagan-Savage Schools, and Ashley Schneider, Moorhead Area Public Schools, along with President-Elect Michele Hawkinson, Tracy Area Schools and numerous committee members, the plans are coming together. Look for conference and exhibit registration to be available shortly, followed by the hotels being ready to take your reservations.

Lori Landowski, Membership Chair and her committee have selected the finalist for MSNA Hero award and the Hero Site Award. Those selected will be surprised the first week of May in recognition of School Nutrition Hero day on May 5th.

MSNA's website has a section, "Resources". There you will find links to Minnesota Department of Education and Agriculture, University of MN and others. Check out this valuable page of the website: <https://www.mnsna.org/news-resources>.

I look forward to seeing you at the conference in August.

Happy Spring!

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