



Greetings to MSNA members!

Spring is in full swing! The weather may not be where we want it to be yet, however, time keeps moving. I can't believe there are only 1.5 months of school left! WOW, this year just buzzed by in my world!

The MSNA Board continues to strive to keep things moving. We are committed to moving forward with the MSNA Strategic Plan. This plan is designed to help all of our members.

- **Career and Development Growth:** We have mentored a number of new directors over the past month, reaching out and making connections with the needs that they may have. Another goal we have is to offer pre-conference and professional growth classes. Our annual conference planning is well underway with our Conference Committee.
- **Stakeholder Community:** We continue to build relationships with our industry partners. I attended the Commodity Show in February, which was a great way to thank industry for being available to us. A number of us also went to the Day at the Capitol in Minnesota on February 21, as well as the LAC Conference in Washington D.C. March 3-5. We discussed a variety of topics with our legislators, including reimbursement rates, USDA current school nutrition standards, reducing regulators, administrative burdens, as well as expanding NSLP/SBP for all students at no charge. We were able to touch base with all of our legislators' team members from Minnesota. So amazing!
 - Michele Hawkinson, MSNA Vice President, and I presented on a breakout session at the MSBA Conference on School Meal Debt. We will also present at the MASBO Conference in May. Our presentation at MASBO is *School Meal Dollars: Collaboration for Better Outcomes for Schools and Students*.
- **Thriving Organization:** Our leadership team has given us some guidance on how to move our group forward this upcoming year. It is great to see members come forward and take on a new challenge in leadership. We do need you as members to become involved and make this easier for everyone involved. Many hands make light work. We appreciate your dedication to the organization.
- **Voice of School Nutrition:** We are all advocates for feeding Minnesota's children. We will be able to do this next fall for students in K-12. There may be some obstacles to overcome to make this happen within your district, however it is great to know that our students have equal access to a school breakfast and lunch. This eliminated any stigma and ensures a full tummy in the classroom, which is so important.



MSNA's Day at the Capitol

As we continue to move forward this spring and as our school year continues, remember that you do make a difference. Jo Lange is one of those who has made a difference in my MSNA journey. Jo served on the MSNA board for several years, including as President from 2020-2021. Jo passed away Wednesday, April 26, 2023. Jo was a friend and colleague to many. She gave of her time and talents to those in school nutrition. We send our thoughts and prayers to her family.

Remember to support and encourage others. You are in charge of how you feel, so today and every school day, choose happiness. Happy people give it back. Every day is a new day. You always learn new things. Also, remember to “Grow to New Heights with MSNA”. Have a fabulous rest of the school year and a fabulous Lunch Hero Day on May 5th. Congratulations to all of you! You are all heroes every day!

Cheryl Pick
MSNA President
Foley Public Schools
cpick@apps.isd51.org