

*Spring, spring, spring!!!*

During this time of the year, MSNA really starts to pick up the pace as we head into final planning for the Annual Conference. As you'll read elsewhere in the newsletter, MSNA's board and committees have been busy representing MSNA throughout the state and country working on behalf of MSNA members.

At the 2024-2025 board retreat held last October, the board set forth with commitment and gusto to implementing the final year of MSNA's Strategic Plan. Ad hoc committees have been working to enhance the MSNA membership benefits with the goal of bringing more resources and connections to our members.



One of the added-value benefits is the upcoming webinars planned by the "Edu-tainers" ad hoc committee led by MSNA's Education Chair, Kathy Faust, and Nutrition Chair, Julie Kronabetter. Taking place on April 16 and 24, the webinars bring an opportunity for members to learn from peers about about point-of-sale and serving more plant based meals. The April 16<sup>th</sup> webinar registration is closed, but there's still time to register for this free-to-members [webinar](#) on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Look for more webinars throughout the year.



Other ad hoc committees are working on enhancing MSNA's Mentorship Program, led by President Michele Hawkinson. This program has had new life breathed into it the last two years thanks to Michele and past president, Cheryl Pick. We have several mentors/mentees who meet periodically. If you are an experienced school nutrition professional who is willing to offer your expertise to a newer school nutrition professional, please reach out to [Michele](#). On the other hand, if you are you a new school nutrition professional wishing you had someone to bounce ideas off of or get an experienced eye on a challenge, the mentorship program is a great resource. Reach out to [MSNA](#) or Michele and we'll get you set up with a mentor.

My thanks to Public Policy (PPL) Chair, Darcy Stueber, for her leadership on the MSNA Position Paper and preparation for the SNA Legislative Conference that took place in March in Washington D.C. A great deal of planning goes into this conference to ensure that Minnesota attendees are well prepared to meet with our legislators. Thanks to all the Minnesota attendees, representatives from numerous school districts, and our industry partners, who attended the conference and made time to meet with our legislators.

Additionally, thanks to the PPL committee, especially Maggie Maggio, Land O'Lakes and Kristi Frank, Forest Lake School for their planning of MSNA's Day at the Capitol. This continues to be an important opportunity to speak with our state legislators.

Plans for our MSNA Annual Conference are well underway. The theme, "MSNA for All," captures who we are as a state association representing school nutrition professionals, industry, and allied members all working to ensure that all children have access to health meals and nutrition education in Minnesota. Look for information on the conference in the coming months through our monthly bulletins, website and social media.

Margaret I. Winchell  
MSNA Executive Director  
Fusion Learning Partners  
[mwinchell@fusionLP.org](mailto:mwinchell@fusionLP.org)



**Day at the Capitol Attendees & Food Selections**

