



*Wow, where has this school year gone?*

It's hard to believe it is already April. We are close to making it through another year. New directors, you have almost completed your first year – give yourself a pat on the back.

A lot has been going on with MSNA. We are committed to moving forward with the MSNA Strategic Plan. This plan is designed to help all of our members. Please read it in detail [here](#). I want to share some key highlights with you:

**VOICE OF SCHOOL NUTRITION:** In March, a group of MSNA Board members, directors, and industry members had the privilege of attending the Leadership Action Conference (LAC) in Washington D.C. where we meet with nine of our ten legislative representatives from Minnesota. We discussed *Free School Meals for All*, nutritional standards, and our goal of bringing back the 40 cents for lunch and 15 cents for breakfast reimbursement. It really was a great experience. We presented each legislator with a book on MSNA activities. These books were warmly received.

On March 11, we held the MSNA 'Day at the Capitol' event. We were able to talk to our legislators about how the *Free School Meals for All* program is going, as well as discuss MSNA's Position Paper's statement about requesting 15 minutes of seat time, 50 cents reimbursement for milk when students bring their own lunch, and a one-time fee to eliminate meal lunch debit.

In January, Vice-President Emily Malone, Vice President Glen Ritter, and I gave a presentation at the Minnesota School Board Association (MSBA) Conference on "*What's Next in Free School Meals: Seeing Down the Line for your District*". It was fun to do and was a great success. We met many attendees in the exhibit hall who were very excited about school meals. We will also be presenting and exhibiting at the Minnesota Association of School Business Officials (MASBO) Conference this May in Rochester.



**Michele, Glen, and Emily at the MSBA Conference**

**STAKEHOLDER COMMUNITY:** I attended the Commodity Food Show in February. It was great to see the industry representatives that help us with commodities, and was great to meet so many of them.

On June 18, MSNA's industry partners will host a networking event at a Saints Game. Last year was great fun (and the Saints won!) Mark your calendars now and look for more information in May.

**CAREER AND DEVELOPMENT GROWTH:** As a benefit to MSNA members, we are offering two educational webinars at no cost. The April 16 webinar is on "*Save the Planet, Serve More Plants*" and the April 24 webinar is on "*Placing the POS 1<sup>st</sup> in Elementary School*." [Learn more and register](#) for the webinar series. MSNA will hold more webinars throughout the year.

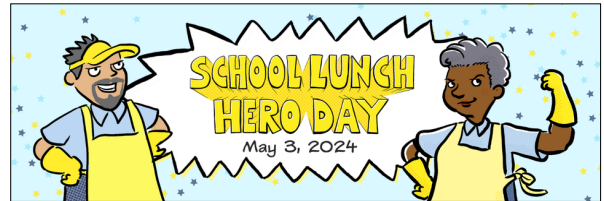
**THRIVING ORGANIZATION:** MSNA now has a new way to stay connected – on [LinkedIn](#). Please add MSNA to your network and keep up-to-date on activities at MSNA. Another way we are staying connected is by spotlighting members in the monthly, "*What's Happening at MSNA*" bulletin. Over the last three months we have spotlighted members from

Murray County Central School District, Winona Area Public Schools and St. Michael-Albertville Schools. If you missed the bulletins, click [here](#) to see what others are doing in their districts throughout the state.

Elections are just around the corner. We have a great slate of officers. Please vote and encourage others to vote. Make your voice heard.

The Annual Conference will be held August 4-7 in St. Cloud. The theme is “MSNA for All.” Everyone on committees are working hard to make it a conference everyone will enjoy. Registration will open the beginning of May. Look for emails and check the MSNA website for information.

Don't forget that May 3 is National School Lunch Hero Day. Let everyone in your school and community know how important each and every school foodservice member is and what they do each and every day to feed and care for all the students.



*Adventure Awaits with MSNA. What adventure have you found this year?*

Michele Hawkinson  
MSNA President  
Tracy Area Schools  
[hawkinsonm@tracy.k12.mn.us](mailto:hawkinsonm@tracy.k12.mn.us)



**Minnesota school nutrition representatives outside Amy Klobuchar's office at the SNA LAC Conference**



**Minnesota school nutrition representatives participating in MSNA's Day at the Capitol event**