



Announcing the 2025-2026 Slate of Candidates

The Leadership Development Committee (LDC), led by MSNA Past President Michele Hawkinson, Tracy Area Schools; Amy Kimmel, Spring Lake Park Schools; Kristi Frank, Forest Lake Area Schools; and Ashley Schneider, Moorhead Public Schools, announces the 2025-2026 slate of officers for the 2025 election to be held between May 1 and May 15, 2025.

Vice President

Aaron Krulc, Senior Buyer CWS, Minneapolis Public Schools
Ross Larson, Nutrition Service Specialist, ISD 196
Deborah McMenomy, Nutrition Services Site Manager, ISD 196
Vickie Speltz, Food Service Director, Lewiston-Altura School District #857

Leadership Development Committee

Note: One Open Position Available

Amy Kimmel, Director of Nutrition Services, Spring Lake Park Schools

Scroll below for candidate bios

VICE PRESIDENT

Candidate #1

Aaron Krulc

Senior Buyer, CWS
Minneapolis Public Schools

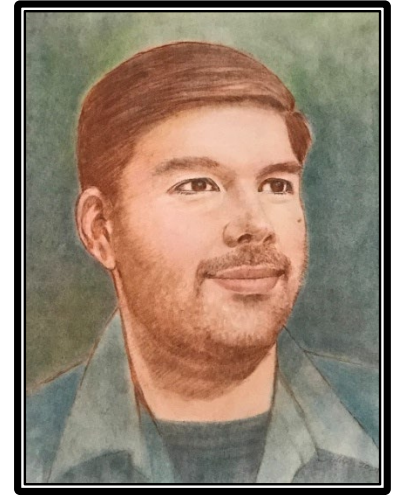
SNS Credentialed

Positions Served

- Annual Conference, Exhibits Committee Chair (2023-current)

Speaking Experience/Attendance

- MSNA Annual Conference, Speaker (2024)
- MSNA Annual Conference, Attendee (2021-2024)
- SNIP Conference, Attendee (2021-2024)



In over twenty-five years working a variety of roles in the culinary industry, I've been fortunate to spend the last twelve supporting school nutrition – first with two foodservice management companies, and now with Minneapolis Public Schools. From the kitchen to the office and cutting board to board room, I've had the opportunity to work for and learn from exceptional individuals at all stages of my career that has brought me to the point where I can well serve the Minnesota School Nutrition Association.

Being part of one of the leading school nutrition programs in the country while being certified as a School Nutrition Specialist by SNA and a Food Distribution Expert by the American Commodity Distribution Association, paired with the connections I've made locally and across the country, have given me insight and perspective on contributing and guiding the improvement of the industry as a whole.

I've been fortunate to present and lead discussions on several topics at multiple conferences in Minnesota and Wisconsin. This was also while acting as Exhibit Chair for the MSNA Annual Conference, one of the highlights of the event. These engagements led to very positive responses.

As an organized and focused member of the community who has been an unrelenting voice for the improvement of school nutrition, I would be honored to be considered for the position of Vice President and the successive offices in service to MSNA.

Goals

1. Gain an understanding of MSNA executive operation and the opportunities it provides to better school nutrition.
2. Increase the value of MSNA to its members and MN school nutrition programs as a whole.
3. Be a voice for the needs of School Nutrition at the state and national level.

VICE PRESIDENT

Candidate #2

Ross Larson

Nutrition Services Specialist
ISD 196

Level 4 Certificate

Positions Served

- MSNA Executive Board, Secretary/Treasurer (2022-2024)
- MSNA Bylaws Committee, Member (2025)
- Dan Patch Chapter 19, Secretary/Treasurer (2018-2021)
- Dan Patch 19, Vice President (2017-2018)

Speaking Experience/Attendance

- MSNA Annual Conference, Budget Report (2023 & 2024)
- SNA National Leadership Conference, Future Leaders Program (2023)
- SNIP Conference, Attendee (2021)
- MSNA Annual Conference, Attendee (2019, 2021-2024)



I have been working in School Nutrition for nine years, as well as 12 years at a Food Broker specializing in the K12 segment. I have worked in multiple levels of food service roles and, therefore, I enjoy teaching and training staff. I have strong problem-solving, relationship, and communication skills. I want to continue to build relationships with industry members and work on developing relationships with legislators. I want to help provide opportunities for professional growth for members and also help with the development of new courses. I believe we can recruit and elect leaders with expertise that will help our organization grow in the future. I want to help be the voice and ensure members are highlighted for their contributions and achievements.

Goals

1. Support school nutrition professionals in hopes they run for MSNA positions.
2. Build leadership through personal development and skills improvement.
3. Have a better understanding in nutrition legislation.

VICE PRESIDENT

Candidate #3

Deborah McMenomy

Kitchen Manager
ISD 196

Level 4 Certificate

Positions Served

- Chapter 35, Co-President (2016-2018)

Attendance

- MSNA Annual Conference, Attendee (2013-2017, 2019)

Awards

- President's Award of Excellence (2016 & 2017)



I believe effective communication is very important in all aspects of a team's development and in a team's sustainability. I'm an active listener who can help negotiate and problem solve to find a mutual beneficial solution to the task at hand. I'm a positive person who likes to motivate others to keep moving forward and feel confident within themselves and at their job, and I am always learning new things. Within my current kitchen we have a dynamic team. Though there are some communication barriers at times, we have all learned as a team to adapt to new ways of communication to efficiently and effectively work as a team.

Goals

1. Promote the benefits of MSNA and how you can apply the information to your schools.
2. Help establish more hands on opportunities for professional growth development.
3. Create MSNA nutritional educational videos for all ages.

VICE PRESIDENT

Candidate #4

Vickie Speltz

Food Service Director
Lewiston-Altura 857

Level 3 Certificate

Positions Served

- MSNA President (2019-2020)
- MSNA President-Elect (2018-2019)
- MSNA Vice President (2017-2018)
- MSNA Secretary/Treasurer (2020-2022)
- MSNA Annual Conference Committee (2017-2022)
- Chapter 11 President (2009-2014)
- Chapter 11 Treasurer (2014-Present)



Speaking Experience/Attendance

- MSNA Annual Conference, Speaker (2022)
- MSBA Conference, Speaker (2019)
- MSNA Annual Conference, Attendee (2015-present)
- MSNA SNIP Conference, Attendee (5 years)
- MN Legislative Conference (2 years)
- Chapter Leadership Conference (8 years)
- Nutrition Conference (1 year)
- Skills Camp (1 year)

Awards:

- Director of the Year (2022)

Goals

1. Work with legislation for longer seat time for elementary level.
2. Advocate for rural schools.
3. Chapter status.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Candidate

Amy Kimmel

Director of Nutrition Services
Spring Lake Park Schools

SNS Credentialed

Positions Served

- MSNA Leadership Development Committee, Member (2023-2025)
- MSNA Annual Conference Committee, Member (2020)
- MSNA SNIP Conference Committee, Member (2016-2018)

Attendance

- MSNA Annual Conference, Attendee (14x since 2024)



As I approach 25 years in a leadership role I'm reminded of a quote by George Brandt, "*Leadership isn't about you. It's about those people who follow you.*" This struck me as counterintuitive to anything I understood leadership to be to this point. So, if leadership is not about me rather 'it's about' those people who follow me, what now?

Fortunately, I've been on the Spring Lake Park Schools Leadership Team for 15 years. Our leadership approach states that, as a leader, it's my responsibility to create the conditions where each employee feels valued, competent and has a sense of belonging. With responsibility comes support, training, and an arsenal of leadership tools.

The leadership tool/practice that I've implemented as part of my standard daily work is called rounding. Rounding is all about gathering information in a structured way by using a results proven process. It's a way to get a handle on problems before they occur, to identify and leverage opportunities, and to reinforce positive and profitable behavior. This involves taking time each day to touch base with my team, make personal connections, find out what's going well, and determine what improvements can be made.

Overall, leading and managing by walking around is the necessary ingredient to building and sustaining partnerships. This leadership practice has helped me become a better leader who engages and builds relationships daily with staff and students. Rounding with my team honestly, is the best part of my day!

Amy Kimmel's Goals

1. Develop a volunteer committee pipeline.
2. Present on volunteer opportunities at the MSNA Annual Conference.
3. Brainstorm process to keep contact information current for potential leaders.