

Hello MSNA members,

The sun is shining, the weather is warming up, and the tulips are blooming. With a sense of freshness in the air, it's hard to believe we are already nearing the end of the school year. Thank you for the important work you do every day to nourish Minnesota's school children. It is a rewarding task, though not without challenges.

For MSNA, the year has brought more opportunities for members, including building relationships with other organizations that work alongside us, as Emily Malone shared earlier in this newsletter. The year has also brought ongoing financial stability and a continued focus on the future of the profession. MSNA's vision to be *the* resource for school nutrition professionals continues to drive our work now and in the future.



The MSNA Executive Board remains committed to implementing programs and resources that meet our strategic goals. In October, the board will meet to establish MSNA's strategic goals for the next three years. We will build on our achievements while keeping a clear focus on what lies ahead. Do you have a suggestion, concern, or an interest in helping shape those goals? We want to hear from you! Contact any board member or me. We value your input.

Looking ahead, we're excited for the MSNA Annual Conference in August. It's been several years since we gathered in Rochester, and the city and venue is eager to welcome us back. The planning committee is led by Conference Chair Callie Neumann, Co-chair Brenton Lexvold, and President-elect Glen Ritter. Callie Neumann is the Senior Account Executive, K12-Central Region for Simplot. Brenton Lexvold is the Food and Nutrition Director for the Zumbrota-Mazeppa School District. Glen Ritter is the Food Service Director for St. Michael-Albertville Schools. These individuals are hard at work are putting together a full and engaging conference.

Making its much-anticipated comeback, we will host a Welcome Reception for all attendees and exhibitors on Monday evening. New this year, an Elite Industry Member and Director Networking Breakfast will replace the previous Elite Industry dessert reception. We'll also introduce a *First Timers* breakfast meeting to welcome new attendees.

Workshop Chair Noah Atlas, Director of Child Nutrition for Anoka-Hennepin Schools, along with Co-chair, Jackie DeRoma, Coordinator of Child Nutrition for Orono Schools, are reviewing session proposals and building the conference schedule. Thank you to all who submitted proposals. We will begin notifying presenters in early May regarding acceptance and assigned time slots.

Conference registration and the hotel block will also open early May. Watch your inbox and check the MSNA [website](#) for the latest updates.

In this issue, you will find the slate of officer candidates. Please take the time to read their bios and their vision for YOUR MSNA – and most importantly, **VOTE**. With nearly 2,800 members, we typically have less than a 1% voting turnout, which we need to increase! Your vote truly helps shape the future of this organization.

Enjoy the beauty of spring and the final stretch of the school year. I look forward to seeing you in Rochester this August at the Annual Conference.

Warm regards,

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