

Executive Director Update | December 2022

Happy Holidays to all the MSNA members!

The snow has fallen along with the temperatures, and we are clearly in winter. Time to reflect, recommit, and look forward.

The past year has been a whirlwind of learning, growing, events, meetings, and for me, understanding the scope of work you all do as school nutrition professionals. I have enjoyed working with all the volunteers and meeting so many of you throughout the year.

I want to give a special thanks to the 2022 board of directors, led by past President Carrie Frank. To outgoing board members Vickie Spetz, Steve Martel, Kim Hinrichs, Carrie Frank, and all current board members, my sincere thanks for your guidance during the past year. Along with former Executive Director Sharon Maus, your dedicated service and commitment to the association and its members help to keep MSNA a thriving organization.



As we look to 2023, we are full steam ahead. We start the year with a presentation at the Minnesota School Board Association's Leadership Conference on Thursday, January 12, 4:00-5:00 pm, at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Our presentation, *School Meal Debt: Collaborating to Produce Better Outcomes for Schools & Students*, will share best practices for developing, implementing, and communicating effective meal charge policies, including collaborative efforts on policy enforcement and debt collection processes. We encourage your school board members to attend our presentation.

On February 21, we will be holding MSNA's Day at the Capitol. All legislators are invited to join us for a small reception in the afternoon. The event starts at 4:30pm with a Directors Group meeting, followed by a reception with all legislators invited. We are pleased to hold this event in 2023 after being away from the Capitol for a few years due to COVID. Look for information on this event in early January. Sign up and join us.

In March, President Cheryl Pick, Vice-President Michele Hawkinson, PPL Chair and board member Darcy Stueber, and myself, head to Washington D.C. for the National Legislative Action Conference. We look forward to meeting our state legislators and sharing with them our concerns for school nutrition programs.

That is just the first quarter of the year. As mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter, planning is underway for the Annual Conference in August. SNA Awards nominations are open and work continues on our strategic plan. It will be a busy year as always.

I am pleased to share that MSNA's Nutrition Chair and board member, Jess Pena, Red Wing School District, was asked to run for SNA's board of directors. This is an honor to be recruited. We hope all the MSNA members will vote when voting opens February 15-28.

On behalf of my colleague Noelle Hulshizer and Fusion Learning Partners, we wish you all have a wonderful holiday season with family and friends. May 2023 bring you health, an easing of staff and supply shortages, and pride in knowing you are making a difference for the kids of our state.

Happy New Year!

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