

Hello Minnesota School Nutrition Members and Happy Holidays to you.

We have had another successful year at MSNA and I'm proud to report that we will carry these successes into 2024.

Our accomplishments include successful presentations at the Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA) in January 2023 and at the Minnesota Association of School Business Officials (MASBA) conference in May 2023. Both presentations were well attended and had lively input from the attendees. We will be presenting again this January 11th at the MSBA conference along with having an exhibit booth.



Our Day at the Capitol in February was challenging as there was a snow storm and the Capitol was actually closed down in the afternoon. Intrepid MSNA board, staff, and committee members showed up and set up a nice reception with various school lunch foods. We were pleased that so many legislators attended the reception and engaged with MSNA representatives.

MSNA leadership attended SNA conferences throughout the year, including the Legislative Action Conference, National Leadership Conference, and SNA's Annual Conference. Through the generosity of MSNA members' support of the scholarship raffle, we were able to award three \$500 scholarships for members to attend one of these conferences or our own annual or SNIP conference. For 2024, the Board has approved four \$500 scholarships.

The summer was all about the MSNA Annual Conference. Conference attendance held steady from last year, which included more than 120 first-timers. Over 130 companies exhibited at our food show, our bi-annual Delegates meeting was successfully held, and our workshop schedule was full. The 2024 annual conference planning has now begun. Led by President-elect Emily Malone, Prior Lake-Savage ISD 719, Co-chairs, Ashley Schneider, Moorhead Area Public Schools, Callie Neumann, Anoka-Hennepin; Workshop Chair, Paige Albrecht, Forest Lake ISD 831, and a wonderful committee, I know this year will continue the tradition of great education, fun activities, and opportunities to connect with colleagues. The "Call for Proposals" will be out the beginning of February. We hope you'll consider presenting.

The fall brought the SNIP conference at Breezy Point. Education and fun-filled, the attendees braved some cold weather for the Adventure Hike, participated in a rousing Bingo game, and listened to keynote Shannon Solomon provide wonderful tools for self-care and a roadmap for success. Plans are underway to secure a date and location for the 2024 SNIP conference.

On behalf of Noelle Hulshizer, Program & Communications Coordinator and all the MSNA/Fusion Learning Partners staff, we thank you for your participation, input, guidance, and commitment to MSNA. We wish you a joyful holiday season and a bright 2024.

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