

# 2024 IN REVIEW



## Membership

- As of October 2024:
  - 2,619 school members, 1,377 of which are school district owned (SDM) memberships. MN is in the top 10 SDM states.
  - 124 industry members

## Year-in-Review

- January 10-12: Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA) conference, Minneapolis
  - The MSNA Executive Committee exhibited and presented.
- January: MSNA [Member Spotlights](#) begin.
- February: Upper Lakes Foods held a series of events in Eden Prairie and Cloquet, MN
- March 4-8: National School Breakfast Week
  - Theme: *Surf's Up with School Breakfast*
- March 3-5: SNA Legislative Action Conference, Washington D.C.
  - MSNA members met with Senators and representatives from Minnesota's Congressional Districts
  - Jess Peña spoke on a panel as part of her role as Midwest Region Representative for SNA's Public Policy & Legislation Committee.
- March 11: MSNA's Day at the Capitol, Minnesota Capitol
  - MSNA members met with Minnesota legislators and enjoyed food selections representative of the national school lunch program.
- May 10-12: Minnesota Association of School Business Officials (MASBO) Conference, Rochester, MN
  - The MSNA Executive Committee exhibited and presented.
- April 25-27: SNA National Leadership Conference in Seattle, WA
- April 16: MSNA's Webinar Series begins. "Save the Planet, Serve More Plants" webinar was held.
- April 24: "Placing the POS 1st in Elementary Schools" MSNA webinar
- Spring: SNA and MSNA Award Winners Announced
  - **Minnesota's Director of the Year**: Julie Kronabetter, Food and Nutrition Services Director, Burnsville Eagan Savage ISD 191
  - **Minnesota's Manager of the Year**: Sandra Hirdler, Manager at Brooklyn Middle STEAM School
  - **Minnesota's Employee of the Year**: Melissa Willhite, Tracy Area Schools
  - **MSNA Hero Award**: Pat Tasse, Child Nutrition Manager, Five Hawks Elementary
  - **MSNA Hero Site Award**: Alexandria Area High School, including Assistant Kitchen Managers Emily Short, Renee Feiler, and Marie Linow
- May 3: School Lunch Hero Day
- May 8-10: Minnesota Association of School Business Officials (MASBO) Conference, Rochester, MN

- June: Election Results Posted. Congratulations to Ashley Schneider, Moorhead Area Schools, and Jess Peña, Red Wing Schools, on joining MSNA's Executive Board as Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer, respectively, and to Kristi Frank, Forest Lake Schools, on joining MSNA's Leadership Development Committee (LDC).
- June 18: *Socialize at the Saints* Industry-Nutrition Networking Event, CHS Field, St. Paul, MN
  - 35+ members attended.
- July 14-16: SNA's Annual National Conference in Boston, MA
- August 4-7: MSNA's Annual Conference in St. Cloud, MN
  - Over 700 attendees participated, including 160 first-timers.
  - 150+ companies exhibited at the food show.
  - 10 members were installed into the MSNA 2024-2025 Executive Board.
- October: Farm-to-School Month
- October 10-11: MSNA Board Retreat, Rochester, MN
- October 9-13: National School Lunch Week
  - Theme: "*Find Your Treasure*"
- October 23-25: School Nutrition and Industry Partner (SNIP) Conference, Grand View Lodge, Nisswa, MN
  - 120 attendees were welcomed, including 22 first-timers.
  - Congratulations, Royal Dahlstrom, Curate, for receiving the MSNA Industry Partner Award.
- October 29: "*Student Behavior in the Cafeteria*" MSNA webinar
- November 13: "*From Hire to Retire*" MSNA webinar
- December: Happy Holidays!

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