



Greetings MSNA members!

Hope you are having a good start to the school year. It's hard to believe September is already over.

This year, we as a Board have MUCH to accomplish and some items will need to be tackled in person. Although I'm all for Zoom meetings, there are times when it is important for the Board to meet in person. The

MSNA Board will be having a retreat this month to get to work.

**Board retreat:** A main goal of the retreat is update MSNA's Strategic Plan to align with the SNA Strategic Plan. It has been three years since it has been updated. I want to make it clear that the MSNA Strategic Plan is *NOT* my (Carrie's) Strategic Plan, and it is critical that MSNA Board *ALL* have input. We will share the Strategic Plan with you after the Board retreat.

A second goal will be to rewrite the Nutrition, Education and Member Services Chair positions. It has been the hope of the MSNA Board that these positions would collaborate when it comes to education and training that meet the needs of today's workforce.

We have hired consultant Bruce H. Miles from the Big River Group to help guide us through the MSNA Strategic Plan process. Mr. Miles will be available for the following year to help guide the incoming MSNA Board through the process.

**Annual Conference:** It was so great to see more than 500 of you in person this past August at the 64<sup>th</sup> MSNA Annual Conference. This year's theme was "Be Inspired" & Shoot for the Stars". The conference committee did an excellent job arranging the conference with inspiring speakers, wonderful food, decorations and workshops. After a year of not having the MSNA Annual Conference, the importance of networking with our colleagues was evident. Personally, it was such a joy to watch both Industry and School Nutrition Professionals re-connect!

The Leadership Development Committee is looking for talented MSNA Members to help plan the 65th MSNA Annual Conference is August 7-10, 2022, River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud, MN.

If interested in helping plan for next year, I encourage you to go to Committee [Member Information](#) located at the [About MSNA Tab](#) on the MSNA website.



**Member News:** Also at the Annual Conference it was announced that - our beloved MSNA Executive Director, Sharon Maus, is retiring at the end of the year after 14 years in the position. Although a well deserved retirement, Sharon will be missed. Her work ethic, knowledge of the position and her commitment to her role as Executive Director has not gone unnoticed by many MSNA members. Sharon, well done and well deserved! Best wishes from the MSNA Board and it's Members!!

A Task Force has been created of both MSNA presidents past and present to find a replacement for the Executive Director position

I invite all MSNA Members to take part in some upcoming events:



As part of Farm to School Month Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch - click [here](#) to register. This year's goal in MN is to crunch into 200K apples, lets help to make it happen! Click [HERE](#) to learn about the "Let's All Crunch!" Apple Crunch Webinar Series

Additionally, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture launched the AGRI Farm to School Grants in August and there is funding of over \$800k available for schools this year! -- Click [HERE](#) for information about the two grant opportunities. Applications are due no later than 4:00 pm Central Time on Thursday, November 4, 2021.

Please feel free to reach out to me at any time with suggestions or ideas to continue to keep MSNA the great organization we all love.