

## President's Message | October 2022

*Greetings to ALL Members and Welcome Back to School Year 2022-2023!*



I hope this message finds all of you energized from summer. Even though September is over, hopefully you are not too exhausted! It was great to see many of you at the Annual Conference in St. Cloud. It truly was a great conference, and I just want to give another thank you to the conference planning committee. It was great to see over 700 professionals there in person. This year's theme was "Grow to New Heights" with MSNA. The speakers, decorations, food, and workshops were very inspiring. It was a joy to watch both School Nutrition Professionals and Industry Partners Grow to New Heights together.

MSNA has continued to Grow to New Heights with our board retreat. This took place at the end of September and continued the alignment of MSNA's Strategic Plan with the SNA Strategic Plan. It was great to have input from the whole MSNA Board on this plan. We worked with consultant Bruce H. Miles from the Big River Group who helped guide us through the process. We are moving forward with the four pillars: 1) Voice of School Nutrition, 2) Career Growth and Development, 3) Stakeholder Community, and 4) Thriving Organization.

I want to give a shout out to all of you in your individual school buildings as you are geared up to make this the best year possible. Each and every one of you has some magical powers that you bring to your site each and every day. You have the ability to help shape the future of the students in your school. You can help establish relationships with your students and make a connection with them. It is so important to build relationships, as with what students went through the last two years, they may need guidance to get back on the right track. Students look up to lunch professionals, as this is an important part of their day. You are ALL in a very important profession, no matter what position you are in.

You are in charge of how you feel every day that you come to work. Choose happiness and smile! Make your workplace fun and have dark chocolate available. That always makes colleagues excited! Remember... as Martha said at the conference during the skit with her partner in crime... WE GOT THIS!

We will continue to *Grow to New Heights* with MSNA.

Cheryl Pick

MSNA President