

Bravo!

A CELEBRATION OF SNA
NATIONAL AWARD WINNERS

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Director of the Year

Patsi Gregory, SNS

School Nutrition Program Supervisor
Robertson County Schools, Tennessee
SNA member since 2012

Patsi Gregory's introduction to the school nutrition profession is marked by a mentor's words: "You cannot teach a hungry child."

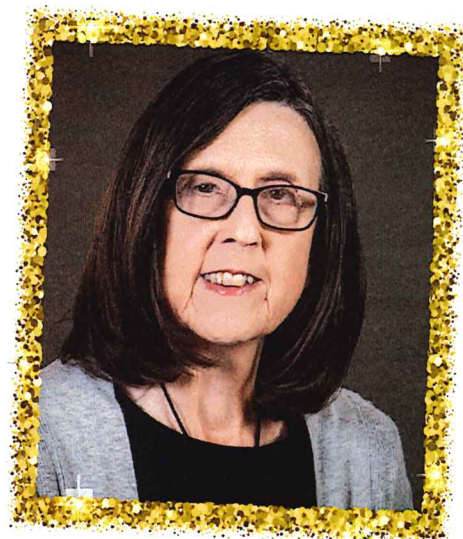
"I found out very quickly that there are a lot of hungry students in our schools," recounted Gregory in a conversation with SNA President Lori Adkins, MS, CHE, SNS. "Some come to school hungry. The rest? By the time it's lunchtime, they're hungry and ready to eat, so I knew I had a big responsibility to provide the food they needed." Understanding the significance of her new calling, Gregory soon recognized the need for a strong support group and joined the National Association and her State Association in 2012, the same year she entered the profession.

"I cannot do what I need to do by myself," she acknowledged. "I did begin

to go to every national meeting, to every state meeting that I could go to. I wanted to make contacts and I wanted to learn from people that I knew had more experience than I did."

Her dedication to learning from her peers paid off—shortly into her career, Gregory became a trailblazer of positive change within her district. She resolved understaffing issues, created district-wide menus and ensured all schools operated within the same, sustainable ratio for expenses. The result: Lunch participation in Gregory's district has increased by more than 28%, and there are now extra funds available for emergencies and improved staff benefits.

With her own support systems to guide her—whether it's her family, staff or other State or National Association members—Gregory herself is equally dedicated to uplifting her community.



She developed the "Achieving Excellence" program to recognize outstanding staff members and, in 2014, began introducing motivational speakers, trainings from the Tennessee Department of Education and networking opportunities ahead of each school year, as well as teaching classes to help her staff earn SNA certificates. She committed to providing the tools those employees need to succeed.

As if that weren't enough, Gregory also invests in students. After the final bell rings, she partners with a tutoring organization to implement the After-school Snacks Program and volunteers as a mentor herself, teaching cooking skills and inviting students to critique school breakfast and lunch meals. Additionally, to address inequities in internet access among students, she developed a monthly newsletter featuring the school menu that is mailed to each household.

"We in school nutrition have a high calling," Gregory said to Adkins. "... By working together, we can meet the needs of the students in our country to help them be the productive citizens they need to be."



Manager of the Year

Cecelia Ann Araiza

Manager

Madison Park Middle School, Madison
School District, Arizona
SNA member since 2003

Cecelia Ann Araiza can easily be described as a beacon of positivity—so much so that she’s a valued member of Madison Park Middle School’s Sunshine Committee. Through her 20+ years of work at Madison School District, Araiza’s passion for school nutrition and dedication to her school community shines, whether it’s in helping staff members find their passions and advance their careers or extending her commitment to her students beyond the cafeteria.

Education, equal opportunity and high spirits in the workplace—these are the values Araiza prioritizes when it comes to being a school nutrition manager. She encourages her staff’s professional passion, sharing her own knowledge and ideas, encouraging team-building and fun activities and leading trainings with *all* staff members,

always providing training in Spanish and translating classes to give non-English-speaking employees the same opportunities as every other staff member.

For Araiza, that passion also applies to her students. “I have preschool through high school [students] on my campus, and I adore every one of them,” said Araiza in a conversation with SNA President Lori Adkins, MS, CHE, SNS. “When it comes to being passionate, it’s my students that really drive me to do things.”

This also takes Araiza outside of the cafeteria and into after-school hours. “I love to be out with them on campus and teach them nutrition education and other things they wouldn’t normally get just from the school cafeteria,” she explained.

Stepping into the role of teacher, Araiza leads nutrition education classes



and cooking lessons for students in grades 5 through 8, as well as an after-school culinary club. Students are invited into the school kitchens to learn how to read recipes and prepare meals. Recognizing how expensive fresh produce can be for some families, Araiza also shares tips on how to substitute canned or frozen vegetables for each recipe.

Her nutrition and food education initiatives don’t stop there. Araiza partners with local farms and dairy farms for a farm-to-school program, even adopting a calf through a state dairy program! She hosts farmers markets and kitchen tours for students and has started an after-school garden club (in addition to the aforementioned culinary club).

Araiza’s passion for her students is proven by her commitment to always going above and beyond her day-to-day role—all to provide her students with extra learning opportunities and empower them to make healthy choices by showing them what goes into their food, from the ground all the way into the kitchen.



Employee of the Year

Connie Kingsley

Inventory Specialist

Lee's Summit R7 School District,
Missouri

SNA member since 2003

When someone retires, you don't expect them to hop back into the workforce—but that's exactly what this year's National Employee of the Year Connie Kingsley did. After working in the school nutrition profession for nearly 30 years, Kingsley put a pause on her retirement plans to return to Lee's Summit R7 School District, but just as a fill-in...until it turned into a full-time position.

Kingsley's reinstatement at Lee's Summit R7 School District can be summarized with one phrase: stepping up to the plate. She stepped up for her district when it needed her most by eagerly returning to work and renewing her SNA membership and certification, as well as attending

food shows, conferences and USDA training sessions.

In stepping up to her new role as Inventory Specialist, which requires carefully tracking orders, shortages, substitutions and inventory, Kingsley discovered inaccuracies in a distributor's crediting and bid pricing and recovered thousands of dollars owed to her district. For her fellow staff members, she stepped up to be a "Nutrition Wellbeing Champ"—a representative for the district's Employee Wellness Program—and dedicated her time to attending monthly staff meetings and keeping colleagues informed about insurance benefits and district programs.

Kingsley's commitment to her district shows that her passion for



school nutrition has never faded, which made her return to work well worth it in her eyes. "My passion has always been school nutrition. Being able to share my time and knowledge and skills [is] my way to give back to our community," said Kingsley in a conversation with SNA President Lori Adkins, MS, CHE, SNS. "Our daily goal is to ensure that our students are fed great nutritious meals and that they don't have to worry about any of the behind-the-scenes hiccups that might occur."

Kingsley's role may have changed—she now focuses on supporting staff by keeping them informed of packaging changes, product substitutions and shortages and by making sure invoices are paid, orders are billed correctly and important data stays organized—but her invaluable contributions to her district and her outlook on the importance of her profession has not.

"As a previous manager, I understand how vital this [job] is," she shared with Adkins. "It alleviates some of [employees' and managers'] stress so they can focus on what is most important, which is our students."



Industry Member of the Year

Carole Erb

Senior Director of Education Sales
J.T.M. Food Group
SNA member since 2005

During Carole Erb's nearly 20 years in school nutrition—and 18 years as an SNA member—she has not only dedicated herself to J.T.M. Food Group, where she is Senior Director of Sales, but she's also committed to countless hours of volunteer work on behalf of the Association.

A quick snippet of her Association resume: Erb not only served on the SNA Industry Advisory Council from 2013-15, but followed it up with a stint on the Professional Standards Committee from 2016-18. As a regular attendee and advocate for her home state of Ohio at SNA's Legislative Action Conferences, she also volunteered for SNA's 2021 Child Nutrition Reauthorization Task Force, working alongside other members to outline legislative priorities for Congress.

Erb shares her expertise as a speaker as well, and has so far spoken at two of SNA's Annual National Conferences and at Ohio SNA's 2023 Annual Conference.

Pulling off national SNA conferences take a village and, earlier this year, Erb played an integral role in the planning of the 2023 School Nutrition Industry Conference as one of its co-chairs.

"Our work on that conference was impactful and promoted school nutrition by building up the very operators doing the heavy lifting," she said.

Erb doesn't just showcase her commitment to the profession through SNA. She also served as the Industry Representative on the American Commodity Distribution Association's (ACDA) Board of Directors from 2018-23, as well as on the ACDA Processing



Committee for more than six years, where she promoted and supported the USDA Foods program.

In her role at J.T.M. Food Group, Erb regularly works with her dedicated K-12 team to support SNA and others within the school nutrition field, always encouraging other employees to join, support and volunteer to serve the members of the national and state associations.

"I have been enormously blessed to have the opportunity to learn about this segment and the incredibly important work of school foodservice directors, their staff, state agencies, distributors, manufacturers, brokers and USDA," Erb reflected. "Each stakeholder has important roles and responsibilities, and I have developed a love and respect for each of them. It is only with a collaborative effort that we will be able to continue to nourish this nation."



Congratulations

to All State and Regional Employee,
Manager and Director Winners!

Director of the Year

STATE WINNERS

ALABAMA

*Cacyce R. Davis, MPH,
RDN, SNS*

CNP Director, Elmore County
Public Schools

ALASKA

Rachel Spencer

School Nutrition Specialist,
Yukon Koyukuk School District

CALIFORNIA

Polly Barbara Houston

Food Service Director,
Lennox School District

COLORADO

Craig Schneider

Director of Child Nutrition,
Poudre School District

CONNECTICUT

Jennifer Bove

Director of Food & Nutrition Services,
East Hampton School District

GEORGIA

Cathy Johnson, MBA, SNS

Director of School Nutrition,
Richmond County School District

ILLINOIS

Stefanie Giannini, MA, SNS

Director of Food & Nutrition Services,
Marquardt School District 15

INDIANA

Erin Coleman, RD, CPT

Director of Child Nutrition,
Perry Township School District

IOWA

Stephanie Hawkins

Food Service Director,
Fairfield Community School District

KANSAS

Laura Fails

Food Service Director,
USD 320 Wamego

KENTUCKY

Kelly Holt, SNS

Director of Nutrition & Dining Services,
Warren County Public Schools

MAINE

Alisa J. Roman

Director of Nutrition & Transportation,
Lewiston Public Schools

MASSACHUSETTS

Jeanne Johnson, SNS

School Nutrition Director,
Dedham Public Schools

MICHIGAN

Shelby Turnquist

Food Service Director, Houghton-
Portage Township Schools

MISSISSIPPI

James Mike Robertson

Child Nutrition Director,
New Albany School District

MISSOURI

Carmen Fischer

Director of Child Nutrition Services,
Rockwood School District

NEW MEXICO

Rachel Roybal-Rogers

Director, Mora Independent
School District

NORTH CAROLINA

Danelle Moore Smith

Director, Lenoir School District

OHIO

Vicky Nieset

Food Service Director,
Clyde-Greensprings School District

OKLAHOMA

Dan Lindsey

Director of Child Nutrition,
Edmond Public Schools

OREGON

Lynne Shore

Nutrition Services Director,
Willamina School District

PENNSYLVANIA

Carla Escribano, RD

Director of Food Services,
Quaker Valley School District

SOUTH CAROLINA

Angela McCrorey

Director of Food Service,
Lancaster County School District

TENNESSEE

Patsi Gregory, SNS

School Nutrition Program Supervisor,
Robertson County Schools

TEXAS

Lacy Willey, RD, SNS

Director, Cleveland Independent
School District

VERMONT

Scott Fay, SNS

Director of Child Nutrition,
Essex Westford School District

VIRGINIA

Lisa Winter, SNS

Senior Director of School Nutrition,
Norfolk Public Schools

WEST VIRGINIA

Renee Griffin, MS, RD, LD, SNS

Child Nutrition Director,
Ohio County Schools

WISCONSIN

Jamie Wilson, SNS

Director of Foodservice,
Superior School District

REGIONAL WINNERS

MID-ATLANTIC

Lisa Winter, SNS

Virginia

MIDWEST

Stephanie Hawkins

Iowa

MOUNTAIN PLAINS

Craig Schneider

Colorado

NORTHEAST

Jeanne Johnson, SNS

Massachusetts

SOUTHEAST

Patsi Gregory, SNS

Tennessee

SOUTHWEST

Rachel Roybal-Rogers

New Mexico

WESTERN

Lynne Shore

Oregon

Manager of the Year in honor of Louise Sublette

STATE WINNERS

ALABAMA

(Connie) DeAnn Davis

CNP Manager, Springville Middle School,
St. Clair County Schools

ALASKA

Mica Night

Operations Supervisor, Anchorage
School District

ARIZONA

Cecelia Ann Araiza

Manager, Madison Park Middle School,
Madison School District

CALIFORNIA

Judith Whitney

Nutrition Service Multi-site Manager,
Twentynine Palms Elementary School,
Morongo Unified School District

COLORADO

Barbara Coffey

Nutrition Lead, Falcon Elementary School,
El Paso County School District 49

CONNECTICUT

Suzanne Fallucco

Kitchen Manager, Robert E. Fitch High
School, Groton Public Schools

DELAWARE

Jane Mutter

Cafeteria Manager, Lake Forest High School,
Lake Forest School District

FLORIDA

Keila Sanchez

School Food Service Manager, Cypress
Springs & Deerwood Elementary Schools,
Orange County Public Schools

GEORGIA

Missy Williams

Manager, Westside Elementary School,
Coffee County School District

IDAHO

Angela Hentges

Child Nutrition Coordinator, Washington
Elementary School, Lake Pend Oreille School
District No. 84

INDIANA

Teresa White-McDonald

Food Service Manager, Prince Chapman
Academy, East Allen County Schools

IOWA

Donna Holman

Manager III, West High School, Davenport
Community Schools

KANSAS

Amber Workman

Kitchen Manager, Meadows Elementary
School, Topeka USD #501

KENTUCKY

Maggie Oswalt

Cafeteria Manager, Great Crossing High
School, Scott County School District

MAINE

Susan Maynard

Food & Nutrition Services Manager,
Loranger Memorial School, RSU 23

MASSACHUSETTS

Stacey Birkbeck

Cook Manager, John Ahern Middle School,
Foxborough Public Schools

MICHIGAN

Linda Willemstein

Kitchen Manager, Hudsonville Central
Kitchen, Jenison & Hudsonville
Public Schools

MINNESOTA

Deb Vera

Kitchen Manager, Columbia Heights High
School, Columbia Heights Schools, ISD 13

MISSISSIPPI

Wendy Robinson

Cafeteria Manager, Northside & Eastside
Elementary Schools, Clinton Public School
District

MISSOURI

Stacy Carter

Elementary Manager, Highland Park
Elementary School, Lee's Summit
R7 School District

NEBRASKA

Tara Brooking

Manager, Gretna Public Schools

NEW MEXICO

Gale Montoya

Manager, Mora Independent School District

NEW YORK

Elizabeth Corrigan, SNS

Cook Manager, Liverpool Central Schools

NORTH CAROLINA

Natashia McKeel

School Nutrition Manager, Rock Ridge
Elementary School, Wilson County School
District

NORTH DAKOTA

Kristin Jameson

Middle School Kitchen Manager, Carl Ben
Eielson Middle School, Fargo Public Schools

OHIO

Lisa McDonald

Kitchen Manager, Mason High School, Mason
City Schools

OKLAHOMA

Joycelynn Byrd

Kitchen Manager, Sangre Ridge Elementary
School, Stillwater Public Schools

SOUTH CAROLINA

Angie Tollison

Manager, E.B. Morse Elementary School,
Laurens 55 School District

TENNESSEE

Chantal Parker

FCS Manager, Moore Elementary School,
Franklin Special School District

TEXAS

Maria Carlos

Child Nutrition Operations Manager,
YES Prep Public Schools

UTAH

Ryan Spencer

Kitchen Manager, Wasatch Elementary
School, Ogden School District

VIRGINIA

John Feist

School Nutrition Services Manager, Cedar
Lane Elementary School, Loudoun County
School District

WEST VIRGINIA

Cheryl Hillberry

Cafeteria Manager, Long Drain School,
Wetzel County Schools

WISCONSIN

Megan Walters

Lead, Hillside Elementary School, School
District of New Richmond

REGIONAL WINNERS

MID-ATLANTIC

Cheryl Hillberry

West Virginia

MIDWEST

Megan Walters

Wisconsin

MOUNTAIN PLAINS

Stacy Carter

Missouri

NORTHEAST

Stacey Birkbeck

Massachusetts

SOUTHEAST

Chantal Parker

Tennessee

SOUTHWEST

Cecelia Ann Araiza

Arizona

WESTERN

Angela Hentges

Idaho

Employee of the Year

STATE WINNERS

ALABAMA

Allison Skipper

7-hour CNP, Rocky Ridge Elementary School,
Hoover City Schools

CALIFORNIA

David Saliba

Supervisor, Foothill High School,
Kern High School District

COLORADO

Paula Dailey

Nutrition Assistant, Stetson Elementary
School, El Paso County School District 49

CONNECTICUT

Doreen McHugh

Cook, Mystic River Magnet School,
Groton Public Schools

FLORIDA

Emelita Bugarin

Administrative Assistant, Santa Rosa County
School District

GEORGIA

Pamela Heesh

Food Assistant, Matthew Arthur Elementary
School, Houston County School District

ILLINOIS

Jennifer Wagner

Administrative Assistant, Harlem 122 School
District

INDIANA

Janis Engerman

Food Service, Eel River Elementary School,
Northwest Allen County Schools

KENTUCKY

Casey Pfost

Assistant Manager, Great Crossing High
School, Scott County School District

MAINE

Donna Thomas

Cook, Woodland Consolidated School,
School Union 122

MASSACHUSETTS

Pamela Anderson

Kitchen staff, Andover High School,
Andover Public Schools

MINNESOTA

Mackenzie Herbst

Kitchen Assistant, Foley High School,
Foley Public Schools

MISSOURI

Connie Kingsley

Inventory Specialist, Nutrition Services
Office, Lee's Summit R7 School District

NEBRASKA

Pam Heon

Employee, Gretna Elementary School,
Gretna Public Schools

NEW JERSEY

Paola Francisco

Lead Person, Albio Sires Elementary School,
West New York Schools

NEW MEXICO

Juhree Castleman

Administrative Assistant,
Hobbs Municipal Schools

NORTH CAROLINA

Norma Smith

School Nutrition Assistant, Moss Hill
Elementary School, Lenoir County
Public Schools

OREGON

Alejandrina Zepeda

Nutrition Services Lead,
Washington Elementary School,
Woodburn School District #103

SOUTH CAROLINA

Connie Godfrey

Operator, Ford Elementary School,
Laurens 55 School District

UTAH

Shelley Marriott

Assistant Kitchen Manager, James Madison
Elementary School, Ogden School District

VIRGINIA

Susan Marihew

Culinary Development Chef Assistant,
Office of Food Services,
Virginia Beach City Public Schools

WEST VIRGINIA

Billie Jean Holman

Cook, Peterson Central Elementary School,
Lewis County Schools

WISCONSIN

Jeannette Barteck

Cook, Southern Bluffs Elementary School,
La Crosse School District

REGIONAL WINNERS

MID-ATLANTIC

Paola Francisco

New Jersey

MIDWEST

Jeannette Barteck

Wisconsin

MOUNTAIN PLAINS

Connie Kingsley

Missouri

NORTHEAST

Doreen McHugh

Connecticut

SOUTHEAST

Pamela Heesh

Georgia

SOUTHWEST

Shelley Marriott

Utah

WESTERN

Alejandrina Zepeda

Oregon

2022-23

State Awards of Excellence

(Previously known as the President's Award of Excellence)



Georgia
School Nutrition
Association

1,001+ MEMBERSHIP DIVISION

GEORGIA

President: Alyssia Wright, Ed.S.

2022-23 STATE ASSOCIATION HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Hosted "Heartbeats on a Mission" and "Adopt-A-Heartbeat" membership drives to exceed the 2022-23 membership goal of 2% by 377 members, winning SNA's Fall Membership award.
- ★ Hosted professional development and industry-partnered events such as the Equipment Academy, Industry Seminar and Fall Expo to encourage attendees to connect with vendors.
- ★ Welcomed more than 1,100 attendees at GSNA's 68th Annual Conference and debuted the Cooking with Heart culinary demonstrations program featuring three local chefs.
- ★ Digitally relaunched Georgia Gems magazine as a resource for members and industry partners.
- ★ Embraced social media marketing to increase Facebook followers by 4.9%, Instagram followers by 23.11% and Twitter followers by 2.27%.



SCHOOL
NUTRITION
ASSOCIATION
OF PENNSYLVANIA

501-1,000 MEMBERSHIP DIVISION

PENNSYLVANIA

President: Megan Schaper, SNS

2022-23 STATE ASSOCIATION HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Continued to advocate for the Free Meals for All initiative and successfully secured funding for free breakfast for all students for the 2023 and 2024 school years.
- ★ Hosted two legislative visits in Harrisburg, Penn., and a virtual meeting with state legislators.
- ★ Held an in-person conference and professional development opportunities for the first time since the start of the pandemic.
- ★ Created the Edward J. Schindel Industry Partner of the Year award to recognize outstanding contributions from industry members.
- ★ Established itself as the voice for child nutrition in Pennsylvania with a seat on the Governor's Food Policy Council.



1-500 MEMBERSHIP DIVISION

CONNECTICUT

President: Erin Perpetua

2022-23 STATE ASSOCIATION HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Testified several times in person before the State Legislature, including in front of the Appropriations Committee, to advocate for free meals for all in Connecticut.
- ★ Continued to regularly offer Focus Fridays, a mentoring program and educational trainings for members.
- ★ Hosted March Menu Madness—a new event offered for members to share new and creative menu ideas.
- ★ Joined the CT Farm Collaborative and became a leading member of the School Meals 4 All CT coalition.

Listen into SNA's brand-new podcast, "School Food for Thought," a valuable source of insights and knowledge about the latest trends and timely topics in school nutrition!

Earn up to 0.5 CEUs per episode for listening.

School Food for Thought

A podcast by



Listen on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts or online at www.schoolnutrition.org/podcast

2022-23

President's Award of Service

in honor of Thelma Flanagan

Amanda Bridges-Dunn, Alabama
Trevor Bridgewater, SNS, Alaska
Cynthia T. Gammon, MS,
Arkansas
Jennifer Davis, SNS, California
Molly Brandt, RD, SNS, Colorado
Erin Perpetua, Connecticut
Amanda Nask, MS, RD, SNS,
Delaware
Alyssia L. Davis Wright, Ed.S.,
Georgia
Anji Branch, BS, SNS, Idaho
Michele Hepner, Illinois
Christine Clarahan, MS, RDN,
SNS, Indiana
Billie Veach, Iowa
Karla Capansky, Kansas
Leah Feagin, SNS, Kentucky

Lucretia Jones Hertzock, MS, RD,
LDN, SNS, Louisiana
Whitney Thornton, Maine
Megan Doran, SNS, Maryland
Mary Darnton, SNS, Michigan
Cheryl Pick, CDM, CFPP, Minnesota
Keba Laird, EdD, MBA, RDN,
ACSM EP-C, SNS Mississippi
Linda Webster, Missouri
Renata Nichols, FSD, Montana
Shelia Sanford, Nebraska
Rhonda A Peckham, SNS,
New Hampshire
Hallie Berutich, RD, SNS,
New Jersey
Marie E. Johnson, SNS, New Mexico
Caitlin Lazarski, MS, RD, SNS,
New York
Ruth McDowell, MS, North Carolina

Cindy Hogenson, RDN,
North Dakota
Janelle Brunswick, SNS, Ohio
Shonia Hall, RPS, SNS, Oklahoma
Debby Webster, SNS, Oregon
Megan Schaper, SNS, Pennsylvania
Donna Davis, South Carolina
Rhonda Ramsdell, CDM, CFPP,
South Dakota
Peggy Hamby, Tennessee
Darin Crawford, MBA, Texas
Candace Parr, CHES, Utah
Harley Sterling, SNS, Vermont
Edwina Forrest, MBA, RD, SNS,
Virginia
Caitlin Harrison, NDTR, Wisconsin
Gina Blackburn, Wyoming

MEMBERSHIP & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GROWTH AWARDS

Membership Division Champions

Large (1,001+)

- ▶ California (number)
- ▶ Louisiana (percentage)

Medium (501-1,000)

- ▶ Texas (number)
- ▶ Oregon (percentage)

Small (1-500)

- ▶ New Jersey (number)
- ▶ Nevada (percentage)

2% Membership Goal

- ▶ Arizona
- ▶ Arkansas
- ▶ Colorado
- ▶ Connecticut
- ▶ Delaware
- ▶ Georgia
- ▶ Hawaii
- ▶ Illinois
- ▶ Indiana
- ▶ Kentucky
- ▶ Michigan
- ▶ Minnesota

- ▶ North Carolina
- ▶ North Dakota
- ▶ South Carolina
- ▶ Virginia
- ▶ West Virginia
- ▶ Wyoming

Increasing Membership

- ▶ Alabama
- ▶ Massachusetts
- ▶ Montana
- ▶ Ohio
- ▶ Pennsylvania

2% Certificate Goal

- ▶ Alabama
- ▶ Kentucky
- ▶ New York
- ▶ Pennsylvania

Division Credential Growth Winners

- ▶ Montana (Small)
- ▶ Mississippi (Medium)
- ▶ Michigan (Large)

Recruiter of the Year

Audrey Hamilton

Director of School Nutrition

Clayton County School District, Georgia

Recruited 390 new SNA members
during 2022-23 membership year

Over her decades-long career in school nutrition and 15 years as an SNA member, Audrey Hamilton has become a powerful voice for the Association—even though K-12 foodservice isn't where she got her professional start.

In fact, Hamilton began her food-service career while she was still in college, working part-time in her university's campus dining and catering department. After graduating, she stuck with the field, eventually becoming the Foodservice Director for some of the most prestigious historically Black universities in the U.S. After finally making her transition to the K-12 school foodservice field in 1998, she became a member of Georgia School Nutrition Association in 1999 and the National Association in 2007.

Since then, Hamilton has gone above and beyond in encouraging her peers to join SNA alongside her, recruiting an astonishing 390 new

Association members during the 2022-23 membership year.

"I believe that being a member of an organization that aligns specifically with your career is important," said Hamilton, who recognizes that newcomers to the field and school nutrition veterans alike can find value in being an SNA member. "I encourage my peers in other school districts, and [those] who are new to the profession, to be a voice at the table. Get involved with an organization that will support your needs and help build and guide your career with opportunities for professional development, networking, legislative activities, scholarships and sustainable relationships."

Hamilton explains that membership perks include click-of-a-button resources that are vital to staying abreast of the latest trends and changes in the K-12 industry.

"K-12 is not a fixed environment, but a fluid environment that is likely to change



repeatedly and unexpectedly based on the weather, laws, diseases and the availability of goods and services," she explained.

"SNA is in-tune with these changes and provides the information and resources to help us act in an ever-changing environment. For operators like myself and others, we need to have timely information to be successful in this industry—that is why SNA membership is more important now than ever before."



Top Star Club Members

- ▶ Marcia Smith, Florida
- ▶ Denise Hooper, Tennessee
- ▶ Sonja Anthony, SNS, Alabama
- ▶ Denise Lamar, SNS, North Carolina
- ▶ Deborah Wuest, SNS, Florida
- ▶ Jessica Shelly, SNS, Ohio
- ▶ Meredith Potter, SNS, Georgia
- ▶ Gretchen Wilson, SNS, North Carolina
- ▶ Angela Broussard, Louisiana
- ▶ Rosie Jackson, Louisiana

Top Star Club States

- ▶ Georgia
- ▶ Florida
- ▶ North Carolina
- ▶ Tennessee
- ▶ Louisiana
- ▶ Minnesota
- ▶ Alabama
- ▶ Ohio
- ▶ South Carolina
- ▶ Michigan