

In the Spotlight! * Learn About Carol

Welcome to MSNA's October member spotlight! We're excited to feature Carol Williamson, Head Cook at Sartell Middle School. Learn about Carol's involvement with MSNA and what she enjoys about her role!



MSNA Scholarship Applications Opening Soon



How to: Setting it up on the front end

Interested in attending a local or national school nutrition conference but need assistance in getting there? Apply for an MSNA scholarship! Applications will open in early November - watch your inboxes for the announcement.

Click below to learn which conferences are eligible for attendance. Please share this opportunity with all school nutrition staff once applications open. Note that applicants must be MSNA members.

How-to: composing photos

Check out which conferences are eligible

New Website Feature: Promote Meals & Elevate Your School 💪

Wishing there were resources to better promote your school's meal program? Wish no more! Our brand new Communications Resources page offers ready-to-use tools like social media graphics, talking points, and quick promotional tips to help you showcase the value of school meals and membership with ease.

Do you know how to take stellar food photos? Check out expert tips in setting up the shot and capturing your food at its finest. Click the images below or click here.

Why photographs are important







up at the pizza social.

their lives. During breakout sessions, attendees dove deeper into colors, increased their understanding of intercultural communication, took home tips on scratch-cooking, and learned how to strengthen school-industry relationships. Thank you to our breakout session speakers, listed here. Thursday afternoon's panel invited Kristine McIntyre, Felicia Kittock, and Maria

What do you get when you combine school nutrition directors, industry partners, and a northern getaway? A *frighteningly good time* – the SNIP Conference! The annual convening of sharing, learning, and networking was held last week from Wednesday, October 22 to Friday, October 24. Over 130 attendees, the largest gathering since COVID, came together at the gorgeous Grand View lodge in Nisswa, MN, setting the conference in motion with the Wednesday afternoon scavenger hunt, embracing the cold temps (but stunning colors) before warming

evening's bingo and trivia event. Friday's events consisted of MSNA updates provided by President Glen Ritter, followed by the Industry Partner of the Year Award, presented to Terri

Bonovsky with Sysco – congratulations, Terri! Attendees also celebrated the

Amerman to speak on Al-strategies in their schools. Then, luck met logic in the

retirements of Steve Martel (General Mills) and Mary Beth Sachs (Affinity Group), recognizing their outstanding careers and longtime commitment to MSNA. Important state and federal updates were shared by Emily Honer with the Minnesota Department of Education, followed by the popular SNIP Forum, in which attendees had opportunities to collaborate on their most pressing industry

challenges. The conference closed with raffle winner announcements, including

the sought-after grand prize giveaway, Minnesota Vikings tickets.

Thank you, sponsors, for your conference support, and to our 2025 Elite members for your support of MSNA the entire year. Find these companies at the bottom of the newsletter. Congratulations to the committee, led by Sarah Motl, St. Cloud Schools, and Mike DeRosia, Vader and Landgraf, for another great SNIP!

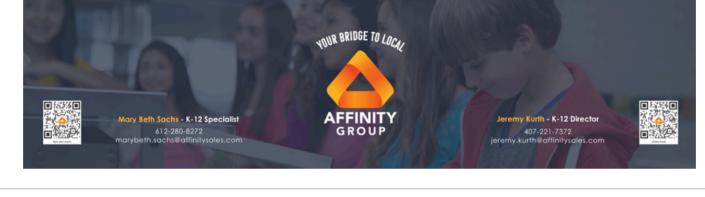


Terri Bonovsky Sysco Western

SNIP Photo Album

Thank You for Supporting MSNA, Affinity Group! Affinity Group's experience in all aspects of the foodservice and retail industry make us the perfect partner to help you grow

your brand and drive results for your business. At Affinity Group, we don't just work with food; we live and breathe food. Our talented team of foodservice experts give you direct access to the insights, solutions, and inspiration you need to take your business to the next level. We believe culinary is the cornerstone on which your "Bridge to Local" is built.



Your Hub for School Nutrition Careers & Job Openings



available to both school nutrition and industry members to post and find exciting career openings. Find your next role or staff member by clicking below. MSNA Job Board

trying to hire the right talent? Our free job board is

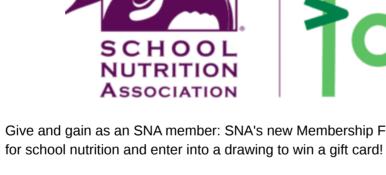
Various LAC Scholarships

Available: Apply Today!



Conference. The School Nutrition Foundation (SNF) is awarding 20 scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000 to help LAC cover costs. Learn more and apply by clicking below. Learn More & Apply

MEMBERSHIP,



Grow Together Give and gain as an SNA member: SNA's new Membership Forward campaign is your chance to show your support

from October 1, 2025, to May 31, 2026 and enter a monthly \$25 gift card drawing. Be sure that the new member you recruit enters your name as the *Referrer* when joining SNA using the print or online application. Learn more here.

How does the campaign work? It's easy. Simply recruit at least one new SNA member during any calendar month

MSNA Members in the News

October 13 To kick off National School Lunch Week, MSNA Secretary Jess Peña from Red Wing Public Schools joined FOX 9 Good Day to



showcase the delicious, nutritious meals served in schools across the state every day.

Watch Jess' Interview Here

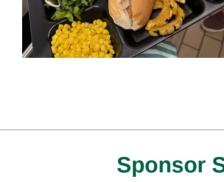
To wrap up National School Lunch Week, MSNA President Glen Ritter joined WCCO & CBS News Minnesota to showcase how

schools across the state celebrated nutritious and culturally diverse meals all week long.

October 16

Watch Glen's Interview Here October 17





Winona Area Public Schools' nutrition director, hosted lawmakers, farmers and representatives from MDA and MDE to show how state investment has helped to transform school meals in the district.

Read the article here Sponsor Spotlight! Hello, MSNA Supporters 👋

As part of National Farm to School Month, Jennifer Walters,

Upper Lakes Foods is a local leader in foodservice

Annual Conference Lunch Sponsors:

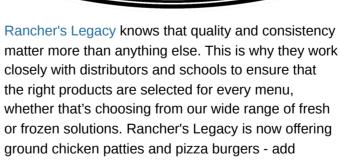
Upper Lakes Foods & Pilgrims

out of Cloquet, MN, proudly supporting businesses for over 50 years. They focus on delivering innovative, cost-effective solutions to our customers. Pilgrim's foodservice delivers targeted on-trend insights and flavor innovation. In their Gold Kist brand, you'll find solutions that resonate with your

students and help you seize new opportunities.

SNIP Conference Keynote Sponsor

Rancher's Legacy



ground chicken patties and pizza burgers - add variety to your menu today! **Upcoming Events** 177

See the Full Events Calendar Here

November 21: SNA's LAC Call for Presentation Proposals Deadline





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