



MSNA Minute: September Edition

Welcome to the MSNA Minute September newsletter! Recap the Annual Conference, get important updates from Board members, check out upcoming events, and much more.

School Nutrition Leaders: Unite at SNIP this October 🍌



[Learn More & Register for SNIP](#)

Meet Your 2025-2026 Executive Board Members 🌸



Ten individuals were installed onto the 2025-2026 Executive Board last month. Barb Mechura, former director of Hopkins School District, led the ceremony on the final day of the Annual Conference. Glen Ritter, Food Service Director for St. Michael-Albertville Schools, will represent MSNA members as MSNA President, and serving under his leadership is:

- President-elect **Ashley Schneider**, Director of Food and Nutrition Services at Moorhead Area Public Schools
- Vice President **Ross Larson**, Nutrition Services Specialist at District 196
- Secretary/Treasurer **Jess Peña**, Director of School Nutrition at Red Wing Public Schools
- Public Policy Chair **Darcy Stueber**, Director of Nutrition Services at Mankato Area Public Schools
- Education Chair **Renee Arbogast**, Director of Nutrition Services at Fridley Public Schools
- Member Services Chair **Spencer Fischer**, Food & Nutrition Services Coordinator at District 196
- Nutrition Chair **Lori Landowski**, Director of Child Nutrition at Foley Public Schools
- MN State Agency Representative **Nicole Barron**, School Nutrition Supervisor at Minnesota Department of Education
- Industry Chair **Jeremy Kurth**, K-12 Director at Affinity Sales

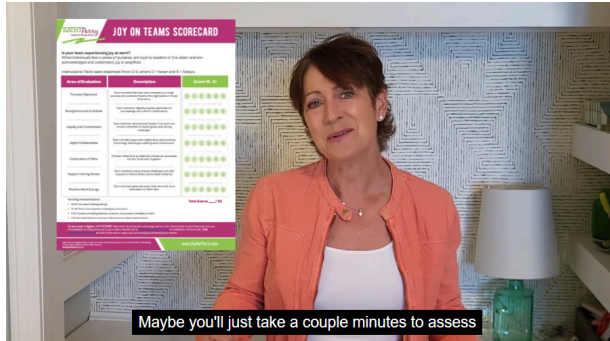


These leaders bring a wealth of experience, a passion for child nutrition, and a proven commitment to serving their communities. As they step into their roles, they will guide our efforts, inspire innovation, and provide the support our members rely on to make a real difference in schools. *Congratulations, board members!*

68 Years Strong: This Year's Annual Conference Highlights ✨



[View the Conference Recap Here](#)



A Reminder from Our Keynote 😊

It's easy to get inspired at a conference. The challenging part, though, is implementing the fabulous ideas you learned! Kathy Parry, one of our Annual Conference keynoters, is here to help us turn these energizing ideas into action. Use the Joy on Teams scorecard to assess how your teams are doing. Just a few minutes can spark more joy and energy into your days!

Thank You for Supporting MSNA, Upper Lakes!

Upper Lakes Foods is a local leader in foodservice, proudly supporting businesses for over 50 years. We focus on delivering innovative, cost-effective solutions to our customers. We are a family-owned company out of Cloquet, MN. When you work with Upper Lakes Foods, you're more than a customer—you're part of our family.



Finding Growth & Friendship in MSNA

MSNA Past President, Emily Malone, reflects on her beginnings with MSNA and invites you to get involved! Not sure where to start? Check out the article for a sneak peek into MSNA's many committees. Let us jump start your meaningful journey in school nutrition.

[Read Emily's Message](#)



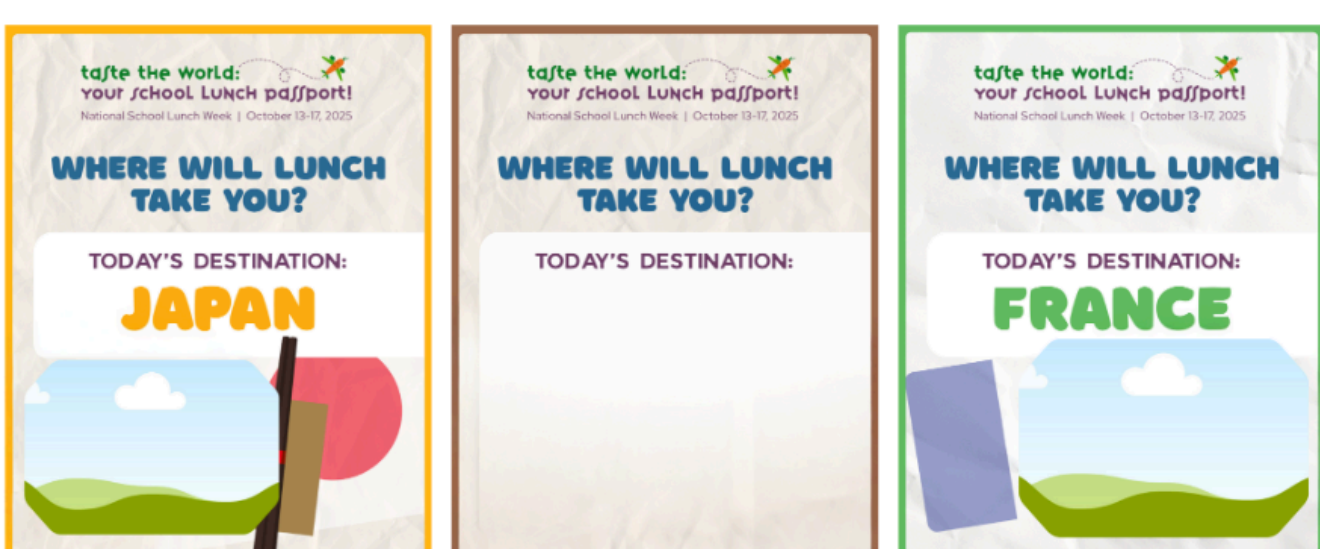
President's Message

Thanks are in order! MSNA President, Glen Ritter, shares highlights from the Annual Conference and looks ahead to SNIP, inviting leaders and partners to continue pushing boundaries and building connections that drive student nutrition forward.

[Read Glen's Message](#)

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.



MSNA Industry Happenings

With the Annual Conference behind us and the SNIP conference gearing up, MSNA planners are busy. Reflect and hear what's to come from Industry Chair, Jeremy Kurth, and SNIP Co-chairs, Mike DeRosa and Sarah Mott.

[Read Jeremy, Mike, and Sarah's Letter Here](#)



Executive Director Update

Go behind the scenes with MSNA's Executive Director, Margaret Winchell, as she details what's planned for MSNA and the Executive Board this fall and beyond.

[Read Margaret's Update Here](#)

Sponsor Spotlight: Hello, Peterson Farms 🍌

At Peterson Farms Treats, we've always been committed to offering delicious and nutritious fruit-based products from our family-owned facility in Shelby, MI that meet the needs of schools and food service providers. Now, with Cool Tropics joining us, we're expanding our ability to serve you with even more great options. We pride ourselves with excellent products, service and commitment to our customers!



Encourage Your Families! One form. Five minutes. Big impact.



Help encourage families to complete the Application for Educational Benefits. MDE has provided resources you can share in your schools and to your families. Check out the flyers, posters, graphics, and social media captions in the [Fill the Form](#) toolkit.

Legislators Need a First-Hand Look Lead the Way, ##[Name | First]##

RESOURCE Cafeteria Site Visits 101

Meeting with a legislator is one of the most effective methods for conveying a message about a legislative or policy matter. A cafeteria site visit will give your legislator a first-hand look into how school nutrition programs operate.

SNA's [Cafeteria Site Visit toolkit](#) contains useful resources to help you get started including invitations, agendas and PowerPoint presentations.

Which Members are in the News? 📰

Visit the MSNA home page and scroll down to "Members in the News" or bookmark the [News/Resources](#) page!

News/Resources
[Check out our member spotlights here!](#)
September 2025

- MSNA President, **Glen Ritter**, was installed during the MSNA Annual Conference in August. Learn more about Glen's background and aspirations for his presidency in this [Press & News article](#).
- Ashley Schneider**, MSNA President-elect and Director of Food Services for Moorhead Area Schools, joined [FOX 9](#) to discuss school meal guidelines and the creativity of school meal programs.

Upcoming Events 📅

- All of October:** National Farm to School Month
- October 13-17:** National School Lunch Week
- October 22-24:** MSNA School Nutrition and Industry Partner (SNIP) Conference

Thank You! Recognizing Our 2025 Supporters 🍌



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT, 2025 ELITE INDUSTRY MEMBERS!



Minnesota School Nutrition Association
1400 Van Buren St. NE #200-239
Minneapolis, MN 55413
Phone: 320-251-2344
MSNA@FusionLP.org

Connect with Us:

