

Meet The Member

LOIS SCHMIDT
COOK/DISHWASHER

**TRACY AREA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

"My absolute 'happy place' is our school's summer feeding program. I help at a nearby park, and it's wonderful to see kids and their families stop by for lunch."



Tell us about your role:

I have worked with Tracy Area Public Schools' Food Service for four years, joining the department shortly after retiring from a career in nonprofit fundraising. However, this isn't my first time working in a school kitchen, as I also served as a student cafeteria helper during high school.

How did you first get involved with MSNA, and in what ways has being a member contributed to your career growth?

Thanks to our director, all food service staff are supported through MSNA membership. I follow the organization on social media, and it has been a great learning experience in understanding the broader scope of our role in student nutrition. There is so much more involved in the daily food tray than most people realize.

What do you enjoy most about your current position?

My absolute 'happy place' is our school's summer feeding program. I help at a nearby park, and it's wonderful to see kids and their families stop by for lunch after swimming lessons or T-ball practice.

What's the most popular meal on your lunch menu? Do you have a personal favorite, and why?

My top choice is the spaghetti paired with our fresh vegetable salad bar. I also love our crispy breakfast toast for its simple, homey goodness. Our students enjoy Chicken Alfredo, tacos and what we call our 'TMB' Bowl, our school's version of a KFC Bowl.