



## MSNA Minute: April Edition

Welcome to the MSNA Minute April newsletter! Read about our 2026-2027 Slate of Officers, get important updates from Board members, check out upcoming events, and more.

### Annual Conference Registration is Open! August 2-5, 2026 | St. Cloud, MN



[Learn More & Register](#)

### Announcing the MSNA 2026-2027 Slate of Officers

The Leadership Development Committee (LDC), led by MSNA Past President Emily Malone, Prior Lake-Savage Public Schools; Amy Kimmel, Spring Lake Park Schools; Kristi Frank, Forest Lake Area Schools; Danaca Jensen, Willmar Public Schools, and Ross Larson, District 196, announces the 2026-2027 slate of officers for the 2026 election to be held between May 1 and May 15, 2026.

**Vice President**  
Kim Franta, Eastern Carver County Schools

**Secretary/Treasurer**  
Jess Peña,  
Brooklyn Center Community Schools

**Leadership Development Committee**  
Pam Haupt,  
Columbia Heights Public Schools



Voting will be conducted via SurveyMonkey. The link to vote will be sent May 1 to the email address at which you received this newsletter. Need to update your email? Let us know by responding to this email.

How does the voting process work? Check out this [helpful FAQs doc](#).

[Get to Know the Candidates](#)



### Spring Updates, New Connections, and the Road to St. Cloud

MSNA President Glen Ritter reflects on recent progress, from new learning opportunities to stronger member connections, and shares what's ahead this spring. As we head toward elections, celebrations, and the Annual Conference, it's a reminder of the impact you make and the importance of staying engaged.

[Read Glen's Message](#)



### From the Desk of the Secretary-Treasurer

MSNA Secretary-Treasurer, Jess Peña, shares a positive financial update, highlighting strong membership renewals, lower-than-expected expenses, and a solid cash position. Read the report to see how continued member support is helping MSNA stay on track and invest in future opportunities.

[Read Jess' Report](#)

## ADVOCACY IN ACTION: LET'S RECAP



From Minnesota's legislative session to key federal proposals, major decisions are on the horizon for school nutrition programs. This newsletter's Public Policy update breaks down what's happening at the Capitol, MSNA's top priorities, and the policies that could shape funding, flexibility, and operations moving forward. What happens next will directly impact your program; this update helps you stay one step ahead.

[Read Darcy and Sam's Update](#)

### SNA's Legislative Action Conference | March 8-10



Over 20 MSNA members traveled to our nation's Capitol March 8-10 to meet with Minnesota's congressional delegation as part of the School Nutrition Association's Legislative Action Conference. Members advocated for increased funding and shared examples of the great work happening in their school cafeterias. They also provided insight into the resources needed to keep up with rising costs and continue investing in staffing, training, equipment, and infrastructure to expand school nutrition programs.

Minnesota school nutrition programs were well represented! Thank you to Senators Tina Smith and Amy Klobuchar, as well as staff from the offices of Betty McCollum, Ilhan Omar, Brad Finstad, Angie Craig, Tom Emmer, and Michelle Fischbach for taking the time to meet with members.

A huge congratulations to Darcy Stueber, Director of Nutrition Services at Mankato Public Schools, and Brianna Caverzagie, Nutrition Services Specialist at White Bear Lake Area Schools, on being selected for the School Nutrition Association Executive Leadership Program in partnership with the Georgetown McDonough School of Business. Thank you for representing Minnesota!

### MSNA's Day at the Capitol Event | April 13



30 MSNA members and 20 legislators convened at the Minnesota State Capitol on April 13 for MSNA's annual legislative policy reception. Throughout the afternoon, school nutrition professionals had direct, meaningful conversations with lawmakers about the day-to-day realities of feeding students across Minnesota. Attendees shared what is working in their programs, where challenges remain, and how state and federal policies impact their ability to serve healthy, consistent meals.

Legislators also had the opportunity to experience firsthand a popular school meal - walking tacos - reinforcing the quality and care that goes into every tray served. The strong turnout demonstrated unity across the profession and sent a clear message to legislators that this work matters and deserves continued support and investment. Thank you to Darcy Stueber, MSNA Public Policy Chair, for leading a successful event!

[View the Event Photos](#)

## INDUSTRY MEMBER NEWS



### Stronger Together: Connections into Impact

Collaboration is at the core of our progress. In his Industry Chair update, Jeremy Kurth shares how partnerships between MSNA and industry members are driving innovation, strengthening programs, and creating meaningful value for school nutrition professionals and help move our work forward in ways that matter.

[Read Jeremy's Update](#)



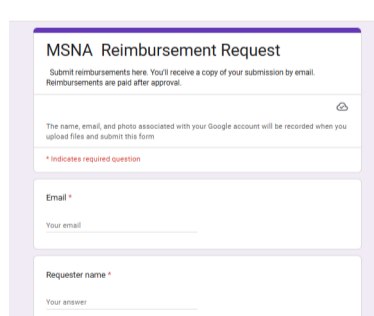
There's no better way to kick off the end of the school year than with MSNA at Target Field! Join us on Monday, June 22 for an evening packed with good food, great people, and a night at the ballpark as the Twins take on the Los Angeles Dodgers.

- Only \$36.00 per person - includes your game ticket and buffet dinner
- MSNA members and employees of MSNA industry organizations, plus guests
- Credit card payment required at time of registration

[Celebrate the Kick-Off to Summer with the Twins](#)



### MSNA's New Reimbursement Form is Here



We've made reimbursements easier than ever. Our new Google Form replaces the old spreadsheet, giving leadership and committee members a simple, streamlined way to submit conference, event, and other expense requests.

Be sure to bookmark the form for easy access whenever you need it. It is also available on the MSNA website [here](#).

### Upcoming Events

**April 29-May 1:** Minnesota Association of Schools Business Officials (MASBO) Conference | Duluth, MN

**May 1:** National School Lunch Hero Day

**May 16-19:** National Restaurant Association Show | Chicago, IL

**June 22:** MSNA at the Twins | Target Field, Minneapolis, MN

[See the Full Events Calendar Here](#)

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT, 2026 ELITE INDUSTRY MEMBERS!



Support MSNA events. Sponsorships are available to industry members.

If you have any questions, please contact MSNA at 320-251-2344 or [MSNA@fusionLP.org](mailto:MSNA@fusionLP.org).



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