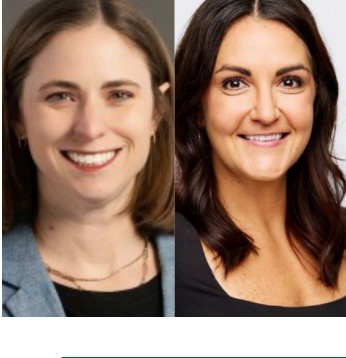




MSNA Minute: September Edition

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

Build Strong Partnerships at SNIP October 21-23, 2026 | Grand View Lodge, Nisswa, MN



Jackie DeRoma and Callie Neumann, the 2026 SNIP Co-chairs, are getting us ready for SNIP 2026. Read their article for what's in store for this year's conference, including inspiring speakers, new opportunities for first-time attendees, and the activities that make SNIP such a memorable experience. Whether you're a longtime attendee or joining us for the first time, there's plenty to look forward to in Nisswa this October.

[Learn More & Register](#)

[Read Jackie and Callie's Message](#)

Meet Your 2026-2027 Executive Board Members 🙋



Ten individuals were installed onto the 2026-2027 MSNA Executive Board during this year's Annual Conference. These leaders bring a wealth of experience, a passion for child nutrition, and a shared commitment to serving Minnesota's school nutrition community. Ashley Schneider, Director of Food & Nutrition Services at Moorhead Area Public Schools, will represent MSNA members as MSNA President. Serving alongside her are:

- President-Elect: **Ross Larson**, Nutrition Services Specialist at District 196
- Vice President: **Kim Franta**, Director of Nutrition Services at Eastern Carver Schools
- Secretary/Treasurer: **Jess Peña**, Manager of Nutrition Services at Brooklyn Center Community Schools
- Nutrition Chair: **Lori Landowski**, Director of Child Nutrition at Foley Public Schools
- Education Chair: **Renee Arbogast**, Director of Nutritional Services at Fridley Public Schools
- Member Services Chair: **Kathy Faust**, Coordinator of Food & Nutrition Services at Crosslake Community School
- Public Policy Chair: **Darcy Steuber**, Director of Food Services at Mankato Area Public Schools
- Industry Chair: **Bekah DeJarlais**, K-12 School Specialist at Upper Lakes Foods
- State Agency Liaison: **Nicole Barron**, School Nutrition Supervisor at the Minnesota Department of Education

As they step into their roles, these board members will help guide MSNA's efforts, support innovation, and strengthen the resources and connections our members rely on to make a difference in schools across Minnesota.

Congratulations to the 2026-2027 Executive Board!



The Feedback is Truly "One in a Melon" 🍉

Recap the 2026 Annual Conference



[Check Out the Conference Recap](#)

Thank You for Supporting MSNA, General Mills!



We Are Here to Help - Participation Made Easy!

At General Mills Foodservice, we are committed to helping schools. Our K-12 regulation-ready products make it easier than ever to meet guidelines while keeping mealtime exciting. From whole-grain cereal to frozen meal options, we have got the solutions to keeping kids fed!

NEWS FROM MSNA LEADERS



A New School Year, A New Rhythm

The school year is underway, and MSNA President Ashley Schneider reminds us to recognize the dedication, creativity, and care that school nutrition professionals bring to their work every day. From navigating the busy start of school to celebrating the connections made at Annual Conference and looking ahead to SNIP, her message is a timely reminder that the work we do matters.

[Read Ashley's Message](#)



Meet MSNA's New Industry Chair!

In her Industry Chair Update, Bekah DeJarlais of Upper Lakes Foods shares her excitement for the year ahead. She reflects on the success of the Exhibit Show, celebrates MSNA's growing industry membership, highlights sponsorship opportunities, and looks ahead to building stronger connections.

[Read Bekah's Update](#)



A Look Ahead for MSNA

Following her first few months as Executive Director, Andrea Ostergaard reflects on the success of Annual Conference, welcomes MSNA's new Board of Directors, and looks ahead to the work of strengthening the association. She also encourages members to stay connected, use MSNA as a resource, and consider getting involved with a committee as opportunities for next year begin to take shape.

[Read Andrea's Update](#)

Free Farm to School Culinary Training



Join the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and MSNA for an immersive, hands-on culinary training focused on making the most of local produce and ingredients.

WHEN: October 15 | 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
WHERE: Shakopee High School
COST: Free | Membership Not Required
Limit to 2 Staff from Each School

[Learn More & Sign Up](#)

Industry Partners:

Support the "Say Yes! to School Meals" Contest 🏆



The Minnesota Department of Education is seeking prize donations for its fourth annual "Say Yes! to School Meals" photo contest, and we invite you to be part of recognizing and celebrating these schools.

MDE is looking for prize items such as cutting boards, blenders, sectionizers, food processors, signage, small equipment, or other creative contributions that would be meaningful to school nutrition programs.

This is a great opportunity to make your company visible to school nutrition leaders across Minnesota while demonstrating your commitment to supporting school meals and the professionals who make them possible. If you are interested in donating or would like to discuss ideas, [please contact Gail Anderson](#) by **December 31st**.

Thank You for Supporting MSNA, RedCo!



Redco Foodservice Equipment is here to help you with your school foodservice equipment needs. Our commitment to outstanding customer service and our deep focus on relationships sets us apart.

Continuous improvement. Ownership of every opportunity. Always your partner, never your competitor!

Upcoming Events 📅

October: [Farm to School Month](#)

October 12-16: [National School Lunch Week](#)

October 21-23: [School Nutrition and Industry Partner \(SNIP\) Conference](#) | Grand View Lodge, Nisswa, MN

[See the Full Events Calendar Here](#)

THANK YOU, MSNA SUPPORTERS

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DAY AT THE CAPITOL SPONSOR



TWINS TAKEOVER EVENT SPONSORS



ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPONSORS



THANK YOU, 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.



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