

The Leadership Development Committee (LDC), lead by immediate past state MSNA President Vickie Speltz, Lewiston/Altura; Erin George, St. Paul; Jennifer Walters, Winona; Elaine Woolery, St. Michael Albertville and Kari Blum, Rushford, announces the 2021-2022 slate of officers for the 2021 election to be held between May 1-15, 2021.

*****As we get ready for the election, we want to help you understand how MSNA members are eligible to have their names included on the ballot. There have been some questions as to election rules and we want to help make the process more clear. For detailed information about election rules/qualifications and candidate bios, please read below.**

Slate of Candidates

Vice President

- Michele Hawkinson, Tracy ISD

Nutrition Chair

- Kimberly Hinrichs, Buffalo/Montrose/Hanover ISD
 - Jennifer Walters, Winona ISD

Leadership Development Committee

- Kathy Faust, Cross Lake Community Schools
 - Valerie Johns, Eden Prairie ISD
- Glen Ritter, Inver Grove Heights/So. St. Paul
Christina Wirtz, St. Paul Public Schools

What is the Leadership Development Committee?

The LDC is composed of 5 members: the most Immediate Past MSNA President-who serves as chair, two chapter presidents or vice presidents appointed by the current president, and the two members elected by the membership. The elected members serve a two-year term, and the chapter presidents serve a one-year term. All members of the LDC must be members in good standing and be employed in an eligible field. (see bylaws for more details). Once a slate of officers is completed, the LDC Chair sends the slate to the Executive Board.

Who is eligible to have their name on the ballot?

All candidates for office must be members in good standing-must maintain SNA/MSNA membership and have been a member for a minimum of two years immediately preceding nomination.

What are the qualifications to run for office?

All candidates must have demonstrated leadership ability by serving on the MSNA Executive Board, a local chapter board or a standing committee.

What does the LDC members do to find members to run for office?

The LDC uses a roster of names compiled of members who have served on committees, chapters and the executive board. Those names are verified they have met all the eligibility requirements and then contacted by a LDC Member. A tracking log is kept of who has been called, emailed and their response.

What happens if multiple nominations for office occur?

It is possible that there are multiple nominees and the LDC will hold an interview session that will score each member and then determine the two candidates for office.

Can a current appointed board member run for an elected office?

Yes, they will meet the criteria and can have their name placed on the ballot.

What do candidates need to run for office?

To run for office of Vice President, Nutrition Chair and/or Secretary Treasurer:

- Member will need district approval. This is so the district understands the time commitment needed to be on the board.
- Member must sign a receipt form that they read, acknowledge MSNA’s Conflict of Interest Policy, Anti-Trust Policy, Whistle Blower Policy.
- Candidate must agree to an interview prior to being placed on the ballot should the need arise due to many applicants for the same position.
- Must hold SNA certificate.
- Send in a bio and head shot for website and newsletter

RULES

1. • To be eligible to vote you must be a SNA/MSNA member in good standing as of March 30, 2021.
2. • You must enter a valid SNA ID number to be qualified to vote.
3. • You may only vote once.
4. • Voting will be conducted May 1-15, 2021.

MSNA will be conducting the election through online voting, via a Survey Monkey link that will be emailed to all MSNA school members (no Industry members).

When the election opens on the morning of May 1, you should look for an email sent from Survey Monkey. If you don’t receive the initial email in your inbox, first check your “spam,” “clutter” and

“other” folders. If you still can’t find the email? Don’t give up—there are some simple steps to get what you need to participate in this important election.

It’s possible you did not have a valid, individual email address in your SNA record as of April 30th or, you might have changed your email since last updating your member profile, or you might have a shared email address with other members of your cafeteria or district.

Here is what you can do:

- Update your email address by visiting SNA
- Click on the red “Login to my account” button, Check that your member profile includes an accurate, individual email address that is unique to you (or your family)
- If your email address was inaccurate or missing, or if the information was correct but you still didn’t receive the election email please contact the MSNA office, toll-free, 877-251-2344 or via email at minnsna@ gmail.com to assist you.

Meet the Candidates:

Vice President



Michele Hawkinson

Food Service Director, Tracy Public Schools

Level 3 Certificate

MSNA Education Chair-2020-current

Hiawatha Chapter 2 President (2018/2021)

Hiawatha Chapter 2 Past President (2016/2017)

MSNA Leadership Development Committee (2020)

Has attended numerous state annual conferences, nutrition conference and skills camp

Goals:

1. To listen and learn all I can about MSNA and SNA, so I am able to help in any capacity
2. To actively increase membership in SNA/MSNA and promote the professional development for all members.

3. To contribute my knowledge and skills to help the work of the Executive Board.

I am a strong leader and being a Food Service Director for over 25 years I have learned you must be ready for anything! You need to make the best decision at a moment's notice, and you must be able to change things to make it work with what you have. I have good listening skills and work to find solutions to all issues that arise. With Covid, feeding our students has been a great accomplishment due to all the many last-minute changes and challenges but as a team we did it!

Nutrition Chair



Kim Hinrichs

Director of Nutrition Services, Buffalo/Hanover/Montrose ISD

Level 4 Certificate

Will be taking the SNS Exam in August

Little Crow Chapter 21 President 2018-2019

Little Crow Chapter 21 President Elect 2017-2018

Little Crow Chapter 21 President 2012-2013

Little Crow Chapter 21 President Elect 2011-2012

Has attended numerous state annual conferences, Chapter Leadership sessions, nutrition conference and national annual conference in St. Louis 2019

Awards:

MSNA Chapter President of Excellence Award

2019 SNF ANC scholarship

Goals:

1. Promote nutrition education opportunities between school kitchen staff, classroom teachers and students. Working on projects such as aero gardens, school gardens, The Great Lakes Apple Crunch, tasting new items (vegetable or fruit of the month) and farm visits.

2. As a former restaurant chef, nutrition and food quality go hand in hand. I believe how the food is prepared and presented is just as important as being nutritionally balanced. My goal is to help teach school nutrition staff cooking & presentation methods.
3. Encourage MN School nutrition employees to be more active with social media (with permission of their districts) to promote and reach students, family and communities to educate and promote school nutrition programs.
4. Create nutrition education opportunities for all MSNA members through conferences, webinars and chapter meetings.

I am currently the director of nutrition services at Buffalo/Montrose/Hanover schools. I was a manager and after I received my AA degree became the director. I have always encouraged my staff and other districts as chapter president and now director to get involved, learn how to become a leader and experience what it is to be on the chapter board. I have served as the Foodservice Association President (negotiation, committee leader) for my district.



Jennifer Walters, RD, SNS
School Nutrition Director, Winona ISD

Goals:

1. Promote Nutrition Education
2. Monitor USDA proposals in regard to nutrition issues and get information to members.
3. Serve as a nutrition resource to the Executive Board and Chapters

I am the Food Service Director for the Winona school district. I am a registered dietician and hold a bachelor's degree in Nutrition & Dietetics from the UofM. I served as FS director for 10 years in the Viroqua school district in Wisconsin and I was a member of the Commodity Task Force and Wisconsin Healthy Kids Coalition.

I have been published in the Pediatric Diabetes Journal with a study of glycemic control in camps. I own my own consulting firm, Walters Nutrition Consulting and have been a consultant trainer for the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN). I am currently finishing up my master's in business administration in May 2021.

Leadership Development Committee



Kathy Faust
Director of Food & Nutrition Services
Crosslake Community Charter School

Kathy is the current FS Director for the CrossLake Community Charter School and previously worked as the FS director for Onamia Schools. She has been a member of MSNA since 2000 and served as a Chapter 36 leader many times and volunteered on the annual conference committee as Education Sponsorship Fund and the Vendor Exhibit Show. She has attended annual conference many times and is thankful for MSNA with the many opportunities that are provided to the members. It has given her great information to succeed in this ever-changing world of school nutrition.



Valerie Johns
Food Assistant II, Eden Prairie Schools

Valerie has been employed with Eden Prairie School since November 2002 where she currently manages the High School coffee shop. Since 2010 she has been a trainer and operates “Starting Out Smart By Valerie”. Valerie holds a SNA Level 4 certificate and is a ServSafe Instructor/Proctor, Minnesota Department of Health Trainer and Union Steward. Valerie has volunteered on many committees with the West Suburban Chapter 14 and currently holds the “President” position. She encourages all members to attend meetings and provides motivational speakers. She attends the State Conferences yearly and participated in the California virtual conference in October of 2020. Valerie feels she is the right candidate to promote MSNA.



Glen Ritter
Food Service Director
Inver Grove Heights/So. St. Paul ISD

Glen is currently the Food Service Director for Inver Grove Heights/So. St. Paul Districts. He has been the assistant director for the Hopkins Schools and a past treasurer for the School Nutrition Directors of MN. He has been a MSNA member for 15 years and is a past MSNA Future Leader Award winner. He learned his leadership skills during his time with the National Guard and worked as a Training Manager for Buffets Inc, where he trained newly hired managers. He has attended MSNA conferences and looks forward to help finding new leaders for MSNA.



Christina Wirtz
Nutrition Service Supervisor II
St. Paul Public Schools

Chris works for the St. Paul Public School system and has 27 years in school nutrition. She works in the middle school as well as monitoring 18 Park and Recreation Centers assisting with home deliveries. Chris has served on the St. Paul Chapter 32 board as secretary from 2015-2020 and is currently the Co-President. Chris helps her colleagues become leaders by fostering an atmosphere where they can succeed and reach their goals by providing the training and support. If elected, she will assist in identifying potential candidates for the future success of MSNA.