

## SNIP Conference

You won't want to miss this exciting conference at Breezy Point Resort on May 10-11th with two specialized pre-con sessions on May 9th! Directors are invited to a panel discussion "NOI: After the Surveys" and Industry members are invited to the 2nd Annual Industry Forum. These sessions will start at 5:30pm and a pizza social hour will follow.

The SNIP Committee has put together a great conference with Keynote Speaker, Matt Upton, MN Dept of Education workshops and a new SNIP Challenge!



Workshop sessions on "How to Develop and Maintain Customer Allegiance" and "How to Deal with Pesky People"

If you have difficult/ Pesky people as part of your staff, team, or family then this is the one workshop you MUST attend! [Click to hear a message from Matt!](#)

The SNIP Challenge will be a fun, interactive "hands on" test of one's ability to think on their feet! This Challenge will consist of two rounds of contestants followed by a SNIP off challenge from winners of the first two challenges. Using 4 groups of 2 or more for the first two challenges, the winner from each round will move on to the final challenge! With a set of ingredients, each group will be tasked to create a recipe. At the same time, the audience will be doing an in-teractive training! How well do you know your school requirements?

To secure your hotel go to the Breezy Point-Online Hotel Reservations: [www.breezypointresort.com](http://www.breezypointresort.com)

Select Lodging tab, online reservations Enter group #212433

All attendees are able to purchase a 2018 SNIP commemorative sweatshirt. [Details here](#). Last day to order is April 25th.

We are excited to partner with Second Harvest North Central Food Bank for our service project this year. This branch of Second Harvest serves over 115 hunger relief agencies in Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, Itasca, Koochiching, Kanabec and Mille Lacs counties in North Central Minnesota.

Participants and Industry Partners will be able to make donations [directly online to Second Harvest](#). We will also be taking donations at the conference. If your company is interested in sponsoring this event with matching gifts, please contact Heather Yanta at [hyanta@cal-lifd.com](mailto:hyanta@cal-lifd.com)

Two ways to register! Online or paper registration form. [Click here](#) to register.

You won't want to miss the announcement of the 2018 MSNA Industry Partner of the year and the 2019 SNIP Conference location! The Industry Chair elections vote will also open.

See you at Breezy!



2017 Industry Partner of the Year Stacey Stahl and Past President Julie Powers

### In This Issue:

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# President's Message



Wendy Knight, RD, SNS  
MSNA President

Greetings again fellow school nutrition professionals! I come to you today in the month of April and yes, it is a no school day again due to some 6-10" of snowfall! This is no April Fool's joke either. I am sure you are like me in that you are ready for spring!

There has been a lot of talk and written articles about "mean 'ol lunch ladies taking away trays from hungry students". That is just not happening around the state of Minnesota and yet it continues to get into the news. We continue to be looked down upon as heartless and uncaring people. Again, that is just not happening in the state of Minnesota. We are not considered "Minnesota Nice" for nothing!!

I call it "servant leadership". Each and every one of you have a heart and you have your own stories to tell about hungry students in your lunch or breakfast line who you know very well. Those hungry students trust you to provide them with their much needed breakfast or lunch meal. They talk with you and come through the line at your register just for that smile or greeting that you so freely give.

It always seems odd to me that people in the press or those on a mission to criticize what we do can combine school nutrition professionals with NOT feeding students, as we are all in the business of child nutrition because we WANT to feed students. Our particular tag line for our district's nutrition department is "We don't just serve breakfast and lunch, we serve students". We serve students in many different ways.

One example of what I call "servant leadership" happened just the other day. We have an elementary student who is newly diagnosed to be allergic to red and yellow dye. A sugar cookie was on the menu. In our district we spread a little vanilla frosting on that sugar cookie and sprinkle it with some variety colored sprinkles. Knowing about the student at her school, our manager took the time to prepare one sugar cookie without sprinkles, baked that cookie by itself, frosted it and eliminated the sprinkles on it. The manager kept the cross contamination probability to zero for the full protection and welfare of the student. How wonderful was that??? Any mean 'ol lunch lady here? NO.

Another example of servant leadership happened just yesterday when a student went to select a cold sandwich option at his middle school but there was none left in the refrigerated case. Upon seeing a student over by the sandwich and salad case, the school nutrition professional walked up to the student and asked him what he was looking for. He said he wanted a sandwich but there weren't any left. The nutrition professional asked him what kind of sandwich he wanted and she went into the kitchen to make it for him. In just a short couple of minutes, the professional handed a ham and cheese sandwich to the student and he gave her a great big smile and went on his way selecting the other components for his reimbursable meal. Does that example sound like "mean 'ol lunch ladies"? NO.

The press is telling stories about us which are not true. You all have your own stories about what is happening in your own school cafeterias and we need to share these stories with the press. A servant leader is one who is kind and accountable and they respond appropriately to serve the needs of others. They ask questions and listen to understand what the needs are. They take what could have been a stressful situation for a student and make it into one that is positive.



**Feeding Bodies. Fueling Minds.™**

We often view leadership as something else that some other big time person has, but not us. But you are all leaders in your own way and you are all in the child nutrition profession because of your love for students. That "love" shows up in meeting the needs of others to get results. It means clearing the obstacles from a student's path and making them feel good so that they can finish their day strong. It is the love you have for your profession. That love shows through in your pride that you take in making every sandwich, salad, entrée, side, etc for your program. That love shows up in the passion you have for your daily work to feed the students. And that love shows up in your perseverance to withstand all the bad press about "mean 'ol lunch ladies" knowing full well that what you do every day at your school cafeteria makes a difference!!

Please continue to be the "servant leader" that you are today!!

Thank you for being there for the students of Minnesota.



# 2018 MSNA Elections

The “polls” for MSNA’s 2018 Election will open May 1st

This will be your opportunity to join fellow MSNA members in voting for the candidates that will make a difference in advancing the Association and its efforts to improve school nutrition programs. As a member of MSNA, you should make casting your vote a top priority.

MSNA members will vote for Vice President, Secretary/Finance Chair and 1 member for the Leadership Development Committee. The MSNA Executive Board has approved the slate of candidates for the 2018 election ballot.

The following candidates have MSNA volunteer experience, leadership talent and passion for child nutrition.

## Vice President

Mary Jo Lange, SNS, Red Lake ISD



Mary Jo Lange, SNS is currently completing her fifth year as Food Service Coordinator at Red Lake School District. She served 9 years at Blackduck

School District, with the last seven of those years as Food Service Director. She is SNA Credentialed SNS and holds a SNA Level 3 Certificate. Mary Jo is currently completing her second two-year term as MSNA Secretary Finance Chair, and serves on the Annual Conference, Industry Conference (SNIP), Marketing, and Executive Committees, as well as the Policy & Procedure Committee and the By-Law Committee. She is currently President of MSNA Paul Bunyan Chapter 34. Mary Jo is a licensed National Restaurant Association ServSafe Instructor and Exam Proctor.

She has attended national SNA Leadership Conferences and has represented MN at the national level with the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN). She is a MN Dept. of Education Mentor in the

Team Up for Success Program and is a participant in the USDA’s World Café project, which is developing a plan to submit to the USDA that, if approved, would convert all meal patterns in all Child Nutrition Programs, so that they would be universal across all programs! Through MDE she hosted a successful visit for three Midwest Regional USDA staff during her Administrative Review! Mary Jo has extensive experience serving the members of MSNA at the Executive Board level. She is uniquely prepared to serve as Vice President, with four years’ board experience serving on the board. She fully understands the requirements of the position and is poised to undertake the responsibilities of Vice President, representing MSNA members state-wide.

Donna Tvedt, Moorhead ISD



Donna Tvedt is the Food and Nutrition Services Director of Moorhead Area Public Schools. She has been in the food service in-

dustry for 43 years. Donna started out in school food service in 1975 as a cook in a small school district in North Dakota and the following year was asked to take over as head of that district’s food service program. She transitioned to a hospital food service setting in Fargo, North Dakota but in 1985 became the lead cook in the North Dakota State University food service department. After 10 years she went back to the hospital setting, becoming the lead cook in Fargo.

In 1999, Donna decided to go back to her roots in school food service. She became the the Head Cook/Manager for the Moorhead High School in Moorhead MN. In 2009 became interim food service director and food service director in 2010. She has served as co-president of MSNA Chapter 23 - Land of Lakes.

Donna believes that the food service industry employs some of the hardest working people today. Her goal as vice president would be to promote professional development to better

serve our communities and make a positive impact through good nutrition in the lives of children.

## Secretary/Finance Chair

Penny Hoops, Buffalo ISD



Penny Hoops is the Food Service Director for BHM Schools (Buffalo-Hanover-Montrrose). She holds a SNA Level 3 Certificate and a MN Dept of

Health Food Manager License. Penny has been working in School Food Service for 7 years and before coming to BHM this year she was the FS Director overseeing Albany, ROCORI and Paynesville School Districts. She was the Secretary and Treasurer for Central Granite Chapter 24 for 5 years. Penny has served as the President of the School Directors of MN Group. She has served the Annual State Conference committee for the past 4 years and is currently the Co-Chair of the 2018 Annual Conference.

Penny believes she would be a great asset to the MSNA Executive Board as the Secretary/Finance Chair. She has a strong history with her previous school districts in the finance area, bringing the fund balances to a surplus that required a spend down plan. She will strive to be involved in any planning, trainings that will increase her knowledge of School Food Nutrition Programs. She would be honored to serve the members as the MSNA Secretary/Finance Chair to continue the great path that Mary Jo Lange has paved and continuing working on getting more MN outstate and rural involvement.

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# 2018 MSNA Elections, con't

## Leadership Development Committee

Valerie Johns, Eden Prairie ISD

Valerie Johns is honored to be running for a spot on the Leadership Development Committee.



Valerie was born in Southern California, from a family of bakers and restaurant owners. Her

family moved to Duluth where her parents owned and operated the "House of Donuts" by the campus of UMD.

Valerie has been employed with Eden Prairie School full time since November 2002 where she manages the coffee shop at the high school. She is a food-service trainer in Edina since 2010 and operates her own training site "Starting Out Smart By Valerie". Valerie has been recognized as a School Nutrition Association Star Club member. Valerie holds a SNA Level 3 certificate and is a ServSafe Instructor/Proctor, Minnesota Department of Health Trainer and Union Steward.

Valerie attends the State Conferences yearly along with attending the National Conference this year in Las Vegas.

Valerie has volunteered on many committees with the West Suburban Chapter 14 and currently holds the "President Elect" position.

Valerie has many attributes that she can offer to this leadership position. Valerie is the right candidate to promote MSNA.

Sherri Knutson, SNS Rochester ISD

Sherri Knutson is presently the Coordinator of Student Nutrition Services for Rochester Public Schools. She has 28 years of experience in school nutrition programs. She is a Past President of MSNA (2006-2007) and also served as Education Chair & Legislative Chair. She has served on numerous SNA Committees.



Sherri is a past recipient of the SNA Director of the Year Award-winning the state, regional and national award!

Sherri is running for the Leadership Development Committee because she knows that there are many talented and creative school nutrition professionals in Minnesota. Sometimes these in-

dividuals just need a personal "nudge" to take their leadership abilities to the next level. Sherri could help be that motivator or mentor!

## Voting Rules

- To be eligible to vote you must be a member in good standing as of April 15, 2017.
- You must enter a valid SNA ID member number to be qualified to vote.
- You may only vote once-duplicate votes will not be counted and will be disqualified.

Voting will be conducted May 1st through May 15th through Survey Monkey.

You must have a valid/current email address on file. If you do not have an email address you will be able to find the election link on the website under events.

The newly elected members will be installed at the 62nd Annual State conference in Rochester.

## Industry Chair Election

The election for the Industry Chair will begin May 9th at the SNIP conference being held at Breezy Point. All current MSNA Industry Members will be able to vote with one vote per company. For Industry members not attending the conference, a ballot will be mailed to the main listed contact and must be returned by May 25th to the MSNA office.

Dave A. Giancristoforo



Dave Giancristoforo is a K12 Food Services Specialist and BID Specialist for GVM Food Marketing. He has been part of the GVM team for six years, overseeing sales for North Dakota, South Dakota, parts of Minnesota and all the bids for GVM Food Marketing.

Dave's passion for food and customer service can be seen through many of his accomplishments. With increased sales in MN and pioneering ND and SD for most of the manufacturer lines he represents. Dave has served on the Industry Advisory Board as well as the Industry Conference Committee.

Prior to his role at GVM, Dave worked for Caribou Coffee Companies in Management and Customer Satisfaction. During his tenure, he was number one in sales for the entire company for

Amy's Blend, two-years in a row, and earned an average of 97 percent in satisfaction scores yearly.

Dave attended the University of Minnesota, HTC Culinary Arts Program, plus the school of hard knocks. He believes in "work hard, play hard" and enjoys spending time with his daughter – before she's too embarrassed as a full-fledged teen – and capturing the beauty of Minnesota through his passion for photography.

Dave will bring hard work, dedication and a lot of fun to the Industry Advisory Board, and he looks forward to the chance to serve as new Industry chair



## The “State” is Coming! Surviving and Thriving During and Administrative Review

You just found out that you are up for a school nutrition administrative review next school year. Or maybe you aren't even sure what the “state audit” even is. Or you've been through the review many times and simply want to see what is new. Well, you can find help a number of ways. First, attend the pre-conference workshop at the MSNA Annual Conference in Rochester on July 29! This 2-hour session will cover in detail the administrative review process and content that will be reviewed. Learn best practices on how to be the most organized for the review, and how you can maximize the review to your advantage! Class time will include lecture and discussion, utilizing case scenarios for some of the most frequently seen review findings and technical assistance. Join your peers as we travel the audit road to success together! Best of all the workshop is free with a paid conference registration!

### Can't make the conference?

Well, let's take a few minutes and go over what the Administrative Review Process look like and why they are important!

### Purpose and Importance

Why do I have to fill out food production records every day? Why do we have to keep these forms for four years? Why do I have to take and record temperatures?

We hear these questions all the time. And rather than saying “because the rules say so” let's go a little deeper. If someone is using your hard earned money to pay for something important, you would want to be sure that it is being used for that purpose. It's the same way with our programs. Tax-payer dollars are used to fund the school meal programs, so we must maintain the highest degree of integrity. We must

always be able to prove that we have followed regulations. Hard documentation, whether electronic or on paper must be maintained to substantiate meal pattern, portion sizes, amount of food ordered, prepared, served, leftover, the number of students served, and number of children who were eligible for free, reduced-price or paid meals, and the list goes on and on. That is your proof that you are following regulations and serving the most important clients – children - with the utmost integrity!

### Overview

The Administrative Review is the State Agency's (Minnesota Department of Education's) assessment of the School Food Authority's (SFAs) administration of the USDA National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program and other school nutrition programs. The objectives of the Administrative Review are to:

- determine whether the SFA meets program requirements
- provide technical assistance
- secure any needed corrective action and assess fiscal action
- when applicable, recover improperly paid funds

The review scope is by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for use by all states and territories participating in the School Nutrition Programs. Reviews are generally conducted on a 3-year cycle. We have approximately 670 SFAs in Minnesota, and we have 14 monitors conducting reviews across the state.

There are 4 steps in the administrative review process.

- First, the SFA is notified by their reviewer of the on-site dates of review. This usually happens in September or October.
- Second, the SFA is asked to complete the off-site portion of the review approximately 6-8 weeks prior to the on-site review. This is similar to “homework” that's required before the monitor visits with you at your school.
- Third, the state agency reviewer visits your district and completes the

on-site review. This takes place at the district administration building and at one or more school sites.

- Fourth, about 30 days after the on-site review, the SFA receives a “report” of findings as well as any technical assistance and commendations via an online review system called “Colyar.” The SFA must respond within 30 days as to the corrective actions that will be taken to the findings. The state monitor then closes out the review once the corrective action plan has been put in place by the SFA.

Before the monitor leaves the district and schools, she will go over all of the findings with you and discuss a workable plan for correction. There should be nothing in the review report that is surprising. Many times she will identify great things that are happening at your schools and will ask if we can take a photo to include in our future trainings or newsletter. We learn just as much from you as you do from us!

### Off-Site Review “Homework”

The off-site portion of review consists of completing several sections of questions in the online Colyar system. Completing the questions will require coordination from several staff members in your SFA, such as the foodservice director/coordinator, the business manager and staff who approve the applications for educational benefits, submit claims for reimbursement into the CLICS system and complete the verification process.

### On-Site Review

The on-site review is generally scheduled between November through May and will take approximately 1-5 days to complete, depending on how many total school sites the SFA is operating. A typical schedule for the reviewer includes:

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# MDE Update con't

Observing meal service for breakfast, lunch and snack (if participating)

- Reviewing menu and food production records
- Reviewing storage and preparation areas of the kitchen
- Reviewing food safety documents, like temperature logs for food and food storage units
- Interviewing foodservice staff for meal service related questions, Buy American
- Making sure cashiers understand Offer vs Serve
- Reviewing free/reduced-price meal applications, claims for reimbursement and all program paperwork
- Interviewing the individuals who approve the applications for education benefits, submit claims and conduct verification
- Interviewing site administrative staff for civil rights, milk programs, school wellness policy, smart snacks/fund-raisers and professional standards related questions
- Interviewing the business manager for finance and purchasing related questions Summarizing findings for the SFA and discussing the post on-site review steps

At the end of the on-site review, the monitor will spend time with the food service director or manager as well as the superintendent or business manager to go over the review findings. The SFA will have a comprehensive view of the strengths and areas for improvement in their School Nutrition Program operations.

Review Response and Close-out report within 30 days. This report will be available in Colyar and will require that the SFA

respond with corrective action taken for all findings noted. It is important that the SFA begin to implement corrective action immediately after the on-site review as directed by the reviewer. You will have 30 days to respond to the findings. Once you respond, your reviewer will let you know if any additional clarification is needed. If claims adjustments need to be made as a result of review findings, the review will be closed out once all claims

After the on-site review, the reviewer will issue an administrative review report within 30 days. This report will be available in Colyar and will require that the SFA respond with corrective action taken for all findings noted.

It is important that the SFA begin to implement corrective action immediately after the on-site review as directed by the reviewer. You will have 30 days to respond to the findings. Once you respond, your reviewer will let you know if any additional clarification is needed.

If claims adjustments need to be made as a result of review findings, the review will be closed out once all claims adjustments have been made and all corrective actions have a satisfactory response. Your reviewer will send a final close-out letter once the review is complete.

And you're done for three years! Pat yourself on the back!

## Board Briefs

Executive Board Meeting  
3/14/18

Motions/Approvals:

To accept all names for Vice President, Secretary Finance and Leadership Development Committee for the election ballot for 2018.

*Vice President*

Mary Jo Lange, SNS, Red Lake ISD  
Donna Tvedt-Moorhead ISD

*Secretary/Finance Chair*

Penny Hoops, Buffalo/Montrose/Hanover ISD

*Leadership Development Chair*

Valerie Johns, Eden Prairie ISD  
Sherri Knutson, SNS, Rochester ISD

To accept Emily Malone as Education Chair and Noah Atlas as Public Policy Chair for an additional two year term.

Approval of Finance Report for Audit - Financial Banking  
Statements as of 2/28/18

Checking:	\$67,263.49
Savings:	\$175,426.46
Investments:	\$276,757.46
Total Assets:	\$519,447.41

Next Board Meeting: May 16th  
Notables





# Public Policy Update

By Noah Atlas, PPL Chair

March was a busy month for our Public Policy and Legislation Committee.

We began with a visit to Washington D.C. for the SNA Legislative Action Committee conference. At the conference we had the opportunity to attend a few classes, hear from a variety of speakers, and had our annual update from the USDA. We also received a visit from United States Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Stephen Censky.

At our visits to Capitol Hill, we were able to meet with the offices of all eight of our Congressional Representatives and both of our Senators. We had great conversations and discussions with our legislators and were able to let them know that we do not support block granting the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, sodium levels need to remain at level one, that the whole grain requirement needs to return to 50%, and we need their support to pass H.R.3738, the Healthy Breakfast Help Kids Learn Act of 2017. H.R. 3738 calls for Congress to provide commodity assistance for the School Breakfast Program. Congressman Collin Peterson the Ranking Member of the House Agriculture committee committed to co-sponsor the bill during our

visit. Overall, the MN attendees had a great visit, and if you would like to know more about our visit or any current legislation please feel free to ask any of your PPL committee members.

Monday, March 26, MSNA held the GROW (Good Roots for Our Wellness) Food Policy Reception at the State Capitol. Previously, we have gone to St. Paul for a full day to visit our representatives in their offices and to talk with them about legislation. This year we invited our representatives to a reception from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. to talk about who we are and what we do.

So how did it go you ask? We think it went well, and it ended up being a lot of fun. Not only did we have an excellent group of MSNA members and industry members who were willing to try the new conference format, but we noted 34 state representatives and senators stopped in to see us! We served a sampling of school foods served around the state (They were impressed!), and we had great conversations about who we are, what we do, and how they can work with us.

One thing we noticed with our legislators out of their offices in a less formal atmosphere, they were less rushed, they asked great questions, and they

really engaged with our members. A few of them even stayed for ½ hour or more! We planned the event outside of the normal workday and we hope to see even more of you at the event next year.

As PPL Chair, I would like to say thank you to our MSNA members and industry members for your continued support of our PPL committee through your participation and donations. Thank you to our Lobbyist, Sam Walseth, Capitol Hill Associates for representing us at the Capitol and for helping us set up this year's legislative event.

Thank you to our PPL industry partners MaryAnn Dammann, KeyImpact Sales & Systems, Jeremy Kurth, GVM Food Marketing, Jeff Millard, The Core Group, and Jonathan Ford, JTM Food Group. Thank you to the School Nutrition Directors group for coordinating your meeting with ours so that we could have a few more members visit the legislative event. In addition, thank you to all of our members who attended this year's legislative event and represented MSNA so well.

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Help make SNA's voice stronger to #stoptheblock!

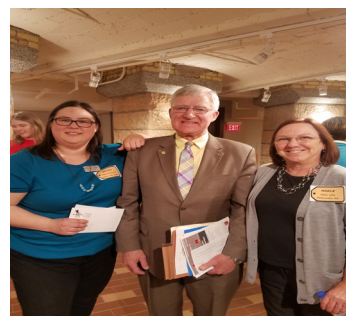
Have you considered joining the School Nutrition Association (SNA) or bringing on other people in your district as members? We reaching out to let you know that it's more critical than ever to join our association to help make our voice stronger to protect school meals. Block grant funding for school meals is a dangerous idea that could put millions of the children we serve at risk. The larger our membership, the stronger our voice, the more successful our efforts will be to #stoptheblock, protect school meals and continue to build a healthy generation of students.

Find out more about the potential impact of block grants and the SNA resources available including a [Block Grant Calculator here.](#)





# Photo Gallery from LAC







## Block Grant Funding for School Meals Is a Dangerous Idea that Could Put Millions of American School Children at Risk

Policy 101: Why Block Grants Are a Bad Idea When it Comes to Feeding Hungry Kids

### THE FACTS

National  
School Lunch Program  
&  
School Breakfast  
Program

Research Shows:

**Hungry children  
struggle with  
academic  
performance,  
attendance  
and behavior  
at school**



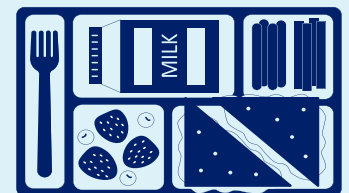
### 1 OUT OF 6

the number of hungry  
children in the U.S.



### 30 MILLION

the number of American children who  
are served nutritious meals at school  
every day. Millions who can't pay get  
free or reduced-price meals so they  
don't go hungry.



### BLOCK GRANTS FOR SCHOOL MEAL FUNDING COULD MEAN



Less  
Money



Fewer  
Meals



No Nutrition  
Standards



Hungry  
Children



## STOP THE BLOCK

Tell Congress Cutting School Meals  
is a Dangerous Idea

[stopblockgrantsnow.org](http://stopblockgrantsnow.org)



The Stop the Block Coalition is a Project of the School Nutrition Association

# Conference Corner

## 2018 MSNA Annual Conference

Just under 4 months until the 62nd Annual Conference in Rochester, MN to be held on July 29, 2018 – August 1, 2018!

The conference planning committee has been busy securing speakers, arranging for workshops and presenters, planning the schedule, selecting the menus, and the many other details that go into planning a great conference for everyone!

We're excited to be able to offer you a mobile solution for easy viewing of the daily schedule of classes and events and all that will be happening at the conference! MSNA is busy setting up the new Caboodles event app that will be used for conferences. More information will be available as we get closer to the Annual Conference.

Our keynote opening speaker will be Dr. Katie Wilson, former USDA Under Secretary for Food and Nutrition, former Executive Director of the Institute



of Child Nutrition, former SNA President in 2008-2009 and spent 23 years as a school food-service director in Onalaska, WI. She will be very

engaging and sure to energize you for the conference!

The closing keynote speaker is the highly recommended Kelly Swanson, she is very funny and motivational



and will have us all laughing. Check her out at <http://motivational-speakerkelly-swanson.com/>.

There are many great workshop sessions planned so all can learn and gain their CEU's. New this year will be a pre-con-

ference session on Sunday featuring a "Chopped" style competition. Winners from the competition will be entered into a drawing for a fabulous prize- a Kitchen Aid stand mixer! This is definitely one you will not want to miss! Pre-registration and payment is required for this session. Limit of 30 per session.

New this year, we are offering conference and MSNA apparel purchases online prior to conference. A small quantity of apparel will be available for purchase on site at the conference. To ensure your size and choice of apparel, please purchase online.

MSNA will again offer 2 dinner vouchers to be used at a participating restaurant. You could use both vouchers together or use one on Monday and one on Tuesday!

Dig deep and get creative for the Education Scholarship Fund! Use your imagination and put together a basket, purse, box, etc to help raise money for MSNA's Education Scholarship fund.

## Service Project

Empowerment Center/Gage East Apartments. This is a collaborative project where multiple agencies work to provide programming for low income and homeless families and youth. They assist with finding and keeping a job, goal setting, turing temporary housing into permanent placement. Please assist us in helping them reach those in most need in their community.

Needed items and of course cash donations are always accepted as well. Double/Single Sheet sets, Pillows, Blankets, Dish Sets, Pots & Pans, Glasses & Coffee Cups, Silverware, Kids Books, Teenage Socks & Underwear (male/female) Look for a full list before conference!

Registration booklets were mailed at the end of March. The hotel block opened on March 30th and hotel information can be found in your registration booklet and [online](#) on the MSNA website. Ask for the MSNA block to get the MSNA rates.

## SNS Exam

MSNA is hosting the SNS Exam. You will register for the [SNS Exam directly](#) through SNA by downloading the SNS Credentialing Exam Handbook which also has the SNS Registration form and SNS documents needed to send in. Registration for the exam closes on July 8th.

11:00am-3:00pm  
Mayo Civic Center  
Rochester MN 55904

We look forward to seeing you in Rochester this summer!

## Volunteer!

To make the conference flow, volunteers are needed to assist in all areas. Please consider volunteering some time to make this the best MSNA Conference ever. Contact Hospitality Chair Deborah Rydberg email: [drydberg@isd12.org](mailto:drydberg@isd12.org)

## Exhibit Show

The vendor show is scheduled for Tuesday, July 31st. All exhibitors MUST fill out the [Exhibitor Prospectus](#). The early registration for vendors is June 1st. See [MSNA website](#) for more details. Questions, call the MSNA office at 320-251-2344.

**62nd Annual State Conference**  
**July 29th-August 1**  
**Mayo Civic Center**  
**Rochester MN 55904**





# National Nibbles



## How Will You Recognize Your #LunchHeroes on May 4, School Lunch Hero Day?

Celebrate your #LunchHeroes on May 4, [School Lunch Hero Day](#)! Kicking off School Nutrition Employee Week (May 7-11), School Lunch Hero Day is a day to recognize and celebrate hardworking school nutrition professionals everywhere. Shop the [SNA Emporium](#) for a full array of School Lunch Hero merchandise for every size budget, from posters and bookmarks, to aprons, hats and t-shirts! And how about recognizing your #LunchHeroes with the gift of SNA membership? For pennies a day, your heroes can access all of SNA's member benefits; learn more at [www.schoolnutrition.org/join](http://www.schoolnutrition.org/join). For more exciting ideas on how to celebrate, visit <https://schoolnutrition.org/SLHD/Recognize>.

## SNA Certificate Program – New Bridge Level Launching in July 2018

Are you ready for the launch of the new Level 2 Certificate in School Nutrition? The SNA Certificate Program helps provide professional growth for over 19,000 school nutrition professionals across the country. The [new Level 2](#) will launch in July 2018 and will serve as a “bridge” between the current Level 1 and Level 2. The goal of this new level is to help members have a more realistic professional development path.

## #ANC18 Headliners: Kristin Chenoweth, Chef Jeff, and Cirque du Soleil

You don't want to miss the School Nutrition Event of the Year, [SNA's 72nd Annual National Conference](#) July 9-12 in Las Vegas. Award-winning actress and singer [Kristin Chenoweth](#), author, speaker, and TV host [Chef Jeff](#), and the awe-inspiring [Cirque du Soleil](#) performing Michael Jackson ONE will headline an unforgettable conference

experience. Plan now to arrive a day early for a [pre-conference workshop](#), and take advantage of [ANC First-Timer Scholarships](#) in the amount of \$500 available through the [School Nutrition Foundation](#)—apply by April 30. Remember, early registration discounts end May 4! [Register now](#).

## See What Members Are Saying About SNA's New Ethics Module

Discover what over 200 members have already determined is a great way to start the discussion of ethical behavior with your team, and prepare them to make the right decisions.

“I thoroughly enjoyed this training, it will be a valuable tool for all foodservice employees.” Nancy Hogstad, Executive Director, SNS of Iowa.

“I love the graphics and the whole module!! Great job.” -Lori Danella, Asst. Director Nutrition, Lees Summit, MO

“I enjoyed the module, it will benefit many SNA members.” -Sally Spero, SNS, Child Nutrition Director, Lakeside Union SD, CA

To learn more and to review purchasing options, visit [www.schoolnutrition.org/ethics](http://www.schoolnutrition.org/ethics).

## New Funding for Nutrition Programs in Omnibus Spending Bill

At a time when funding is hard to come by, the inclusion of our critical school nutrition programs in the recently passed [FY2018](#) spending bill is a recognition by Congress of the important role our programs play in the lives of hungry children. Read the details on the new funding in this [SNA news story](#).

## SNA Submits Comments on Dietary Guidelines

SNA submitted [comments](#) March 30, 2018, in response to a Federal Register Notice published on February 28, 2018 [Dietary Guidelines for Americans \(DGA\): Request for Comments on Topics and Questions](#).

## USDA Announces Hiring Flexibility for Small School Districts

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Services have proposed a Rule adding four flexibilities to the hiring standards for new school nutrition program directors in small local educational agencies (LEAs) and new school nutrition program State directors under the professional standards regulations. USDA is providing a 60-day [public comment](#) period before they develop the Final Rule. You can read the USDA [press release](#) [here](#).

## Reducing Error Through Improved Application Design

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service released a memo titled Reducing School Meal Certification [Error through Improved Online Application Design](#). The memo is intended to offer guidance to States, local operators and their software vendors on strategies for leveraging the design flexibilities of online free and reduced-price school meal applications to reduce household reporting mistakes and certification errors.

## Community Eligibility Provision: Statutory Annual Notification and Publication Requirements

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service released its [annual notice](#) regarding the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). The memo details guidance on CEP and publication requirements and provides information on the USDA-developed reporting template.



# What's Happening?

## Calendar of Events

**School Nutrition Employee  
Week: May 7-11, 2018  
School Hero Day, May 4, 2018**

**April 26-28, 2018**  
SNA National Leadership  
Conference  
Long Beach CA

**May 9-12, 2018**  
MSNA Industry Conference  
Breezy Point Resort

**May 16, 2018**  
MSNA Executive Board Meeting  
Notables

**May 31, 2018**  
A scope of notice for any  
amendments to the MSNA  
Bylaws must be proposed in  
writing, addressed to the MSNA  
President and sent to the MSNA  
office.

**July 9-12, 2018**  
ANC  
Las Vegas, NV

**July 29-August 1, 2018**  
MSNA Annual Conference  
Mayo Civic Center  
Rochester MN

**July 29, 2018**  
Chapter Leadership Seminar  
Mayo Civic Center  
Rochester MN

**July 29, 2018**  
SNS Exam  
Mayo Civic Center  
Rochester, MN

**July 31, 2018**  
Exhibit Show  
Mayo Civic Center  
Rochester, MN

## New Industry Partners

Check out our new Industry Partners! You can find their information on the Industry Directory on the [MSNA website](#).

**Yang's 5th Taste  
John Soule Foods  
Nutri Students K12  
Big River Group, LLC  
Dippin Dots Franchising**

*Remember School Super Heros  
"An apron is just a cape on backwards!!"*



[facebook.com/mnsna](https://facebook.com/mnsna)

Don't forget to **Like** us  
on Facebook!

## Chapter Chatter

### River Valley Chapter 35

River Valley Chapter 35 held their chapter meeting on February 22nd with industry representative Karen Hoben of Rich Products Corporation. Members met at Rich's Production Facility in Eagan. Then enjoyed a presentation of Rich's history, food safety system and their commitment to quality assurance. Additionally, we received a tour of their production facility, which included their plant and gluten free plant. All received a gift bag of goodies to take home at the conclusion of the tour.



### Crow River Chapter 22

On April 2 the Crow River Chapter held their chapter officer installation and banquet. Despite the snow 22 members came to support their chapter! Congratulations to new officers President, Sandy Fredrickson, Secretary Sandy Wosmek and Treasurer, Karen Weir! Thank you to the Litchfield High School staff for hosting and to Heather Yanta and Dave Giancristoforo for serving a wonderful meal!



**SCHOOL LUNCH  
HERO DAY**



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# Looking to Advance Your School Nutrition Career? Join SNA!



## HERE'S HOW SNA MEMBERSHIP SUPPORTS YOUR CAREER:

- Supportive community of colleagues to share best practices
- Free live & on-demand webinars
- Educational and conference scholarships
- Certificate and credentialing programs to enhance your career
- Meetings and conferences tailored to your needs
- Advocacy and legislative efforts

More information at  
[www.schoolnutrition.org/join](http://www.schoolnutrition.org/join)

Feeding Bodies.  
Fueling Minds.®

