



## 2020 Call for Nominations

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Would you like exciting opportunities to grow professionally, bring your perspective to state issues and network with other school nutrition professionals? Consider MSNA leadership opportunities!

The Leadership Development Committee (LDC) announces the following open positions for the 2020 election:

#### **Executive Board Officers**

- Vice President (1-year term\*)
- Secretary/Treasurer (2-year term)

#### **Leadership Development Committee**

- One Representative (2-year term)

*\*The Vice President succeeds to President-elect and then President.*

The Leadership Development Committee and Immediate Past President Amy Thering shall identify and recruit eligible candidates based on leadership competencies and diversity. The LDC will prepare a slate of officers and after verification that the candidate has met eligibility requirements, the slate will be submitted to the executive board by April 1st.

#### **Candidate Eligibility Requirements**

##### ***Vice President***

- Be a member in good standing for a minimum of two years proceeding nomination
- Hold a SNA Certificate or SNS Credential
- Employed in an eligible Field
- Retains Membership at the time of nomination
- Demonstrated leadership skills by serving on a chapter board or committee

##### ***Secretary/Treasurer***

- Be a member in good standing for a minimum of two years proceeding nomination
- Hold a SNA Certificate or SNS Credential
- Employed in an eligible field
- Retains Membership at the time of nomination
- Demonstrated leadership skills by serving on a chapter board or committee
- Knowledge of finance & budgeting

##### ***Leadership Development Committee***

- Be a member in good standing for a minimum of two years proceeding nomination
- Employed in an eligible field
- Retains Membership at the time of nomination

#### **Position Descriptions**

##### ***Vice President***

- Perform the duties of the president-elect in the president-elect's absence.
- Serve as the liaison for association affinity groups, and other committees as needed.
- Succeed to the office of president-elect following official installation or in the event of the president-elect's death, resignation, or removal from office. If filling a vacancy for the office of president-elect, the vice president shall then continue in service and also serve the usual term as president-elect the following year.

##### ***Secretary/Treasurer***

- Monitor association funds, investments, and securities, including budget preparation.
- Coordinate communications for the association.
- Serve as chair of the finance committee and on other committees as needed.

##### ***Leadership Development Committee***

- The leadership development committee shall identify and recruit eligible candidates based on leadership competencies and diversity.

Please consider serving on the board when the LDC calls. You are also able to nominate yourself if you meet the requirements!

\* Each nominee will get a packet of information on election procedures, time commitments and Campaign Policies. If you have any questions or need information please contact the MSNA office at [minnsna@gmail.com](mailto:minnsna@gmail.com) or Amy Thering, Leadership Development Chair at [amy.thering@ahschools.us](mailto:amy.thering@ahschools.us).

# President's Message



*Vickie J. Speltz*  
*MSNA President*

*Happy New Year!*

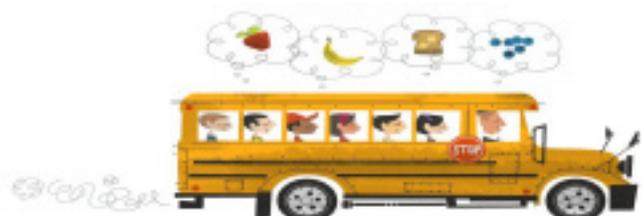


Wow, did not think I would be saying that already. Can you believe how time goes so fast? It seems we just started the school year and we are now halfway through.

Now that January is here, I want to let you know that MSNA is busy with different items that will be worked on or developed in the New Year.

- Our leadership development committee (LDC) will be starting the process to compile a list of potential candidates for this year's up and coming elections. This committee does a great job to help find our future leaders in MSNA. Be ready to say "YES" if you are asked to run for office or sit on a committee. I can honestly say I have not regretted it at all, I would do it all again. The amazing things I have learned and people I have met are truly a once in a lifetime experience.
- Our Public Policy & Legislative Committee is getting ready for our visit to the capitol on February 25th, please join us. Watch for the registration information that will be sent out soon.
- SNA and MSNA Award Nominations are due March 1st. Please nominate someone you know that deserves to be recognized. A little recognition goes a long way.
- We will be working on transitioning to a new member management system (MemberClicks) and that will involve some great changes to the members! We will be working on an updated website that will have new options including a "members only" page. The goal is to have the new site up and running by mid March!
- In November your conference planning committee started the process of getting ready for the state annual conference in August. I know they have great things planned.
- I would like to encourage all members to consider joining us for the annual SNIP conference in May at Madden's Resort in Brainerd. Our industry partners do such a great job in providing the schools with what they need. Mary Ann Dammann, our Industry Chair does a great job with the reps on your behalf. When you see her give her a high five. Our industry partners are great friends and we are so appreciative of their support.
- The strategic plan is a continued focus for the board. As a state affiliate, we follow everything SNA has put together for us. Consistency is a large focus for our board. We are working on behalf of all of our members. Please take the time to fill out survey's that might come your way, this helps us help you.

Be proud of the great job you do every day. What you do matters in the life of a student. I wish all of our members the best of 2020.



Remember to "Be Amazing"!

*Always,*

*Vickie Speltz*

# President Elect

# Vice President



Jo Lange, SNS  
President Elect

Greetings from Red Lake School District!

It is hard to believe that the school year is just about half over already, and the Annual Conference Committee is hard at work organizing the 64th Annual Conference at Rivers Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud, Minnesota, scheduled for August 3-5, 2020.

The team is enthusiastically building a conference that is going to encourage you to “Be Inspired—Shoot for the Stars”. The education sessions committee is compiling an impressive list of classes that will be sure to capture your attention and inspire you to do great things. The general session speakers this year will motivate you to have your best year ever.

The opening general session speaker is Holly Hoffman. Holly was the last remaining member of the Espada Tribe and the last woman standing on Season 21 of “Survivor Nicaragua” on CBS. Through that experience, and others throughout her life, Holly was inspired to share her message of positivity, determination and confidence. Her message not only offers encouragement and optimism but a roadmap for self-discovery and spiritual enlightenment. Her methods are intuitive, honest, and adaptable to nearly any situation.

Our closing general session speaker is Chris Heeter, from the Wild Institute. Chris has followed her own Wild path since she was young. A wilderness guide for over 30 years, Chris leads groups deep into the wilderness by canoe or dogsled. Chris grabs audiences with humorous stories about her dogs and their personalities, then weaves those stories into practical takeaways. Chris is on a mission to wake up the Wild side of organizations; to break through the trappings of ‘how we’ve always done it;’ and to create Wild and vibrant workplaces that blend heart with solid, successful business strategy.

You will leave this conference enthused, energized and inspired to serve your students in the new school year. I will have more updates on the conference in the next Thymes, but for now, I hope you have had happy holidays, and are ready for the New Year.

May you enjoy the second half of the school year, and I wish you all health and happiness.

Jo Lange, SNS  
MSNA President-Elect  
**“Be Inspired ~Shoot for the Stars”**  
**Happy New Year!**



Carrie Frank  
Vice President

or Leadership Committee!

This email made me think about what I have done and how have I given my time for MSNA in the past, and hope to do in the coming year and years to come.

I once read, volunteering means giving your time to a cause. It allows you to work directly for something you’re passionate about. It can help you improve lives in your community and, sometimes, reshape the community itself. Volunteer work is unpaid work for a charitable organization.

I have no regrets joining the board, as Vice President the board support is amazing! In addition, this past October. I was able to attend the SNA Midwest Leadership Conference in Sioux Falls, SD. The theme of the conference was “Equipping, Encouraging and Engaging Leaders. Topics included, respect, work life balance, trust, effective board meetings, ethics and included round table discussions.

I hope this year you take the opportunity to reflect on how you have given your time for MSNA in the past, and hope to do in the coming year and years to come. I encourage anyone to “Shoot for the Stars” and say yes if asked to volunteer or better yet “Dare to be Amazing” and reach out to Past State president [Amy Thering](#) if you are wanting more information on how to be nominated to be put on the slate of officers for the elections!



**SHOOT FOR THE STARS**

MSNA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2020

# Secretary/Treasurer



*Penny Hoops*  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

I hope you all enjoyed the holidays and are refreshed and ready for the second half of the school year.

This year has been another great one for MSNA and you, the member. In October, I worked on the budget for our 2020 year. When drafting a budget, careful consideration is given to the current budget that is in place. When looking at the largest budget items, such as Annual Conference, things to be mindful of are the location of the conference, the number of attendees, the cost of meals and speakers, etc. Luckily, the association has over a decade of past conference budgets on file, so it is very helpful to go back to look at prior conferences at each location to see what comparable costs are. This is done for each conference that MSNA sponsors. We also look at each line item for both income and expense and the goal is to reasonably forecast what each item should be, based on past budgets and taking into account current market costs.

The proposed 2020 budget was submitted to the Executive Committee for review and revision, and was submitted to the full Executive Board for review and comments, at the first board meeting in October. In late November, after a few revisions, the final draft was submitted to the Executive Committee for final approval. That draft was approved and is now in place.

I am busy working with the SNIP Conference Committee

I am busy working with the SNIP Conference Committee



*Faith Ford*  
*Nutrition Chair*

## Nutrition Chair

Nutrition Conference Update!

We are *SUPER EXCITED* to share that we *WILL* be hosting a Nutrition Conference but at this time we are busy, busy, busy working to secure a centrally located space that is functional and large enough to hold a *GINORMOUS* group of Child Nutrition *SUPER STARS!*

I cannot tell you all the “Deets” right now, but know that you will not want to miss the *FUN* Interactive Training we are planning.....a sneak peek under the hood.....can you say “hands-on-training?”

We will be sending out additional information very soon with Conference Details as soon as we can!

as well as the Annual Conference Committee to ensure we stay on task for our budgets for those events. I am mindful in all thoughts and plans that the budget must be met.

The 2020 Annual Conference committee and President Elect Jo Lange are already busy with the theme, meal planning, procuring awesome general session speakers, and putting together a lineup of outstanding education sessions, all in order to guarantee that you will have the best Annual Conference experience that you have ever had! Know that we are working hard to give you the best conference experience ever!

In November I met with Todd at Bremer Investments to go over our investment accounts. We have made good choices on the money we have invested with them. We are earning a good return on our investment at this time and are confident in the accounts we have with them. We should continue right into 2020 with the same returns. The accounting firm of BerganKDV will do financial review and the work on the 990 forms for the 2019 taxes in February.

Here is your financial report as of December 31, 2019:

Checking:	\$32,235.38
Savings:	\$76,519.08
Investments:	\$309,252.62
CD Investments:	\$99,761.19
Total:	\$517,768.27

Thank you for placing your trust in me, and know that I will do my best for you and the association. If you ever have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

One thing you can do for us, make sure we have your correct email and cell phone numbers on file. If we cannot reach you via email and/or cell phone, you may miss out!

Please make sure you update your contact information with SNA. How to do this can be found on page 10!

Thank you for your continued support and patience as the committee continues to work on this!

*Behind you ~ All your memories*  
*Before you ~ All your dreams*  
*Around you ~ All who love you*  
*Within you ~ All you need*  
*Zig Ziglar*



*Loriann Landowski*  
*Member Services Chair*

site.

All award winners will be recognized at the MSNA Annual Conference. In the past few years, Minnesota has had many regional and National winners.



### Employee of the Year

The Employee of the Year award recognizes non-managerial school nutrition employees for the contributions they have made throughout their school nutrition career



### Manager of the Year

The Employee of the Year award recognizes non-managerial school nutrition employees for the contributions they have made throughout their school nutrition career.



### Director of the Year

The Director of the Year award recognizes school nutrition directors for the contributions they have made throughout their school nutrition career.

### MSNA E-Team Award

The MSNA "E" Team Award showcases EXCELLENCE in Teamwork, Creativity and Customer Service. Going the "Extra Mile" is a part of the team's goals to bring their best service to the forefront. Any team of 2 or more may apply for this award, be a member of SNA/MSNA and must be employed by a school Nutrition program. Application must originate and be submitted by the kitchen team.

### MSNA Innovation Award

The MSNA Innovation Award recognizes the development of an Innovative Process or Program within a school or district which adds value or streamlines operations. This award

### Awards, Awards, Awards

It is again time to nominate colleagues you admire for an SNA and MSNA Award! Nominations for the Employee, Manager, Director of the Year Awards are now being accept online by SNA through March 1,2020. SNA award nomination information can be found on the [SNA website](#) You can find the MSNA E Team Award and the Innovation Award forms on the MSNA web-

is for individuals and they must be nominated by any staff member within the school district. Self-nominations are not accepted. The nominated member must be an SNA/MSNA member and a school nutrition employee. Directors are not eligible for this award. Multiple candidates may be nominated from each district.

### Leadership Development Committee

The MSNA Leadership Development committee (LDC) will be working on the 2020-2021 slate of officers for the Executive Board and contacting eligible members. The leadership development committee shall identify and recruit eligible candidates based on leadership competencies and diversity. **Eligibility:** The candidate for office must have held membership in the Association for a minimum of two years immediately preceding nomination and must have demonstrated leadership ability by serving on the MSNA executive board, a local chapter board, or a standing committee.

This year they will be looking to fill the open positions of Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and one position on the Leadership Development Committee.

Know that serving on the MSNA Board offers exciting opportunities to grow professionally, develop new skills, work on issues from a state perspective and contribute to the school nutrition profession. If you need any information on what it takes to be on the board, just contact the MSNA office!

### Chapter Leadership Seminar

Chapter Presidents and officers please mark your calendars to attend the Chapter Leadership Seminar, August 2nd at the River's Edge Convention Center. More details will be sent out to all chapters and officers.

### 64th Annual State Conference

Be Inspired Shoot for the Stars, the conference will be at the St. Cloud River's Edge Convention Center August 2-5,2020. Our conference runs on volunteers, this is a great way to be more involved and meet other members. Margaret Fleming is the Volunteer chair and she will be working to set up the volunteer schedule and there will be a link to sign up to volunteer. Paul Bunyan, Chapter 34 will be this year's "host" volunteer chapter!

Please know as your Membership Chair you may email me with any questions you may have about your chapter or getting a chapter started or ideas to keep your chapter strong or any award questions. [llandowski@apps.isd51.org](mailto:llandowski@apps.isd51.org)

Thanks for being AMAZING!

*Loriann*

# Public Policy Update



Noah Atlas  
Public Policy Chair

Did you know that MSNA is working to pass a breakfast after the bell bill? Over the past year MSNA has been working with other advocacy groups to promote breakfast after the bell legislation. While the bill has not passed in the Minnesota Legislature yet, I wanted to make sure you knew about it.

The Breakfast After the Bell bill H.F. 1037 offers schools who apply and are approved, the funding to provide a universal breakfast in their school. In our bill, a school that is at least 30% free and reduced eligible, would be able to apply to the Minnesota Department of Education to be considered. The school will need to provide documentation that their building administration supports breakfast after the bell initiatives, and that their school will offer a universal breakfast after the bell program. This is not an all or nothing program where a whole school district needs to apply. Funding will be provided on a school by school basis.

Breakfast after the bell programs can include grab and go, breakfast served in the classroom, second chance breakfast, or any other breakfast model that provides or allows all students in the school the opportunity to be served and eat a breakfast after the bell. Funding for the Breakfast After The Bell program would be provided by

the state of Minnesota. Schools would need to use all of the federal meal reimbursement funds available to them first, and then the state would cover the remaining meal costs.

For schools who are close to covering the costs of a Community Eligibility Program (CEP) the MDE would work with you to see if the additional breakfast after the bell program funds would help you cover the cost of CEP.

In the meantime MSNA will need your support to get this bill passed. Legislators will want to know from you, how your students, schools, and districts would benefit from having a breakfast after the bell program in your schools. Support for the Breakfast After the Bell legislation can be as simple as sending a note to your state representative or calling your representatives office. Others can show their support by meeting with your state representative in person, or inviting your legislator to visit your school.

If you have any other questions about the proposed Breakfast After the Bell legislation, or how to contact your legislator, please contact MSNA or the PP&L committee.

Please join us for the MSNA Legislative Conference that will be held on February 25th. We will be again hosting a reception for our representatives and we need you to invite them to attend. See details on page 8.



## Marketing Committee Update

In late November, the Marketing Committee recommended to the Board to upgrade to MemberClicks, a membership management software that would condense many of the stand-alone software that MSNA is currently utilizing. The Board approved this upgrade and the new system will be fully integrated by mid-March.

This new system will support an upgraded website that allow for a "members" only section that will enable members to login and have an online community, private networking, discussion forums (permission based) and many other tools. MSNA will be able to customize calendars, list events with details. More online registration options to promote conferences and option for group registrations from a single registrant. We will also be able to utilize email responses & receipts for events.

With this system, we will transition over to a new credit card payment system that will allow for lower fees with more secure options.

The Marketing Committee will be working on transitioning the web pages and creating new pages that will make for a more integrated administrative access and a more vibrant website for members!

Please be patient while this transition occurs. We will not have access to online registration until the new website is up & running. Until then, we will need to utilize paper forms but will have access to credit card processing.

### Media Inquiries

MSNA is happy to provide resources/information and schedule interviews with members of the media. Please include media outlet, story topic, phone number and deadline and a member of our media relations team will respond within 24 hours.

Please note: This email is for members of the media only: [ecowles@cjpr.com](mailto:ecowles@cjpr.com)



Debra Lukkenon, RD, SNS  
MN Dept of Education

## Local Wellness Policy: Triennial Assessment Due June 30

The Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act of 2004 requires all educational entities participating in the National School Lunch Program to establish local school wellness policies. In 2010, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (the Act) regulations added Section 9A to

expand upon the previous local wellness policy requirement from the Reauthorization.

The Act strengthens wellness policies by emphasizing ongoing implementation and assessment. This provision also supports a robust process at the community level, including the expansion of the team of collaborators participating in the wellness policy development.

Full implementation of the Wellness Policy requires the local educational agency (LEA) to inform and update the public, including parents and students, about the content and implementation of the local wellness policy. Schools typically post this information on the school or district website. LEAs are also required to measure and make available to the public periodic assessments of the local wellness policy, including:

- The extent to which schools are in compliance with the local wellness policy.
- The extent to which the LEA's local wellness policy compares to model local school wellness policies.
- The progress made in attaining the goals of the local wellness policy.

So what does this mean for LEAs and School Food Authorities (SFAs)? It means that for most schools, the first deadline for analyzing and reporting assessments will be due at the end of this school year. LEAs/SFAs are required to complete their first Local Wellness Policy triennial assessments by June 30, 2020

### Background Information

An assessment of your school wellness policy must be conducted a minimum of once every three years; however, Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) may assess their policy more frequently if they wish. The results of the assessment must be made available to the public.

### Purpose

The template below is offered as a way to summarize the information gathered during your assessment. Members of a school wellness committee who are completing their triennial assessment for their school wellness policy may use the template provided on the MDS website (are indi-

cated below). It contains the three required components of the triennial assessment,

### Results

The copy of the assessment must be made available to the public. How the assessment is made available is the decision of the LEA. Many LEA's choose to post the results on their district website. The triennial assessment summary and the assessment details (e.g. WellSAT 3.0 report) must be shared.

### Recordkeeping

Keep a copy of the most recent triennial assessment, along with supporting documentation on file. This will be needed when you have a School Nutrition Program administrative review.

### Resources

The following resources can assist you with components of the triennial assessment.

- [MDE Wellness Policy resources](#) - including a triennial report template
- [WellSat 3.0 Tool](#)
- [Assessment tools on the Child Nutrition Sharing Site](#)
- [Alliance for a Healthier Generation model wellness policies resource](#)
- [USDA Local Wellness Policy Outreach Toolkit](#)
- [Local Wellness Policy Q&As](#)



## National School Breakfast Week March 2-6, 2020

Mark your calendar for National School Breakfast Week—March 2-6, 2020! The #NSBW20 theme is “School Breakfast: Out of this World,” which is sure to captivate students and stakeholders with how your breakfast program is blasting off into new territory!

[Start planning your celebration today.](#)



# 2020 Elite Industry Members

To find out more on how to become an MSNA Industry Member visit our [Industry page](#) on the MSNA website!



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## Legislative Conference & Reception

Join MSNA at the Capitol to support school nutrition on Tuesday, February 25th. Don't miss the opportunity to let your state legislators know about the important work you do!

The PPL committee has been working hard getting the 2020 MSNA legislative conference in place. We will again host a legislative policy reception in the L'Etoile du Nord Vault Room (Basement of the State Capitol). This type of format allows members a more conversational opportunity to meet with legislators about school nutrition program priorities. You will be able to visit with your representatives in a relaxed setting and will be able to let them know what you are doing in your district!! You are the authority on what makes your school nutrition program work and what needs you might have. If you don't let them know...remember...others will.

MSNA will be continuing the support of Breakfast After the Bell (HR 1037) and we need our members to contact their legislators and invite them to the reception so we can talk and help our legislators learn about school meals programs! We will have sample school meals for tasting.

The conference registration form can be found on the [MSNA website](#) on and has been sent out electronically.

We need you to be contacting your legislators today, their calendars fill up quickly! You can find your legislator/representative by going to <http://www.gis.leg.mn/OpenLayers/districts/> and enter in your home and/or school address. The results will show both your state and national legislators but for the MSNA Legislative Conference, invite the names that list "MN House" or "MN Senate" only.

We ask you to invite your legislator EVEN if you can't attend the conference. We will make sure we talk with them and update them on our mission.

Suggested invite:

*'I represent XXXX school district's nutrition program. Please join me on February 25th in the Vault Room at the State Capitol from 4-6 p.m. to learn about school meals in our district and "Breakfast After the Bell" legislation. Sample school meals from around the state and hear about the future of school meals for students in Minnesota. Please let me know if you will attend.'*

If you can't attend use this suggested invite:

*'I represent XXXX school district's nutrition program. Please join the Minnesota School Nutrition Association on February 25th in the Vault Room at the State Capitol from 4-6 p.m. I am unable to attend and would appreciate if you or one of your staff members can stop in to talk with my colleagues about School Meals and Breakfast After The Bell Legislation. Sample school meals from around the state and hear about the future of school meals for students in Minnesota. Please let me know if you will attend.'*

If you receive a response from your Legislator/Representative, let us know through this [survey monkey link](#).

Bring your expertise, your enthusiasm and your stories to the capitol and take advantage of this opportunity to talk to your state representatives!

See you there!

# Minnesota School Nutrition Association

Get highlighted on MSNA's FACEBOOK page!



## Photo/ News Ideas:

- Lunch Tray Photos
- Holiday Events
- Cafeteria Decorations
- New Recipes/Menu Options
- Student Taste Tests
- School Gardens
- Breakfast Options
- Farm To School Events
- Chapter Meeting and News
- Food Service Awards
- Staff Training Photos
- Food Service Staff Retirements
- New Food Service Staff Hires
- Conference Photos
- New Kitchen Equipment
- National School Breakfast Week
- National School Lunch Week
- Harvest of the Month
- New Serving Styles
- School Food Industry News
- Cafeteria Guests

## Send News & Photos to:

**Robby Piazzaroli**  
[rpiazzaroli@cjpr.com](mailto:rpiazzaroli@cjpr.com)  
860-426-9991 ext. 17



Feeding Bodies. Fueling Minds.



Follow us at [www.facebook.com/MNSNA](http://www.facebook.com/MNSNA)

# Industry Chair



Mary Ann Dammann  
Industry Chair

Greetings!

I hope everyone enjoyed the Holidays and found some time to relax and have fun with family and friends.

The SNIP Committee has been hard at work planning our upcoming industry conference May 6-8, 2020, at beautiful Madden's Resort in Brainerd.

Get ready to Think 3D and nourish your mind, be inspired, get refreshed and energized! We are all going to flourish in our jobs, our leadership abilities and relationships after this conference. This is the best opportunity to network, nurture friendships and create new ones.

miss this conference!

Industry partners – the Industry Advisory Board will, once again, host an industry-only Forum on Wednesday night, May 6, 2020 at Madden's. This year we will be interviewing and voting for our next MSNA Industry Chair!! Please come join us.....this an informal, casual setting for us to grow and learn from each other.

A friendly reminder to all Industry Partners to please complete your 2020 MSNA Industry Membership application. You know you want to be a member.....send it in today.....cross it off your list.

Please contact me or Sharon Maus if you have any questions.

Wishing everyone a happy and prosperous 2020!

### Industry Advisory Board Members:

- Mary Ann Dammann, KeyImpact Sales
- Michele Crumbaugh, PrimeroEdge/Cybersoft Technologies
- Mike DeRosia, Vader & Landgraf, Inc
- John Jurichko, ATS&R Architects
- Janelle Nash, Brakebush Bros.
- Heather Yanta, Indianhead Foodservice Distributor

Watch for the conference registration form coming soon and the Madden's Resort room reservation link.

Trust me...mark your calendars now! You won't want to



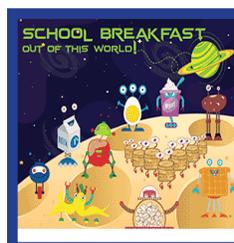
## SNA Address Updates

If you have changed email addresses, mailing addresses and or schools make sure you contact SNA.

This is our way of making sure you get the most out of your membership!

To make any changes or to correct contact information go to [www.schoolnutrition.org](http://www.schoolnutrition.org) and click on the red Login to My Account button in the upper right-hand corner. Enter your user name and password to login or click Member Registration to create an account. Once logged in, click on the Member Record tab and select Member Contact Information. Update any needed information and click Save Changes.

The screenshot shows the School Nutrition Association website. At the top, there are navigation links for 'Find Information By Topic', 'Find Information By Audience', and 'Other SNA Websites'. Below this is a search bar with 'SHOP', 'CAREER', and 'CONTACT US' buttons. A red 'Login to my account' button is visible. The main navigation menu includes 'ABOUT SNA', 'MEETINGS & EVENTS', 'MEMBERSHIP', 'CERTIFICATE & CREDENTIALING', 'LEARNING CENTER', 'NEWS, RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS', 'LEGISLATION & POLICY', and 'ABOUT SCHOOL MEALS'. The main heading reads 'Welcome! Please Log In to My Account'. Below this is a login form with fields for 'Username:' and 'Password:', a 'Forgot your username and password?' link, and a 'Remember me on this computer' checkbox. A red 'Login to my account' button is at the bottom of the form. At the very bottom, there is a 'Member Registration' link and a note: 'If you are not a member, please consider joining SNA. Visit our Membership page to learn more about the benefits of an SNA membership.'



# Conference Corner



will again have two sections of the show and the option of purchasing the director/purchaser badge to allow the attendee on the floor for the entire show. You must have this badge to enter at the beginning of the show.

The Member Services Chair will be working on education scholarships for the conference. More details will be shared at a later date.

At this time, we have secured Holly Hoffman, the last remaining member of the Espada Tribe and the last woman standing on Season 21 of "Survivor Nicaragua" on CBS for the opening general session and Chris Heeter, The Wild Institute as the closing Keynote speaker. More details on keynote speakers and workshops will be coming soon!

We will be hosting the School Nutrition Specialist (SNS) Exam on Sunday, August 2nd. If you are interested in taking this exam you will need to download and use the [Handbook & Application](#) to register for the exam. All exam information can be found on the [SNA website](#).

Note that this year, MSNA will open the hotel block on June 1st. We will have the Conference registration open in early to mid April so members can register and get their rooms reserved after the block is ready. In the past, we have had many attendees reserve more rooms than needed and then once they finally knew the actual amount of rooms needed, they release the extra rooms. We have ample rooms reserved in the block and we want all to have to opportunity to reserve a room of their choice.

Watch for the opportunity to volunteer your time at the conference. Margaret Flemming, Hospitality Chair will be setting up the online signup once all the workshops are in place. Please think about sharing your time!

Watch for more details! Make plans to join us at the 64th Annual State Conference!!

The 2020 Annual Conference Chairs, Deanna Cooley and Amy Kimmel, along with the AC committee to start the work on the 64th Annual State Conference! It takes months of planning and organizing to set up this conference to get it ready to make it a great experience for each member.

The conference date is August 2-5, 2020 and will be held at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud MN. The vendor show will be held on Tuesday, August 4th.

The conference theme is "Be Inspired-Shoot for the Stars" and the colors are teal, purple, gold and silver.

New this year will be the option to purchase a one day registration for Tuesday only. This registration will allow the attendee into the vendor show, receive the conference bag and the breakfast meal option. You will only be able to pick up the badge on that day only.

We will have a new conference app to utilize this year as part of the new member management system. We will be able to find all the conference materials, events and maps right in the palm of our hands.

The Exhibit Show is always the most anticipated part of the conference. Due to the large volume of attendees, we



# National Nibbles



## SNA 2020-21 National Committee Openings

Interested in serving on a SNA Committee or Council? Serving on a SNA committee/council offers exciting opportunities to grow professionally, develop new skills, work on issues from a national perspective and contribute to the school nutrition profession. There are 25 open committee positions for 2020-21. Visit the SNA website to learn about our [current openings](#) and to download the [Committee Interest Form](#). Forms are due by January 31, 2020.

## Nominate a Colleague You Admire for an SNA Award

Nominate someone you admire for an SNA Award for SY2019-20. Nominations for the Employee, Manager and Director of the Year awards are now being accepted online by SNA through March 1, 2020. Being nominated for an SNA Award is a great honor. All state, regional and national winners will be recognized at the Red Carpet Awards Ceremony at SNA's 2020 Annual National Conference in Nashville, Tennessee! For more information, including how to nominate and qualifications, please visit the [SNA Member Awards](#) webpage!

## Webinars On-Demand

We understand that not everyone can join the webinars at 2:00 pm ET on Wednesdays. That is why we have the [Webinars On-Demand](#) library on the Training Zone. One of SNA's most popular member benefits, webinars are available to you when you have the time. Can't finish watching a webinar in one sitting? No problem, you can return to the webinar and pick up where you left off. Login today to take advantage of the over 60 webinars in the library.

## NSBW Planning is Ready for Takeoff!

Mark your calendar for [National School Breakfast Week](#) (NSBW)—March 2-6, 2020 and pump up students and stakeholders with an “Out of this World” campaign!

The theme for #NSBW2020 is “School Breakfast: Out of this World,” so start planning your NSBW celebration today

by downloading the [NSBW 2020 Toolkit](#) to help you get started on your promotion ideas. Another way to get your breakfast program ready for takeoff, is to visit the [SNA Emporium](#) and shop for the #NSBW2020 themed resources available to ensure you show how your breakfast program is blasting off into new territory!

Happy planning—we hope you are ready for an out of this world ride into the #NSBW2020 galaxy!

## SNA Launches Research Initiative on Universal Meals

Studies have shown that school meals contribute to the health, attentiveness, behavior and academic achievement of students. SNA [believes](#) all students should have equal access to nutritious school meals, and that is why we are excited to announce a new research initiative that will evaluate the potential social benefits and costs of expanding the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, to serve all students at no charge.

School meals not only ensure students have the nutrition they need throughout the day to learn, but they also play an important role in supporting obesity prevention and improving children's diets and health outcomes. Previous studies on universal meal proposals have focused on the price tag, without quantifying and comparing the many long-term benefits of increased student lunch and breakfast participation.

To support SNA's advocacy efforts with Congress and the Administration, SNA's Board of Directors approved funding for an independent research firm specializing in regulatory advocacy and economic analysis to conduct a benefit-cost study of a universal school lunch and breakfast program. The firm chosen has significant Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) experience and will provide a thorough, OMB-compliant economic analysis of the social benefits and costs of creating a universal meals program. This research effort will focus on the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs. SNA will keep you posted on the outcomes of the analysis.

## USDA Releases Updated Guidance for Unanticipated School Closures

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) released [updated guidance](#) on meal service during unanticipated school closures. School Food Authorities (SFAs) participating in the National School Lunch Program and/or the School Breakfast Program, institutions participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and sponsors participating in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) are encouraged to use the flexibilities described in this memorandum to help ensure that children do not experience a lapse in food security when extreme weather or other events force area schools and child-care facilities to close.

For more information on this topic, don't miss the [Serving Students When the Lights Go Out: Disaster Preparedness & Response](#) pre-conference session at SNA's [Legislative Action Conference](#) in March.

## Training Zone: Got Ethics Questions? We've Got Answers!

Visit the [Training Zone](#) for [Ethics: What Should You Do?](#), a fundamental course that will help you and your staff recognize and address ethical concerns in the workplace. Do you know the differences between workplace and personal ethics? Do you understand the importance of having a [code of ethics](#)? This could be the most important \$15 investment you ever spent on a training course to get these ethics questions and more answered!

SNA's introductory ethics course is designed to:

- Help school nutrition professionals learn to recognize and address ethical dilemmas in the workplace
- Be interactive with fun activities, a case study, a self-assessment and a video.

# What's Happening?

## Calendar of Events

### January 12-14, 2020

School Nutrition  
Industry Conference (SNIC)  
Indian Wells, California

January 15, 2020

Executive Board Meeting

February 25, 2020

MN Legislative Conference  
St. Paul MN

March 2-9, 2020

National School Breakfast Week

March 8-10, 2020

SNA Legislative Conference  
Washington DC

April 30-May 2, 2020

National Leadership Conference  
Tempe, AZ

### May 6-8, 2020

SNIP Conference  
Madden's Resort  
Brainerd, MN

### July 12-14, 2020

ANC  
Nashville, TN

### August 2-5, 2020

64th MSNA Annual Conference  
St. Cloud, MN

### August 4, 2020

Exhibit Show  
St. Cloud MN

## Industry Partners

You can find their information on the Industry Directory on the [MSNA website](#).

New Industry Partners

***Infinite Campus***



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

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

## National Nibbles cont'd

- Reinforce the importance of ethics and the factors of ethical decision-making.

[District packages](#) for 10-100 individual users are also available and offer a 20-40% discount! Head over to the [Training Zone](#) for this and other interactive trainings on topics such as culinary skills and financial management designed exclusively for school nutrition professionals.

### Smoothies Offered in the Child Nutrition Programs

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recently released an updated memo that provides guidance on how smoothies, including commercially prepared smoothies, credit toward meal pattern requirements. For more information, see the [Smoothies Offered in Child Nutrition Programs Memo](#) (SP 40-2019, CACFP 17-2019, SFSP 17-2019).

### Offer vs. Serve Posters

Offer versus Serve (OVS) National School Lunch Program Posters and Lunch/Breakfast OVS Tip Sheets are available to order from USDA Team Nutrition or to [download from the USDA Website](#). The OVS posters may be used as signage to instruct students to select a reimbursable meal under OVS. The OVS tip sheets are intended for use by school foodservice staff to enhance their understanding of OVS requirements at breakfast and lunch.

### Salad Bar Guidance Child Nutrition Programs

The USDA FNS recently released a memo that provides information on how to effectively improve the service of reimbursable meals using salad bars. For more details, refer to the [Salad Bars in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Memo](#) (SP 41-2019).

### Serving Pre-K Meal Patterns Update

Do you serve preschool students?

If so, you are required to serve their meals according to the preschool meal pattern if they are served separately from older students (i.e., K-5 students). Here are some ways the preschool meal pattern differs from the K-5 meal pattern:

- Preschool students are not allowed to be served flavored milk.
- Grain-based desserts are not creditable for preschool students.
- The daily portion requirement for meat/meat alternate for preschool students at lunch is 1.5-ounce equivalents.

For more details, refer to [Preschool Breakfast and Lunch Meal Patterns – Effective October 2017](#).

If preschool students are co-mingled with older students their meals may follow either the preschool meal pattern or the K-5 meal pattern. Refer to [Meal Patterns for Preschoolers: Which One Should I Use?](#) for more information about separate versus co-mingled preschool meal services.

## The +1 Membership Challenge

It's a new year and we have a new challenge for you. SNA is excited to announce the official launch of the all-new [+1 Membership Challenge](#)! We invite you to participate in this new recruitment campaign, as it's a wonderful opportunity to rally members and boost membership levels within your state and nationally.



The Challenge is simple (and fun!):

1. Members share their reason for belonging to SNA – using the [social media tools](#).
2. Members recruit at least 1 new member – their +1.
3. State and national membership numbers increase, and members earn great incentives for recruiting!

Spread the Word About the +1 Membership Challenge! Please view and share SNA National President, Gay Anderson's [official campaign launch video](#).

Then visit the [SNA Website](#) for more details on the +1 Membership Challenge and find [Challenge Materials](#).

## 4th Annual Virtual Expo—Registration Now Open

Registration for the month-long, FREE [SNA Virtual Expo](#) is now open. From February 4-March 4, you will experience two virtual exhibit halls—Food and Beverage and Equipment/Technology, a Learning Center with 15 new pre-recorded education sessions from #ANC19 to earn CEUs, a networking lounge and a chance to win prizes by signing up for the Leaderboard. No travel required!

Education sessions just announced include:

- **How to WOW (& Transform) Your Audience:** Jill Castle, MS, RDN
- **The Time Bandits are BACK!:** JoAnne Robinett, MSA
- **Leading the Way to Grow Breakfast Participation:** Cheryl Johnson, MS, RD, LD; Cynthia Johnson; Jill Ladd, RD, LD
- **How to Calculate and Establish Meals Per Labor Hour (MPLH):** Kymm Mutch, MS, RDN
- **Customer Service for Kids!:** MGM Maureen G. Mulvaney

[View the full session descriptions.](#)

## 2020 SNA Election

The SNA Leadership Development Committee met during the 2019 Fall Committee Days in Alexandria, Va., last week to review nominations for positions on the SNA Board of Directors and Leadership Development Committee. After reviewing the biographical information on each candidate, as well as supporting documents such as the candidate's goals and the recommendations submitted by colleagues on leadership experience and competencies, the Commit-

tee selected a slate for the 2020 election ballot. [Click here](#) to see the slate of candidates.

Biographies of candidates selected for the ballot will be available to view online in early January 2020. The election will be held February 15-29, 2020.

The elected candidates for the positions on the Board of Directors will be installed in July 2020 at ANC. The elected candidates for positions on the Leadership Development Committee begin their terms on March 1, 2020 to coincide with the annual nominations and election calendar.

## Apply for a Professional Development Scholarship

Want to earn your degree? The School Nutrition Foundation is accepting applications for [Professional Development Scholarships](#) to help cover the costs of tuition and books for a degree in a school nutrition related field.

The application deadline is January 31, 2020 at 11:59 pm EST. Click link to fill out the [online application form](#).

## Fall 2019 Edition of The Journal of Child Nutrition & Management

From veganism to dysphagia, serving students with special diets has become a critical aspect for school nutrition departments. These menu accommodations ensure student customers can eat happily and safely. Inspired by this important topic, the Fall 2019 edition of [The Journal of Child Nutrition & Management](#) focuses on special diets with research-based articles.

Articles include cost analysis of menu accommodations, understanding how children with special needs may require texture-modified diets, the introduction of vegan entrees in schools, and so much more!

Be sure to read the [latest edition](#).

## Featured Video

[The Real School Lunch Story Video](#)

To combat misconceptions and outdated stereotypes, SNA created a new video to share the real school lunch story highlighting all the positive changes that have occurred in today's school cafeterias.



# 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.®

