



SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION

Making the right food choices, together

School Nutrition Association Outstanding Director of the Year Award

Nomination Form Form 1

Nominee's Name Lyn Halvorson SNA Membership Number 075379

School District WINONA 861 State MN

Address 903 GILMORE AVENUE

City WINONA State MN Zip Code 55987

Work Phone Number (507) 494-0831 Fax (507) 494-0780

Email Address (if available) lyn.halvorson@winona.k12.mn.us

Number of years nominee has been a(n):

School Foodservice Director 24 SNA Member 24 State Association Member 24

Please check all that apply:

- SNA Certified
SNS Credential

Directions: Briefly describe the nominee's accomplishments in the areas being judged that clearly demonstrate how their efforts have helped to enhance the school foodservice and nutrition program in their district. Written materials may not exceed the space provided on the nomination form. Be very specific and provide sufficient information on the nominee's results and/or benefits to the program. Please remember to sign the nomination form.

Program Enhancement (please describe how well this person manages the foodservice program)

Our School Nutrition Director, has a keen sense of directing funds and people. When arriving at the district, she was faced with a negative fund balance of sixteen thousand dollars. She implemented several new programs including a district wide breakfast program, a cooking service, an after school snack program and a kindergarten milk program. She is a member of a team, who established a school food buying group. She is negotiating prime vending. By searching and utilizing smart management practices, our director raised the fund balance to three-hundred, seventy thousand dollars (that is a positive \$370,000.00) within the first five years, under her direction. By bringing financial stability to our program, we have job security restored. That is something this group of employees has not seen in quite some time and that is, because of our director, which leads me into her leadership skills. Our director is fair, consistent, compassionate, intelligent and also an excellent listener. She leads by example and lives and breathes school nutrition. Every staff member is encouraged to bring their individual talents to our programs, which in turn makes it very easy, for all of us, to want to give back. Knowing we have her support, makes it fun to go to work which can not be said about all jobs.

## Outstanding Director of the Year Nomination Form 1 Continued

### Staff Development (please provide information on training provided to staff)

Our director believes that education paired with knowledge, can only promote our programs. She developed, the districts first employee handbook, so everyone could have a clear understanding of our goals and her expectations, in front of them. She holds regular mandatory, inservices and brings in many interesting speakers. Some of the areas of concerns such as safety, sanitation, offer vs. serve, health, wellness, and childhood health issues. She sent out districts, two managers, to California, to attend The Culinary Institute of Americas' "Healthy Cuisine for Kids," seminar. She encourages all staff members to attend Chapter/State/and National Conferences and assists with funding for those conferences. She gives incentive pay to employees acquiring different levels of CEU's and Specialty training hours. She also supports the staff with a clothing allowance. Some of these things may seem small to some, but believe me, our staff respects her, for all of the many things she does, for us.

### School Involvement (please describe what the nominee has done to promote school foodservice programs in their district)

Our director has spear-headed, many initiatives, to promote school food service programs, in our district, but I think the two that epitomize, who and what, she stands for, most, are the FEED THE KID and the WELLNESS policies.

FEED THE KIDS was an idea, our director had, which an account was set up, to provide students facing a family financial hardship. It was started to provide a safety net, for families who do not qualify for free or reduced meals, however are experiencing temporary hardship, providing a nutritious meal until either, they do qualify, or their troubled times pass. Some examples would be a death in the family, fire, illness, or also flooding which hit our area recently. She set up this account by going to the press and reaching out to the community to ask for help. She explained how, the program could minimize the affects of the hardship, on the children. The response was huge.

WELLNESS Policy - our director played a major role in developing, the districts Wellness Policy. She spent many long hours chairing, the meetings, to insure the goals, needed to be achieved, were met. Some of these goals are, the development of nutritious guidelines, no usage of vending machines, until the end of the school day, the unavailability of Soda at the middle school, school stores and school sponsored events. The group also has brought in speakers, to inform families and staff of the importance of healthy living. Because of the changes made, and the education that continues to follow, our principals believe that there are less reported discipline problems, better attendance and the better choices. We have received much positive press, for her involvement, in school nutrition has seen an overall increase in sales. You can also see, our director, speaking and healthy snacks connecting with students, in their classrooms. Whether it be a health class at the High School or a Kindergarten class, she is there, to answer questions or once again to just listen to suggestions on a regular basis.

FORM 1

**Outstanding Director of the Year Nomination Form 1 Continued**

**Association Involvement** (please describe what the nominee has done to promote involvement in SNA and their state association to their employees)

This is just one more area, in which our director excels, she encourages her staff to become involved and once again, leads by example. She has been a certified SNA member since the beginning of her career, in 1984. She was one of the first 53, in the nation, to become SFNS credentialed. She has held several positions and offices, in both Wisconsin and Minnesota and also on the National level. They are as follows, WIS - DPI Commodity Taskforce, STATE Nutrition Chair, STATE Conference STEERING COMMITTEE member and Nutrition Newsletter Editor. For the state of Minnesota she has served as Chapter President and President, Chapter Special Projects Chair and Chapter Newsletter Editor, STATE Certification Steering Committee and STATE Conference Steering Committee. She has also taught several development courses and has been a speaker at both Wisconsin and Minnesota state conferences. On the National level she has served as Silent Auction Chair, (NASHVILLE), ACDA Steering committee member and has been a Train the Trainer HEALTHY EDGE.

**Community Involvement** (please describe what the nominee has done to contribute to their community through nutrition-related community involvement)

Every community, our director, lives or works in, gains by her presence. While working in LaCrosse, Wisconsin she was a member of the Hunger Taskforce, the Community Garden and served as the Hunger Taskforce Community Garden Dinner Coordinator. She is a member of the Coulee Region Childhood Obesity Coalition, is on the Western Wisconsin College advisory board and is a Red Cross disaster, trained, volunteer. In Winona, our director has developed a district calendar, which not only includes school nutrition information and menus, but also includes district information for the upcoming year. She mentors student interns from local colleges and offers free school nutrition consulting services, to small area districts. Finally in her hometown in which she lives, she has taught Sunday school, been a Girl Scout leader and a Hero and 4-H, Judge. She is currently serving on her church council.

Submitted by MARSHA KORNETA District 361 - WINONA MN  
(Please print clearly)

Date Submitted 2/22/2008



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