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# MSNA 2021 Slate of Officers

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

## Slate of Candidates

### Vice President

Michele Hawkinson, Tracy ISD

### Nutrition Chair

Kimberly Hinrichs, Buffalo/Montrose/Hanover ISD  
Jennifer Walters, RD, SNSWinona ISD

### Leadership Development Committee

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

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**\*\*\*\*As we get ready for the election, we want to help you understand how MSNA members are eligible to have their names included on the ballot. There have been some questions as to election rules and we want to help make the process more clear. For detailed information about election rules/qualifications and candidate bios visit page 3.**

### What is the Leadership Development Committee?

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

### Who is eligible to have their name on the ballot?

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

### What are the qualifications to run for office?

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

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

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

*Continued on page 3*

# President's Message



*Jo Lange, SNS  
MNSNA President*

*Greetings MSNA members from Northern Minnesota!*

It's finally beginning to look like spring, bringing new optimism and renewal of energy. When I think of my Annual Conference theme set up for last summer's conference, I didn't realize at the time that it would be so appropriate for what we have all been through this school year.

The theme is "Be Inspired—Shoot for the Stars". Little did any of us know that everyone of us would have to step up with innovative, think-outside-of-the-box, do whatever it takes ideas to be sure that our students in Minnesota receive the highest quality meals whether they are distance learning or in person. All while staying in compliance with all of our USDA guidelines and COVID-19 restrictions. What a daunting task!

It certainly has been full of challenges, and sometimes difficult to pivot with continuing CDC and State changes, but each and every one of you proved that nothing matters except good nutrition for our students, and doing whatever it takes to accomplish it. That's the inspiration that you have for yourself and all of your team members. From director to dishwasher, cook to part-timers, I am incredibly impressed and proud of all of you. I believe that we literally had to shoot for the stars to come up with plans, and then change at a moment's notice to do what we had to do this year.

Keep up the amazing work that puts MNSNA's members at the top of the leader board for SNA State Affiliates. We know that many other states look to Minnesota to set the example for high standards and performance in School Nutrition Programs, and you certainly set the bar high!

Your Executive Board has been very busy this year! We are working with our parliamentarian on By-Law amendments and updating the Policy & Procedures. Any amendments can be proposed by a chapter affiliate, our board of directors, an association committee or advisory board, or on written petition signed by 100 members. All amendments must be received by the secretary no later than 60 days prior to the annual conference. We will be hosting a House of Delegates and all delegates will be notified.

We are watching the budget closely and modifying as needed to preserve MNSNA's financial assets. We hosted the inaugural virtual Nutrition Webinar Series for members to get CEUs which was very successful! We made the decision to reschedule the SNIP conference to October 27-29, 2021 due to continuing COVID-19 restrictions, and we are monitoring the 2021 August Annual Conference status. All of the board and committee meetings this year have been conducted virtually. By doing all of this, saves the association a lot of expense, because there are no travel expenses or meal expenses incurred by board and committee members.

We have also honored our fiduciary duties to you by attending required SNA conferences and trainings virtually. The most recent national conference was LAC in DC in March. So much can be accomplished in a shorter amount of time, and this will help ensure the continuing strength and success of our association. Everything we do, we are doing for your education and advocacy. The success of our association and its members is and always will our top priority. We only do what is best for our members, nothing less.

Watch for upcoming announcements about Annual Conference! We will keep you updated with any new developments. Continue to ask questions, let us know your thoughts. Every board member is here to help you in any way that we can. I want you all to know that you are an amazing asset to MNSNA, your school district, and most importantly, your students.

You matter.  
Your work is deeply appreciated.  
Continue to Be Inspired and Shoot for the Stars.

Stay well, be happy.

Jo Lange, SNS  
MNSNA President

Chii Miigwech, (Thank you very much)

# Slate of Officers

*Continued from page 1*

## **What happens if multiple nominations for office occur?**

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

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

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

## **What do candidates need to run for office?**

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

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

## **RULES**

To be eligible to vote you must be a SNA/MSNA member in good standing as of March 30, 2021.

You must enter a valid SNA ID number to be qualified to vote.

You may only vote once.

Voting will be conducted May 1-15, 2021.

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

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

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

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

## **Here is what you can do:**

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

Now, let's continue to meet the candidates on page 4 & 5

# Candidate Bios

## Vice President



Michele Hawkinson  
Food Service Director  
Tracy Public Schools

Level 3 Certificate

MSNA Education Chair-2020-current  
Hiawatha Chapter 2 President (2018/2021)  
Hiawatha Chapter 2 Past President (2016/2017)  
MSNA Leadership Development Committee (2020)  
Has attended numerous state annual conferences, nutrition conference and skills camp

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

### Goals:

1. To listen and learn all I can about MSNA and SNA, so I am able to help in any capacity
2. To actively increase membership in SNA/MSNA and promote the professional development for all members.
3. To contribute my knowledge and skills to help the work of the Executive Board.

## Nutrition Chair



Kim Hinrichs  
Director of Nutrition Services  
Buffalo/Hanover/Montrose ISD

Level 4 Certificate  
Will be taking the SNS Exam in August

LittleCrow Chapter 21 President 2018-2019  
Little Crow Chapter 21 President Elect 2017-2018  
Little Crow Chapter 21 President 2012-2013  
Little Crow Chapter 21 President Elect 2011-2012  
Has attended numerous state annual conferences, Chapter Leadership sessions, nutrition conference and national annual conference

### Awards:

MSNA Chapter President of Excellence Award  
2019 SNF ANC scholarship

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

### Goals:

1. Promote nutrition education opportunities with school kitchen staff, classroom teachers and students.
2. As a former restaurant chef, nutrition and food quality go hand in hand. My goal is to help teach school nutrition staff cooking & presentation methods.
3. Encourage MN School nutrition employees to be more active with social media (with permission of their districts) to promote and reach students, family and communities to educate and promote school nutrition programs.
4. Create nutrition education opportunities for all MSNA members through conferences, webinars and chapter meetings.



Jennifer Walters, RD, SNS  
School Nutrition Director  
Winona ISD

I am the Food Service Director for the Winona school district. I am a registered dietitian and hold a bachelor's degree in Nutrition

& Dietetics from the Uof M. I served as FS director for 10 years in the Viroqua school district in Wisconsin and I was a member of the Commodity Task Force and Wisconsin Healthy Kids Coalition.

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

### Goals:

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

*Continued on page 5*



# Candidate Bios

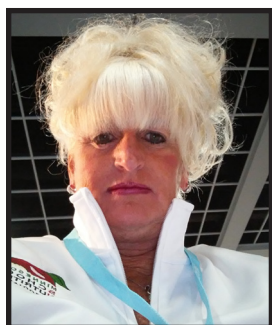
## Leadership Development Committee



**Kathy Faust**

Director of Food & Nutrition Services  
Crosslake Community Charter School

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



**Valerie Johns**

Food Assistant II  
Eden Prairie Schools

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



**Glen Ritter**

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

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



**Christina Wirtz**

Nutrition Service Supervisor II  
St. Paul Public Schools

Chris works for the St. Paul Public School system and has 27 years in school nutrition. She works in the middle school as well as monitoring 18 Park and Recreation Centers assisting with home deliveries.

Chris has served on the St. Paul Chapter 32 board as secretary from 2015-2020 and is currently the Co-President. Chris helps her colleagues become leaders by fostering an atmosphere where they can succeed and reach their goals by providing the training and support. If elected, she will assist in identifying potential candidates for the future success of MSNA.



**Vickie Speltz**  
Secretary/Treasurer

*Hello MSNA Members!*

It looks like things are starting to level off a bit on the COVID pandemic. More schools now have their students in the buildings and many people have received their vaccine.

Our districts have worked tirelessly to feed the students and community and I want you to know how much I appreciate you all. I also want to give a quick shout out to my staff for their hard work and showing up each day!!

I know many of our members are asking what is happening with the annual conference. MSNA is still working hard behind the scenes, watching what is happening with the CDC guidelines, what the state guidelines are to make sure we are understanding what the event protocol is. We need to make sure that we can have the conference safely and have the maximum number of attendees as allowed. This will help determine how MSNA will come to a decision. As treasurer, I am also working on what different type of financial scenarios would come into play for the financial piece. We must be able to sustain the costs-cover all costs-no matter what type of conference we might have.

I am closely monitoring the fiscal status of the association and we are still at minimal spending status. With the many implemented measures, we put into place to help cut costs we did have to transfer funds from our savings account to checking account. We have implemented a No travel (outstate conferences or mileage), all virtual meetings and this has helped us with our expenses. If needed, we will be able to transfer funds from the investments. As you all know, our Association has been preparing for a situation

where we would need to use the financial reserves we have in place. Thank you to the past boards that had the future of the association in mind when working to have these reserves in place!

Our accounting firm, BergenKDV, has completed the 2020 IRS tax filings, filing the renewal certificate with the MN Secretary of State (nonprofit status) and the financial audit. This information will be included in the business meeting this fall.

We have successfully concluded the online Nutrition Webinar Series. Over the last 3 months, many of our members have taken advantage of the wide variety of sessions for a very low cost. We will be working on the final review of this series and will be generating a report to the board. I want to thank all the members who attended the webinars and I want to give a very big thank you to all the presenters. You all ROCK!!

#### Financial Report as of March 31, 2021

Checking:	\$18,659.40
Savings:	\$6,618.83
Investments:	\$356,609.45
CD's:	\$109,596.19
Total:	\$491,483.87

Stay safe and healthy!

Vickie

Please watch for the announcement of the 2021 SNA and MSNA Award winners. All details will be found on the MSNA website when SNA Mid-West regional judging is complete!!



#### SNA is Retiring 50 Webinars in April

SNA is committed to delivering the most relevant, up-to-date training possible, so our Professional Development Team did a little spring cleaning. They reviewed all of our webinar offerings

and determined which ones contain outdated information and will retire them from SNA's online Training Zone. Have no fear...Any certificates you have earned for these webinars will remain in your Training Zone account, even after the webinar is removed.

There is still time to access these retiring webinars...If you would like to access one of the retiring webinars (see the link below) —or have not completed the entire webinar video, evaluation or quiz—you have a month to do so and receive your certificate (and CEUs or CPEUs). After that time, access to the retired webinars (videos, evaluations and quizzes) will no longer be available.

Here is the [full list](#) of webinar titles being removed from [SNA's Training Zone](#). If you have not yet completed all the work required to earn a certificate for one (or more) of these titles, make sure to do so by April 30, 2021.

# Public Policy Update



**Brenton Lexvold, RD**  
*Public Policy Chair*

Greetings to all!

The 2021 legislature has been running hard the last three months, hearing numerous program budget requests and policy initiatives. Education has seen no shortage of legislative requests. Legislators got to catch their breath as they took their traditional Passover/Easter break. When they returned to

business on Tuesday, April 6 they awoke to the reality that they have 6 weeks left until the constitutional end of session hits on Monday, May 17. The focus of session now turns to the major omnibus budget and policy bills and the eventual conference committee process between the House DFL majority and the Senate GOP majority. Of course, the Walz administration plays a major role in end of session negotiations as the Governor decides whether or not to sign or veto the legislation that makes it to his desk.

For our part, we've been focused on legislative conversations around "lunch shaming" and "hunger free schools." The lunch shaming legislation has been around for years (SF 777 Karin Housley/HF 149 Jurgens) and appears slated to pass into law this session, but that's been said before. The bill would require school districts to post their policies for unpaid meal debt on their websites. It would prohibit nutrition staff from taking away meals that are served to kids, regardless of the balance in their accounts. This legislation is basically a further articulation of current law which states that school shall not "demean or stigmatize" students for inadequate meal account balance.

State legislation to create "Hunger Free Schools" is an effort by Hunger Solutions and many other partner organizations, including Blue Cross/Blue Shield, General Mills, among others. MSNA has declined to sign on in direct support as we seek to learn more about how the advocates would use the Community Eligibility Program (CEP) to drive universal meals in Minnesota. MSNA has been helping our national, SNA, with their push on Congress to make universal meals a reality nationwide.

In the meantime, the state House Education committee did review an amended version of HF 1985 (Jordan, DFL Minneapolis) that would have the state provide gap funding for CEP eligible schools who aren't participating due to the economic loss the program would force on food service. MSNA's PPL Chair, Brenton Lexvold, provided passionate testimony in support of universal meals and the importance of permanently expanding the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs to offer all students meals at no charge as an integral part of the educational experience. He focused on kids, and the great work school nutrition programs are doing today, while noting the SNA push to make universal meals a reality, nationwide.

It will be interesting to see how the remainder of this session plays out and whether or not the House DFL majority brings funding for school nutrition programs to conference committee. The Senate GOP majority has a much smaller budget target to work with and didn't review the Hunger Free Schools proposal. As always, thank you for your work each and every day to provide kids with healthy meals.

Sam Walseth  
MSNA Lobbyist

Brenton Lexvold, RD  
MSNA PPL Chair

Members of the MN School Nutrition Association came together virtually in mid March for the SNA's Legislation Action Conference. Attendees heard from USDA representatives and talked with their peers about COVID-19 best practices and the legislative actions they would like to see in the coming year. We were able to listen to the new USDA secretary Tom Vilsak and hear about the extended summer meal waivers until September 30th.

On Wednesday, March 10th, we were able to meet with our Senators & Legislators to discuss our concerns and ask them to support the push for "Free Meals for All". We met with the following offices: Senator Amy Klobuchar, Senator Tina Smith, Congress Women Betty McCullum, Angie Craig & Michelle Fischbach, Congressmen Tom Emmer, Pete Stauber, Jim Hagedorn and Dean Phillips. We were not able to secure an appointment with Rep. Ilhan Omar.





# 2021 Elite Industry Members



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



# Industry Chair



*Steve Martel*  
*Industry Chair*

Hi MSNA Members!

As we move out of the dark cold days of winter, I am very excited for the longer days and warmth that Spring offers all of us!

I hope all of you are doing well and have been able to enjoy the nice weather we have been having.

While we are making progress and people are starting to get

vaccinated, there is still some work to do before we are back to the new “normal”.

The good news is that schools are beginning to re-open and students are returning to the classroom, which to me is a great sign that we are making progress in our fight against Covid! While this creates additional challenges to school foodservice, I know that the hero's in the kitchens at our schools will continue to do the amazing work and ensure every child has the food and nutrition they need to be successful.

The Industry Advisory Board (IAB) is continuing the planning for 2021. As all of us have done this past year we have had to pivot on our plans. We sent out a Survey Monkey to past SNIP Attendees in February to gauge interest and comfort level of an “in-person” SNIP conference. The results confirmed that there were still some reservations and concerns about attending the SNIP conference.

The Executive Board discussed the potential of a virtual event, however, we felt that this would not provide attendees with the connections that are so valuable to all of us. A decision was made to postpone the SNIP conference until October! Fortunately, Breezy Point can still accommodate our group, and our speakers are available to present!

We know this is right decision and that in October members will be much more comfortable attending, and the SNIP Conference will once again provide the great networking and relationship building conference it has always done. Mark your calendars for October 27-29, 2021! Hotel and registration will open in August.

As of this point the Annual Conference in August is still on track to happen in August. I will be monitoring all CDC guidelines and be working on details for how we will be able to host a safe exhibit show.

We want to thank those who have already submitted their membership for 2021! I cannot stress how important your support of MSNA is, and how it helps them to continue to support school food service in Minnesota. If you haven't renewed your membership, please renew to ensure your company is a member in good standing. The Industry Advisory Board and Executive Board continue to ensure that membership creates value for all Industry members and will be adding additional opportunities for members in 2021.

Like all of you, I am looking forward to the warmer weather and the day when all of us are safe and healthy and no longer are dealing with the impact of Covid 19.

I am proud to lead the Industry Advisory Board and be a partner to School Foodservice.

Please stay safe and be well.

Steve



Have you seen the new Job Posting Board on the MSNA website? If you are an employer and need to post a job, all you need to do is go to the website, click on the red tab on the home page “Member Job Posting Board”. It will take you to a survey monkey page to post your open position.

[MSNA Job Posting Board](#)

This is a space for MSNA members to post their available jobs at their respective district/companies. All \*information for job postings must be filled out completely. Jobs will be posted within 48 hours and the job postings stay up for a period of two weeks once placed on website.

# Conference Corner

## 2021 SNIP Conference



*Breezy Point Resort  
Breezy Point MN*

Due to the pandemic, MSNA has made the decision to reschedule the 2021 SNIP conference from May 6-8 2021 to October 27-29, 2021. It will still be held at Breezy Point Resort, Breezy Point MN. In light of current COVID-19 concerns, MSNA will continue to follow state and national recommendations and have safety protocols in place for all who attend.

Our speakers will be from Think3D that had been planned for 2020. The SNIP Conference committee is busy working on getting all the details in order for everyone to join us! Registration and hotel reservations will open soon! Watch for more details coming soon!



## 2021 Annual Conference

MSNA is currently assessing whether to host the 2021 Annual State Conference in person, virtually or using a hybrid event model. We will announce a decision in the next few weeks via email, MNSNA.org and Facebook. Our members' safety and health continue to be our top priority and the ultimate decision will be determined by the safety guidelines and protocols available.

With the pandemic, we have suspended booth sales until a final decision has been made.

Please note that the MSNA hotel block will **NOT OPEN** until June 1st. We have notified all hotels not to take any reservations until then.

MSNA will be holding a House of Delegates and all details will be published on the date/time once a conference decision has been determined.

With the cancellation of the 2020 conference, we have been able to keep the speakers that we had in place and they have agreed to present in August of 2021!

Monday Opening Session-Holly Hoffman  
Tuesday Session- The Sioux Chef-Sean Sherman  
Wednesday Closing Session- Chris Heeter



*Holly Hoffman*



*Sioux Chef Sean Sherman*



*Chris Heeter*

MSNA will be hosting the SNA Credentialing Exam August 1, 2021 in St. Cloud at the River's Edge Convention Center. Registration is now open for signing up for the exam. The SNA registration deadline is July 11, 2021.

If you are interested in taking the exam, visit the SNA website for more details on registration and exam prep. The SNS Exam Central has all the details on what you need to do for the exam and studying. [Click here](#) for all the details. **PLEASE NOTE:** Use of the SNS Credentialing Exam Handbook, SNS Study Guide and related book, will not guarantee passing the SNS Credentialing Exam. The sample questions included in the SNS Handbook and Study Guide are for practice. The sample questions are NOT part of the SNS exam.

# National Nibbles



## Get Ready for School Lunch Hero Day!

If there was ever a year to recognize the heroic efforts of school nutrition professionals, 2021 is it! [School Lunch Hero Day](#) is Friday, May 7. SNA has tools and resources on hand to assist you in recognizing the amazing job school nutrition professionals do every day, including all-new artwork featuring a new cast of school lunch hero characters you can share on social media, the all-new [School Lunch Hero Day Shop](#), featuring School Lunch Hero masks, and lots of [recognition ideas](#) on the website, including [thank you cards](#) (also available in [Spanish](#)) and [a customizable press release and proclamation](#). [Download the artwork](#) to get started and be sure to credit the artist and [follow the guidelines](#) for proper usage.

## 2021 SNA Annual National Conference Will Be Virtual

Given the uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and continued concerns for the health and safety of all members, industry partners, volunteer leaders, staff, and other stakeholders, SNA has announced its Annual National Conference (ANC) will be held virtually during the week of July 12, 2021. In a preview of what's to come, we are excited to announce our two keynote speakers, [Crystal Washington](#) and [Ben Nemtin](#), who will inspire us and set the tone for a truly immersive virtual experience. Registration for the first Virtual ANC will open in mid-April. Keep an eye on our [website](#) and emails, where we will share more details about the conference as the date nears. [Learn more](#).

## Walk With a Purpose

SNF's first-ever virtual fundraising walk will join school nutrition professionals and SNA industry members from across the United States. You'll form teams, compete for prizes, raise funds and walk straight into Spring and more hopeful times ahead.

Every. Single. Day. YOU make a difference in the lives of students and their families. For over a year when schools closed due to COVID-19, you worked on the frontline night and day, in sweltering heat, frigid temperatures and torrential downpours to ensure that children who depend on school meals don't go hungry. Now it's your time!

[Learn more](#).

Here are some FAQs and sample emails to help you connect with your supporters, form your team, and create your own web page.

- [Email Templates](#)
- [FAQ's](#)
- [Social Media Tips and Tricks](#)

## Read the April 2021 Issue of School Nutrition Magazine Today!

There's a ton to unpack in the April issue of School Nutrition magazine, starting with the debut of the 2021 and

2022 National School Lunch and Breakfast Weeks! This month's issue also focuses on kitchen equipment, both large and small, with operators sharing their top choices for small appliances and their best tips for procuring, using, maintaining, and replacing large equipment. Plus, hope springs eternal during the month of April, and we're looking at the future with an eye on optimism and humor. [Read the April 2021 issue of School Nutrition](#) today!

## Register Now for Rebuilding Together: The Back to School Virtual Summit

Join us for two afternoons May 4 & 6 to plan and strategize for School Year 2021-2022 at the [Back to School Summit](#)! Check out the [latest agenda](#) for this unique learning opportunity which will bring together your peers from across the country to share the latest information and trends, help you strengthen relationships and programs, open new avenues of revenue and feed more students, and engage in speed networking and idea sharing. Speakers will include key stakeholders in school nutrition from across the country, American Academy of Pediatrics Dr. Murray discussing new tools to promote school nutrition programs to administrators, Dennis Roche from Burbio, who will discuss the [latest school opening tracking trends](#) and an outlook for next school year, a panel of SNA state directors of the year sharing their best practices, Dayle Hayes and Jeanne Reilly with tools to help serve students in the classroom, and a representative from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), who will provide the latest CDC guidance for serving school meals for back to school. [Register now](#)!

## USDA Publishes Meal Data Revealing Fewer Meals Served and Financial Loss

On March 12, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) published [new data](#) that shows school meal programs served 30% fewer breakfasts and lunches to students and incurred significant losses in federal revenue in the first nine months of the pandemic (March-September 2020), as compared to the same time period in 2019. SNA has published [an analysis](#) of this data and continues to [urge Congress](#) to provide additional relief funds to keep school meal programs financially sustainable and ensure student access to healthy school meals. Read SNA's [full press release](#).

## New LEAD to Succeed™ Training from the School Nutrition Foundation

The new [LEAD to Succeed™ training program](#) from the School Nutrition Foundation is now live in the SNA Training Zone! You can register now for "LEARN to Master Difficult Conversations," (you'll earn 3 CEUs, too!) the first of four self-paced training modules in the Communication for Impact series. This module is a 3-hour, self-paced training that was created specifically for school nutrition professionals; additional modules in the Communication for Impact series are scheduled for release in 2021. All LEAD to Succeed™ training materials are available at no cost. [Register now](#).



# What's Happening?

## Calendar of Events

May 4-5, 2021

[SNA Back to School Summit](#)

May 7, 2021

School Lunch Hero Day

July 12-15, 2021

[ANC \(Virtual\)](#)

August 1-4, 2021

\*\*Annual State Conference  
St. Cloud MN

October 11-15, 2021

National School Lunch Week

October 27-29 2021

SNIP Conference-Breezy  
Point

*\*\* MSNA is currently assessing whether to host the 2021 Annual State Conference in person, virtually or using a hybrid event model. We will announce a decision in the next few weeks via email, MNSNA.org and Facebook. Our members' safety and health continue to be our top priority and the ultimate decision will be determined by the safety guidelines and protocols available.*

## Industry Partners

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

### New Industry Members

- Phoenix Marketing

2021 Industry Membership renewal invoice/forms were emailed to all contacts. Payment link at the bottom of email.



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

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### U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture Holds Hearing for Child Nutrition Reauthorization

On March 25, the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry held a [hearing](#) on "Child Nutrition Reauthorization: Healthy Meals and Healthy Futures." Chairwoman Stabenow (D-MI) and Ranking Member Boozman (R-AR) called upon several witnesses, including SNA Public Policy and Legislation Committee members, Jessica Gould, RD, SNS, the Director of Nutrition Services at Littleton Public Schools in Colorado, and Diane Golzynski, PhD, RDN, the Director for the Office of Health and Nutrition Services for Michigan's Department of Education. During their testimony, Dr. Golzynski and Jessica Gould outlined the importance of a strong safety net

such as school meal programs and the critical need for meal pattern flexibility. [Read the full story and witness testimony.](#)



Are you thinking of taking the SNS exam?

MSNA will be hosting the SNA Credentialing Exam August 1, 2021 in St. Cloud at the River's Edge Convention Center. Registration is open for signing up for the exam. The SNA registration deadline is July 11, 2021.

If you are interested in taking the exam, visit the SNA website for more details on registration and exam prep. The SNS Exam Central has all the details on what you need to do for the exam and studying. [Click here](#) for all the details.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Use of the SNS Credentialing Exam Handbook, SNS Study Guide and related book, will not guarantee passing the SNS Credentialing Exam. The sample questions included in the SNS Handbook and Study Guide are for practice. The sample questions are NOT part of the SNS exam.



# Minnesota School Nutrition Association

Get  
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**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



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