

# MSNA Thymes

Minnesota School Nutrition Association

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Whats Happening

The 2020-2021 Executive Board was installed virtually during the August 3rd Executive Board meeting. Due to the cancellation of the 64th annual conference, Past MSNA State President, Allison Bradford did the virtual installation.

President, Jo Lange, SNS, Red Lake ISD will represent MSNA members and serving under her leadership is: Carrie Frank, Dover/Eyota ISD, Cheryl Pick, Foley ISD, Vickie Speltz, Lewiston/Al-tura ISD, Faith Ford, Anoka-Hennepin ISD, Steve Martel, General Mills, Michele Hawkinson, Tracy ISD, Brenton Lexvold, RD, Red Wing ISD, Loriann Landowski, Foley ISD and Debra Lukkonen, MN Department of Education.



*Jo Lange, SNS  
President*



*Carrie Frank  
President Elect*



*Cheryl Pick  
Vice President*



*Vickie Speltz  
Secretary/Treasurer*



*Faith Ford  
Nutrition Chair*



*Steve Martel  
Industry Chair*



*Michele Hawkinson  
Education Chair*



*Brenton Lexvold  
Public Policy Chair*



*Loriann Landowski  
Education Chair*



*Debra Lukkonen  
State Agency*

# President's Message



Jo Lange, SNS  
MSNA President

*Greetings MSNA members!*

*I would like to congratulate you all on your continuing heroic efforts to feed the children in your school district, no matter where in Minnesota you are. The families in your school district deeply appreciate all that you do every day for the students that you serve. We knew that this was going to continue to be a challenge once school was back in session, and it is proving to be just that.*

*We also knew that each and everyone of us is up to the challenge, and we are proving just that! This is going to be the most unusual year of our careers, and I want to assure you that no matter what happens with learning models or scenarios, MSNA is here to support you so that you and your programs are successful. The Executive Board has adopted the 2020-2021 MSNA Strategic Plan, which I will briefly review for you here. You will see that the board is focused on actions that will assist you the members with professional development and association viability.*

*In order to advance members' professional development, the association has strategies to expand the availability of virtual programs, develop a contingency plan in the event that MSNA meetings cannot be face to face during COVID-19 distancing requirements, and to utilize relevant technologies to maximize professional development to all MSNA members.*

*To increase the recognition of school nutrition programs as being integral to the education process, MSNA will focus on social media for full membership perception of school nutrition programs, inform and educate members of the Minnesota Legislature on school nutrition programs, strengthen the capacity of the MSNA Public Policy Chair and MSNA Chapters to carry out state and local advocacy, and to collect and share successful advocacy stories for state members to utilize in their work.*

*MSNA also intends to increase membership and membership retention, increase the Industry Membership, and increase the awareness of the value of MSNA as a resource to you, our MSNA members.*

*Lastly, the MSNA Executive Board will review and adhere to all written policies and procedures for financial impact which will ensure sustained viability of the association, implement a new development process to assess the feasibility of implementing new products and serve to meet member needs during the COVID-19 time, and beyond, and review the Bylaws for Amendments.*

*This may seem like a daunting and ambitious Strategic Plan, but the Board feels that is vital to address the situation that the world is in right now, so that all members feel supported and empowered to be successful in the School Nutrition profession no matter what their challenges are. MSNA is a vibrant association ready and able to help you be the best you can be under any circumstances you find yourself in this school year.*

*Each and every one of us are working during a situation that this time last year we would never have dreamed was possible, much less become a reality. Please know that you can rely on MSNA to help you through these indescribably unique and incredibly challenging times. If you need anything at all, remember that the entire board is here to support you. Our contact information is on our website; you can reach out to any of us at any time, and the Executive Director, Sharon Maus is available as well.*

*Speaking of the website, be sure to check it regularly for updates on virtual meetings, training and conferences. You might be wary of trying online things, but you will be surprised how much you enjoy it. You don't even have to travel anywhere to participate! MSNA has a lot of plans for all kinds of training opportunities for you to take advantage of, and I highly recommend that you check them out.*

*As I sit here on a beautiful fall day, I am filled with confidence that we will truly get through this together, and hope that you all have a wonderfully successful year. We are kind, caring, strong as individuals, and a mighty force together!*

*Take care, be safe and well, and keep smiling, we've got this!*

Jo Lange, SNS

# President Elect



*Carrie Frank  
President Elect*

Greetings!

During the 1919 influenza pandemic it was lunch ladies who accepted the call to serve meals to children.

More than 100 years later, School Nutrition Professionals (lunch ladies/men) are once again accepting the call to keep kids fed! Our methods, process and systems might have changed, but what is in our heart has not.

When I was young, standing in the lunch line I noticed the lunch tickets had different colors. I asked the girl in front of me why hers was a different color. Her response was, "We pay for mine. I asked, "Why is mine this color"? Her response was "Yours are free." I asked why, her response was "Because your Mom

and Dad can't afford it".

It was at that point shame fell in. I cupped my lunch ticket tightly in my hand. Day after day I did that, getting in the end of the line, and having to hand it over to the lunch lady was so humiliating.

That lunch lady never made me feel any different then any other child in that line. She always looked me directly in the eye, smiled and said have a good day. She even began to address me by my name. Now that made me feel special! I can still remember the day I walked away and thought to myself, "I want to grow up to be just like her". It wasn't about the job, it was about her compassion. She made me feel safe, unashamed, and special.

I have often thought about my lunch lady, and wanting to thank her for how she made me feel all those years ago, she never knew what was happening in life at home. While visiting the St. Paul Winter Carnival Memorabilia Display, I recognized my former lunch lady, Mrs. DiMartino! I had the opportunity to thank her. We hugged and cried. She had no idea how she had impacted my life.

Today, during this pandemic, it's more important than ever to show these qualities to our children. They need our compassion, they need to feel safe, unashamed, and special. Being a School Nutrition Professional is the most rewarding job. We have the opportunity to change the lives of our youth through our smiles, kind words, and patience.

This school year, I challenge all of you to be that lunch lady (or man) to make a difference in a child's life. Who knows, maybe 50 years from now someone will walk up to you and say thank you, You made me feel safe, unashamed, and special?

I wish you all the best. Have a safe, history in the making school year.

Carrie Frank  
MSNA President Elect

1919 Pandemic



2020 Pandemic





# Secretary/Treasurer



*Vickie Speltz*  
*Secretary / Treasurer*

Hello MSNA Members!!

I hope all of you are doing well with the start of the school year. It has been crazy to say the least, but remember to take a deep breath. Please make sure you take some "me" time for yourself and know there is an end.

As part of my duties on the board, as Treasurer, I am working on preparing the 2021 draft budget. Unfortunately,

due to not holding the state annual the conference our outlook financially is something we have had to look hard at. With no conferences or exhibit show, our income has been reduced and we will need to reduce and cut costs in all areas. We are very fortunate our association had a reserve to be able to draw on. Our past board members worked hard to build this reserve for a rainy day for just this reason. This reserve fund will help our association to survive our financial setback. Other associations are not as financially secure as MSNA and are working to make sure they stay viable.

Well, our rainy day has arrived! We have had to dip into those reserves to pay the monthly bills. A transfer from savings was completed and another transfer will be done and then an assesment will be completed to see what other options for paying the association bills will be.

Due to the cancelation of the SNIP Conference all registered attendees were refunded their registration fees. With the cancellation of the Annual conference, many of the ven-

dor booths were refunded. Many of the speaker deposit fees were paid out but we are very happy to announce that we are able to have the speakers present in 2021!

As a board, we are working hard to reduce costs by having all meetings virtually, which saves in mileage costs. We will be looking at all future travel, conference costs and overall expenses.

In the near future, there will be the Annual Business Meeting and I will be reporting out what has happened in our association in the fiscal year. Note that the association runs on a calendar year and the reporting will reflect this.

At our October board meeting the draft budget will be reviewed and approved. The Executive board are very busy in coming up with solutions to help in this area.

Here is your financial report as of September 30, 2020:

Checking:	\$36,675.65
Savings:	\$26,614.97
Investments:	\$316,413.94
CD Investments:	\$103,392.69
Total:	\$483,097.25

If you ever have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Vickie



*Faith Ford*  
*Nutrition Chair*

## Nutrition Chair

### Minnesota Certified Food Protection Manager License

Just a reminder to everyone that holds a MN Certified Food Protection Manager License, that when the new food code went into effect on January 1, 2019, one of the changes in the new code is you **MUST** renew your certified food manager's license **BEFORE** the expiration date.

There is no longer a grace period. Another reminder that you must apply for the initial Minnesota CFPM no more than six months after passing the exam. For more details on the CFPM and MN Food Code, [click here](#).

### October is F2S Month

Check out the [MNSNA Website](#) for the F2S Tab! The month of October is host to Farm to School (F2S) and the [Great Apple Crunch](#). We also celebrate [National School](#)

[Lunch Week](#) (NSLW) We have a wonderful resource page on our website that links you up to the [Great Apple Crunch](#), [F2S tool kits](#), virtual farm tours and more!

We know you are all doing great things in your schools and we need you to take a photo or share your plans with us! With COVID-19 restrictions in place, show us what you are doing to meet all the guidelines!

Ideas to share with us:

New Recipes, Nutrition Education Initiatives, Colorful Lunch Tray Photos, Guest Servers, Student Taste Tests, Cafeteria Decorations, Farm / Garden Activities Events

Send your NSLW and F2S Month news to [rpiazzaroli@cjpr.com](mailto:rpiazzaroli@cjpr.com)!



NATIONAL  
FARM to SCHOOL  
NETWORK  
MINNESOTA





Debra Lukkenon, RD, SNS  
MN Dept of Education

## NSLP, SFSP, SSO --- Where to Find the Latest Information!

If you're like me, the COVID-19 has you in a tail-spin of big, small and medium size issues that are all competing for your attention. It's hard to keep up with the ever-changing information. You may ask yourself, "Where do I pivot next?"

School nutrition program operators pivoted in March from the NSLP/SBP to the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). Many of our schools stayed on SFSP through the summer, but were preparing to "pivot" back to NSLP in September. Then in late August, USDA said that we could stay with SFSP through December. Whew! We toggled back to SFSP for the next few months. But wait! Are we going to continue with SFSP through the end of the school year?

## MDE – FNS Website

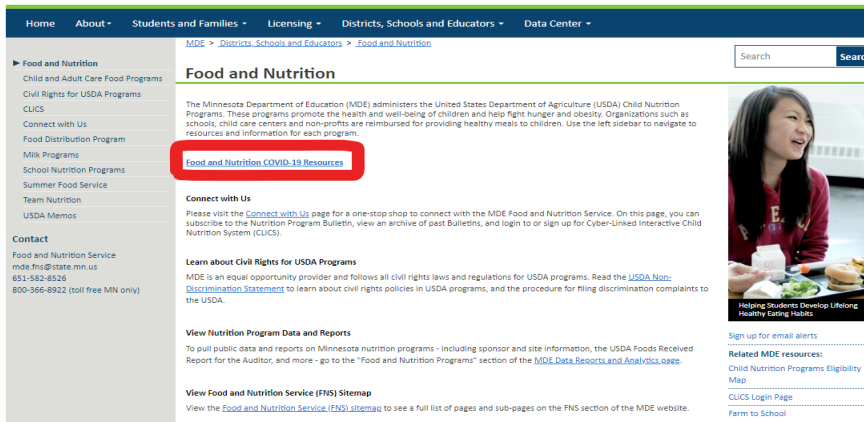
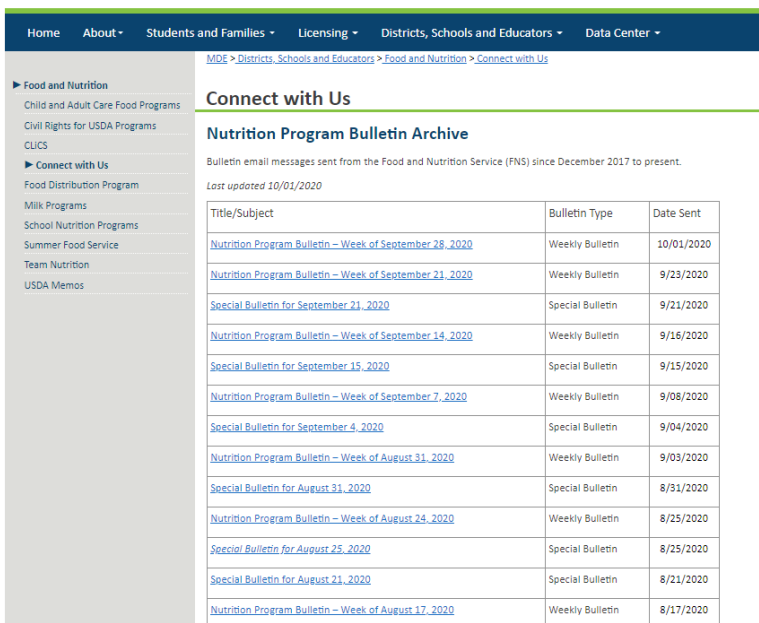
Keeping track of the latest information can be difficult.

Luckily, the Minnesota Department of Education–Food and Nutrition Service (MDE-FNS) web site has all of the information you will need!

The first stop is to access the [MDE-FNS home page](#).

Near the top of the home page is the link [Food and Nutrition COVID-19 Resources](#).

This page includes U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) waivers, memos, guidance on meal service during this unprecedented time, and as well as the weekly MDE-FNS "Nutrition Program Bulletins" with COVID-19-related information.

Title/Subject	Bulletin Type	Date Sent
<a href="#">Nutrition Program Bulletin – Week of September 28, 2020</a>	Weekly Bulletin	10/01/2020
<a href="#">Nutrition Program Bulletin – Week of September 21, 2020</a>	Weekly Bulletin	9/23/2020
<a href="#">Special Bulletin for September 21, 2020</a>	Special Bulletin	9/21/2020
<a href="#">Nutrition Program Bulletin – Week of September 14, 2020</a>	Weekly Bulletin	9/16/2020
<a href="#">Special Bulletin for September 15, 2020</a>	Special Bulletin	9/15/2020
<a href="#">Nutrition Program Bulletin – Week of September 7, 2020</a>	Weekly Bulletin	9/08/2020
<a href="#">Special Bulletin for September 4, 2020</a>	Special Bulletin	9/04/2020
<a href="#">Nutrition Program Bulletin – Week of August 31, 2020</a>	Weekly Bulletin	9/03/2020
<a href="#">Special Bulletin for August 31, 2020</a>	Special Bulletin	8/31/2020
<a href="#">Nutrition Program Bulletin – Week of August 24, 2020</a>	Weekly Bulletin	8/25/2020
<a href="#">Special Bulletin for August 25, 2020</a>	Special Bulletin	8/25/2020
<a href="#">Special Bulletin for August 21, 2020</a>	Special Bulletin	8/21/2020
<a href="#">Nutrition Program Bulletin – Week of August 17, 2020</a>	Weekly Bulletin	8/17/2020

## MDE-FNS “Bulletin”

Each week, we try to send out a “Bulletin” that identifies the most current information in our changing COVID-19 world. Sometimes we will send out a “Special Bulletin” if the information is so important that it can't wait until the following week. The weekly Bulletins are sent out to all persons who are reported as “Sponsoring Authority” or “Food Service Contact” on the sponsor application in CLICS. But anyone can receive the Bulletins.

Click on this [link](#) to Subscribe to the Nutrition Program Bulletin. An online archive of all past Bulletin issues can be accessed on the website: [View Nutrition Program Bulletin Archive](#). Here is a snapshot of the most recent Bulletin listing.

# MDE Update

## Drawers

Also included on the [webpage](#) are “drawers” that you can open depending on the program you need information about. The “drawers” are actually horizontal dark blue bars with a “plus” sign on the left side of the bar. When you tap on the “+” sign, the drawer opens! If you are operating under the SFSP, the drawer is titled “Community-Based Nutrition Program Resources (CACFP, At-Risk and SFSP)”. If you are operating the NSLP/SBP, the drawer is called “School Nutrition Program Resources”. Drawers on the website look like this:

+ Community-Based Nutrition Program Resources (CACFP, At-Risk and SFSP)

+ School Nutrition Program Resources

If you tap on the “School Nutrition Program Resources” drawer, the drawer will open to provide a number of resources specific to COVID-19 and school programs. Take a peek and see what the “inside” of the drawer looks like!

### — School Nutrition Program Resources

#### Memorandum of Understanding to Provide Meals to Open Enrolled Students

The following agreements are for use between two School Food Authorities (SFA) participating in School Nutrition Programs (SNP) when one SFA desires to authorize another SFA to provide reimbursable meals to enrolled students during distance learning periods related to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Two options are available:

[Option 1 – Enrolled District/School Claims Meals for Reimbursement](#): Used when the district the student is enrolled in is asking another district to provide meals for their student(s) and will be claiming the meals for reimbursement.

[Option 2 – Local District/School Claims Meals for Reimbursement](#): Used when the district the student is not enrolled in will be providing meals and claiming the meals for reimbursement.

#### Additional School Nutrition Program documents

[Summer Food Service Program/Seamless Summer Options Fall 2020 Questions and Answers for Schools](#) - 10/5/20

Additional Bulletin messages are added weekly, and updated information from USDA will be located on the MDF-FNS COVID-19 webpage. Check back often, as resources are updated as new information becomes available.



\*\*The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Congress have now extended all Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) waivers through the end of the 2020/2021 school year.

MDE will send out the guidance to all districts.

## Certified Food Protection Manager Credential Renewal

- \*\*The Minnesota Department of Health will continue to extend the expiration date for your Minnesota Certified Food Protection Manager certificate for 6 months after the date printed on the certificate. This modification is effective March 13, 2020. For individuals holding the CFPM credential with an expiration date on or after March 13, 2020:
- Obtain 4 hours of continuing education in food safety within 6 months of the expiration of their credential.
- Submit their renewal, payment, and proof of continuing education to MDH within 6 months of the expiration of their credential.

This modification expires 60 days after the peacetime emergency specified in Minnesota Session Laws 2020, Chapter 74, Article 1, Section 13, Subdivision 1, is terminated or rescinded by proper authority. [For more details click here.](#)

# Industry Chair



Steve Martel  
Industry Chair

I hope everyone is staying healthy and safe as we head back to school!

I want to extend my sincerest thanks to Maryann Dammann, KeyImpact, for her service to MSNA and its industry Partners these past two years as Industry Chair. I truly appreciate her support during the transition in these unprecedented times.

I am thrilled to be your new Industry Chair, and I look forward to working with the Executive Board, the Industry Advisory Board (IAB) and the SNIP conference committee over the next few years. I have made many friends over the years with my involvement with MSNA, and I hope to make many more in the years to come.

While 2020 has been a year of uncertainty and change, it has also drawn well deserved attention to the amazing work of school foodservice. Twice this year school foodservice has been tasked with ensuring kids have food to eat whether in school or not. You have found ways to ensure kids and the community have accessibility to food where and when they need it. Whether by delivering meals via school buses, or at the school sites, via daily bags, multiple day bags, weekly kits, and weekend meals, school foodservice has met the challenge and **Crushed It!** I am extremely proud to work with such amazing people!

2020 has also negatively impacted our ability to be together and interact face to face with one another. The Annual Conference was canceled as well as the SNIP Conference, both events are annual traditions that bring all of us together to learn and share with one another. However, this has led to dramatic increases in technology, we now have several platforms we can use to connect virtually. While it isn't the same as face to face, it allows us to see and talk to each other! Who doesn't love a Zoom Meeting?

I was visiting a friend recently who underwent a Kidney Transplant in May, and he had the most profound perspective on Covid 19! His philosophy is "If you live 80 years and 2020 is the one bad one, you still had 79 good years". While I know it isn't easy, hopefully we can all remember all the good times we have had and will have!

We made the difficult decision to cancel the SNIP conference we had rescheduled from May. We didn't feel like we could safely meet and conduct an in-person conference. We are planning on having our annual SNIP conference in May, 2021 at Breezy Point. Stay tuned for more details as we get closer to 2021.

While many of you know me, there are still a lot who may be wondering who I am. So I thought I would share a little bit about me. I was born outside of Boston Ma, in a town called Medford. That explains why I talk funny! My wife Deb and I will celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary in October. We have 2 children, our daughter Annie is a Special Education teacher at Sheridan Elementary in Minneapolis and our son Ben is a junior at the University of St Thomas in St Paul. We live in Apple Valley and both kids attended school in ISD 196 (Rosemount/Apple Valley/Eagan). We enjoy spending time at our cabin in Emily MN, and traveling. I am an Account Executive at General Mills. Enough about me, I am excited to get started and hope to continue the great work the IAB and SNIP committees have done in the past.

I will leave you with one more quote! Luke Combs has a song out called Six Feet Apart – in it he sings "*There will be crowds and there will be shows, there will be light after dark, when we aren't six feet apart*".

We will get through this, and together we continue to serve the children of Minnesota.

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.

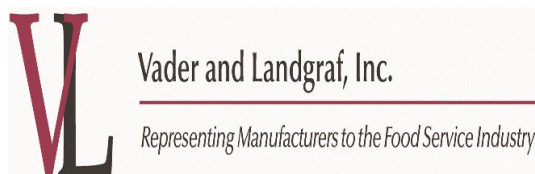
## [MSNA Job Posting Board](#)

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 postings stay up for a period of two weeks once placed on website.



# 2020 Elite Industry Members

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







*Brenton Lexvold, RD*  
*Public Policy Chair*

Hello MSNA readers!

My name is Brenton Lexvold and I am excited to be the newly appointed MSNA Public Policy Chair. I am a Registered Dietitian and have been in child nutrition for 8 years, currently serving as the Food Service Director for Red Wing Public Schools, in Red Wing, Minnesota.

I live on a small hobby farm in Southeast Minnesota, where we raise chickens, an embarrassingly large garden, and three spirited children; James (6), Morgan (4) and Alexandra (2). Ellen, my amazing wife, works in the Neuroimmunology Department at Mayo Clinic in Rochester. In our spare time, we volunteer together on the Mazeppa Fire Department proudly serving our local community as fire fighters and first responders. This past September marks our 8th wedding anniversary and I couldn't have asked for a better partner.

Although it is only October, I can preemptively sum up 2020 by saying "just when you think you got it figured

out, it changes". Never before have we had to perfect the art of juggling a work-life-balance in order to remain sane, while ensuring we check all program requirement boxes. During these tough times, I am lucky to have such dedicated staff delivering an essential program to our community.

Looking forward into this year, a focus for me in the Public Policy Chair role will be finding those avenues to further support the work we perform daily. Although the USDA was late in telling us all what we wanted to hear this fall, it was, in some ways, what we were all hoping for in the end; a free meal program. A real-life, choose-your-own-adventure book where only the USDA knew the ending. I do wonder though, if we will ever go back to a charging meal program or if we are truly are on a new course of school nutrition. COVID-19 has certainly disrupted what we all perceived as normal, so why not use this time to restructure school nutrition.

No matter what we're thrown next, the focus will always be serving our customers. I do feel that many great things will come out of these difficult times and I look forward to representing as your Public Policy Chair.

*Brenton Lexvold, RD*

## Lobbyist Report

With a few weeks left to go in the 2020 election cycle, Minnesota's political landscape is once again in the toss-up column, both nationally and how the results will shape our state Legislature. All 201 state House and Senate seats are up for election this year. Minnesota has the unique status of being the only state with a divided bi-cameral legislative system. Divided government is tricky and while bumpy at many times, we have made it work. We have a balanced budget and thankfully a healthy budget reserve to help us through tough times like we're experience right now.

The COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on lives, systems, and the economy. Whoever takes over control in the state House and Senate in January has a tough job to do. The current budget ends on June 30th and the \$2.4 billion in budget reserves will likely be exhausted by then. MN Management & Budget (MMB) projects a \$5 billion shortfall in revenues for the two-year budget that is set to start next July (fiscal years 2022-23). Forecasted spending for state support programs will likely increase, creating an exceptionally large deficit to manage. Remember, the state cannot run an on-going deficit like the federal government and therefore the necessary budget balancing measures will be unpopular and painful.

The K-12 system is the largest single part of the state's general operating budget. In previous deficit years, the state has leaned on the school system to help cash-flow the state budget. The 'payment shift' is often criticized by the minority party, but it's an efficient budget balancing tool that helps the state avoid deeper cuts in other areas or tax increases. Even with the payment shift as a major contribution to the deficit, the K-12 system has seen budget cuts.

For those who have been around a very long time, back in 2003 when faced with a \$4.6 billion deficit, the K-12 system saw the newly instated "Fast Break to Learning" breakfast program eliminated. More recently, we've tried to reinstate a more robust state funded breakfast program through our Breakfast After the Bell initiative. Initiatives like this will have to hold for now. Instead, we hope, as PPL Chair Lexvold noted, that the feds can continue with their support as we solve our state budget problems, doing as little harm as possible.

Sam Walseth, MSNA Lobbyist,

Capitol Hill Associates

# Member Services



*Loriann Landowski*  
Member Services Chair

I am looking forward to working with all the chapters and all members for the upcoming year.

## Membership Campaign

We have some exciting news! Recruit at least one new SNA member between June 1, 2020 and May 31, 2021 and you will be entered into the drawing to win a free registration for SNA's 2022 Annual National Conference in Orlando, FL.

If you recruit a member between October 1 and December 31st, you will also be entered into a drawing to win a 2021 MSNA Annual Conference registration. We will be working with SNA to get all the names of members who recruited during this time and a random drawing will be done. Just think, you will have two chances to win!

Make sure the new member writes your name in the referral section of the membership application, otherwise it won't count toward the campaign!

## Need Some Help Recruiting?

The best way to recruit new members is to emphasize what SNA membership means to you – make it personal! To help you get started, check out and download [+1 Membership Challenge](#) social media tools. Visit the main [+1 Membership Challenge](#) page to find more materials, including videos, social media graphics and more! [Complete SNA Prize Rules](#). Good Luck!

## SNA Awards

It is time to start thinking about nominating a colleague for the SNA & MSNA Awards! You can find more information on The Employee of the Year, Manager of the Year and Director of the Year. Also check out the MSNA Innovation Award and E-Team awards.

We celebrated our 2020 award winners with a presentation of their awards by the 2019/20 President Vickie Speltz.



National Director of the Year  
-Annette Derouin, RD, SNS



Midwest Regional Manager of the Year  
-Michelle Durenberger

Midwest Regional Employee of the Year  
-Rachel Gueningsman



Outgoing Industry Chair, Mary Ann Dammann, presented the Industry Partner of the Year award to Howard McCann from the Yes Group. This award is usually presented at the SNIP conference but this year due to canceling the conference, plan B had to be done. Howard was presented his award at a local coffee shop!

Chapter Officers-watch for information coming on the Chapter Plan of action and a virtual chapter officer meeting. This will be held on October 21st and the invite will be sent to you.

Want to earn your degree? SNF 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 common application opened on October 1, 2020 and the deadline is January 31, 2021 at 11:59 PM EST. Check out the SNF website for more information!

Please take a moment to watch our 2020-2021 [President Jo Lange welcoming message!](#)

Contact me with any questions, I am here to help you!

*Lori*

# Conference Corner

## 2021 SNIP Conference



*Breezy Point Resort  
Breezy Point MN*

In light of current COVID-19 concerns, MSNA is following state and national recommendations to encourage social distancing to help stop the spread of disease. MSNA made the decision to cancel the School Nutrition Industry Partner (SNIP) Conference that was rescheduled for October 28-30 at Madden's Resort. Refunds were sent to all registered attendees.

We are planning to hold the 2021 SNIP conference May 6-8 2021 at Breezy Point Resort, Breezy Point MN. We will have the presentation 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! Watch for more details in January.

## 2021 Annual Conference



The Annual Conference Chairs, Amy Kimmel and Dale Winham and committee are starting the work for the 2021 conference. Mark your calendars for August 1-4, 2021. It will be held at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud.

Watch for the opportunity to share your school nutrition expertise. The 2021 MSNA "Call for Proposals" for education sessions for the 2021 conference workshops will be sent out at the end of October. If you were selected to present at the 2020 conference, the workshop committee will be considering these presentations for the 2021 conference.

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!



*Holly Hoffman*



*Souix Chef Sean Sherman*



*Chris Heeter*

## 2020 Virtual Conference-Oct. 29-31

MSNA partnered with California SNA to offer a great opportunity for our members. With the cancellation of our "in person" conference we are thrilled to offer this amazing opportunity to members. Our members can register for the [virtual Annual Conference](#) to earn CEUs, get inspirations and ideas to implement here in MN and network with colleagues - for just \$99 per participant!

- Education sessions presented by MSNA and MN School Nutrition Professionals
- Registration Fees continue to support MSNA's efforts
- Vendor Show with product demos and private chat rooms with reps
- Recordings of education sessions available to participating members for a limited time

*Important Information for School Program Directors:*

Registering staff groups of 20 or more, the registration fee is reduced to \$79 per person! District Registration Spreadsheet. (If you need a W9 for your district, contact the MSNA office). Receive verification that staff members' participated in sessions for review or internal records.

For more details and to register [click here](#).



# 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**  
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# National Nibbles

## National School Lunch Week 2020: Now Playing: School Lunch!

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) serves nearly 30 million children every school day. President John F. Kennedy created [National School Lunch Week](#) (NSLW) in 1962 to promote the importance of a healthy school lunch in a child's life and the impact it has inside and outside of the classroom. The COVID-19 pandemic has without a doubt shown just how incredibly important school meals are for students and their families.

During this annual weeklong celebration, SNA members and students around the country will find new ways to safely celebrate in their schools and districts with special menus, events, student activities and more.

The 2020 NSLW theme Now Playing: School Lunch! Will put a spotlight on hit menu items that kids love while capitalizing on the popularity of movies to appeal to students in all grade levels.

SNA's [#NSLW20 campaign](#) offers the "big picture" of tools and resources, including downloadable artwork and social media tips, to help you plan a successful celebration in a new operating environment and promote your program to students, parents and the local community.

### Why participate in NSLW?

Recognizing NSLW in your school and district helps you:

- Increase student participation
- Spread the message to parents that you're serving healthy, delicious lunch at school
- Earn media coverage from local papers, TV stations and bloggers
- Connect with teachers and administrators at your school or in your district to spread the word that school meals are healthy and delicious

### What if the timing doesn't work for us?

NSLW 2020 is scheduled for October 12-16 by an act of Congress, but if your district is observing a holiday or teacher workday during that week you can

celebrate the week before, the week after, or anytime—it's up to you!

## Register Now for the Virtual Directors' Best Practices Conference

Hear the best ideas to feed kids during a pandemic, learn what's working and what's not, discuss financial sustainability and collectively brainstorm solutions to complex challenges in this one-of-a-kind conference taking place on three afternoons of October 26-28. [Learn more](#) and to register.

## Dining Guide for Meals in the Classroom

This new dining guide, created with inspiration and support from many School Nutrition Association staff, board and members, is a suite of customizable resources to help school nutrition professionals more easily communicate with all stakeholders their plans and procedures for eating in the classroom for SY2020-21. [Learn More!](#)

## Share the New Flyer: School Meals are Safe and Nutritious

This new flyer, available on the SNA website in the [COVID-19 Back to School Resources](#) section, emphasizes that school meals continue to be a safe, nutritious option to fuel student success in SY2020-21 and includes links to supporting language from the USDA, FDA and CDC. Use it to help reassure parents and other stakeholders about school meals by sharing the [electronic version](#) or printing out a copy to give to parents. Also available in [Spanish](#).

## Manage Your SY2020-21 Menu Needs With a New Resource

Recently, SNA published Managing Menu Needs in SY2020-21, Your K-12 School Nutrition Buyer's Guide, Strategy & Solution Resource. Brought to you by the editorial staff of School Nutrition magazine, it will help school nutrition directors, chefs, supervisors and site managers face this year's unique challenges related to serving tasty, nutritious school meals to students whether they are learning at home or in school buildings. A [digital version](#) of Managing Menu Needs, featuring live links to the



companies listed in the Buyer's Guide, can be found [here](#).

SNF Equipment Grants for 2021 are Now Open!

The School Nutrition Foundation is teaming up with the industry partners listed below to provide new kitchen equipment to deserving districts! Apply now for the 2021 SNF Equipment Grant Program, featuring applications for not one but FOUR grants!



These grants are the Winston Equipment Grant, the Vulcan Equipment Grant, the Hobart Equipment Grant, and the Collection Grant. SNF is now accepting applications for the [SNF Equipment Grants](#).

If your kitchen needs new equipment—we've made the application process easier, consider applying today!

In order to apply you must be an active-director level member for a minimum of one year and must be responsible for directing the school nutrition program of the school district.

The application period began October 1st, 2020 and will end by January 31st, 2021 at 11:59 PM EST.

We encourage you to apply early!

To apply, visit the SNF website to see which grant fits your school district's needs best. Then, complete an application with basic information about your district. If you are selected as a finalist, you will be asked to create a



# What's Happening?

## Calendar of Events

### October

Farm to School Month

### October 15-16

MEA Break

### October 12-16, 2020

National School Lunch Week  
"Now Playing-School Lunch"

### October 14, 2020

Executive Board Meeting

### October 21, 2020

Chapter Leadership Team  
Virtual Meeting

### October 31, 2020

[Josephine Martin](#)  
[National Scholarship](#) Deadline

### January 10-12, 2021

School Nutrition  
Industry Conference (SNIC)

### January 15, 2020

Executive Board Meeting

### March 8-10, 2020

SNA Legislative Conference  
Washington DC

## Industry Partners

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

Industry Members watch for the 2021 Industry Membership renewal forms coming in early November!



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

Don't forget to [Like us](#) on Facebook!

2-3-minute video. School Nutrition Foundation staff will send you directions for the video application process if you are chosen to move on to the next round of judging. Visit [www.schoolnutritionfoundation.org/equipment-grants/](http://www.schoolnutritionfoundation.org/equipment-grants/) for more information!

For questions, please contact [scholarships@schoolnutrition.org](mailto:scholarships@schoolnutrition.org).



On September 23, 2020, our very own MSNA member Angela Richey, MPH, RD, SNS, Nutrition Services Director for Roseville Area and St. Anthony/New Brighton Schools, advocated for schools meals and addressed members of the House Committee on Education and Labor during a briefing entitled, America's Child Hunger Crisis: Examining the Urgent Need for Federal Action.

Angie answered questions and gave an overview of the many challenges school nutrition professionals have faced as they have worked to serve students during the pandemic. She stressed how critical child nutrition program waivers have been to meal program operations this year and thanked the House for their recent vote to extend the waivers through the end of SY 2020/21.

She also let them know the need to provide school nutrition programs emergency relief funds to help offset COVID-19 financial losses.

[Click here](#) to view the briefing. Angie is featured about the 14:35 mark. [Click here](#) to read Angie's remarks.

Way to go! Great Job representing school nutrition!!



# Nibbles

**From Dr. Aisha Ahmad**

**Associate professor of Political Science at the University of Toronto, the Director of the Islam and Global Affairs Initiative and a Senior Researcher of the Global Justice Lab at the Munk School of Global Affairs, and the Chair of the Board of Directors of Women in International Security-Canada**

## **The 6 Month Wall**

The 6 month mark in any sustained crisis is always difficult. We have all adjusted to this "new normal", but might now feel like we're running out of steam. Yet, at best, we are only 1/3 the way through this marathon.

### **How can we keep going?**

First, in my experience, this is a very normal time to struggle or slump. I \*always\* hit a wall 6 months into a tough assignment in a disaster zone. The desire to "get away" or "make it stop" is intense. I've done this many times, and at 6 months, it's like clockwork.

This time, our crisis is global and there is nowhere to run. That's OK. I've had to power through that 6 month hump before and there is life on the other side. Right now, it feels like we are looking ahead at a long, dark wintery tunnel. But it's not going to be like that. Rather, this is our next major adaptation phase. We've already re-learned how to do groceries, host meetings, and even teach classes. And we have found new ways to be happy and have fun. But as the days get shorter and colder, we need to be ready to innovate again.

This is my first pandemic, but not my first 6 month wall. So, what can I share to help you? First, the wall is real and normal. And frankly, it's not productive to try to ram your head through it. It will break naturally in about 4-6 weeks if you ride it out.

Of course, there are things we have to do. Work. Teach. Cook. Exercise. But just don't expect to be sparkingly happy or wildly creative in the middle of your wall. Right now, if you can meet your obligations and be kind to your loved ones, you get an A+.

Also, don't be afraid that your happiness & creativity are gone for the rest of this marathon. Not true. I assure you that it will soon break & you will hit a new stride. But today, roll with it. Clear away less challenging projects. Read a novel. Download that meditation app.

Frankly, even though we cannot physically leave this disaster zone, try to give yourself a mental or figurative "shore leave". Short mental escapes can offer respite and distance from the everyday struggle. Take more mental "leave" until you clear the wall.

In my experience, this 6 month wall both arrives and dissipates like clockwork. So I don't fight it anymore. I don't beat myself up over it. I just know that it will happen & trust that the dip will pass. In the meantime, I try to support my mental & emotional health.

### **Take heart**

We have navigated a harrowing global disaster for 6 months, with resourcefulness & courage. We have already found new ways to live, love, and be happy under these rough conditions. A miracle & a marvel. This is hard proof that we have what it takes to keep going.

So, dear friends, do not despair of the 6 month wall. It's not permanent, nor will it define you in this period of adversity. Trust that the magic that helped you through the first phase is still there.

Take a breath & a pause.

You'll be on the other side in no time.



planning on taking it but then COVID-19 made us change course!

Registration is now open for signing up for the exam. The deadline is July 11, 2020.

If you are interested in taking the exam, visit the SNA websi-

Are you thinking of taking the SNS exam?

MSNA is planning on hosting the SNA Credentialing Exam August 1, 2021 in St. Cloud at the River's Edge Convention Center. We know many of you were

te 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.

# THERE ARE MANY GREAT BENEFITS OF BELONGING TO SNA

## TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE TOP 10...



- 1** Free webinars on pertinent topics like food safety, food allergies and procurement
- 2** Tools to help you meet and track USDA's Professional Standards requirements for yourself and your staff
- 3** Educational conferences tailored to *your* needs and professional standards
- 4** Marketing tools to promote your programs to parents, students and the school community
- 5** Legislative and advocacy efforts
- 6** Certificate and credentialing programs for you and your team to grow professionally
- 7** Relationship building with key stakeholders and industry representatives
- 8** Professional development scholarships for you and your team
- 9** A subscription to SNA's award winning magazine, *School Nutrition*
- 10** Access to the latest news and issues from the SNA website and daily e-newsletter, *SNA SmartBrief*

**Belonging to the School Nutrition Association is a smart investment in your program *and* your career.**

[www.schoolnutrition.org](http://www.schoolnutrition.org)