

## MSNA 2021 Election

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Are you ready to grow professionally, bring your perspective to state issues and network with other school nutrition professionals? We hope you will answer the call when the The Leadership Development Committee (LDC) contacts you to consider a leadership opportunity!

The Leadership Development Committee (LDC) announces the following open positions for the 2021 election:

#### **Executive Board Officers**

Vice President (1-year term\*)  
Nutrition Chair (2-year term)

#### **Leadership Development Committee**

One Representative (2-year term)

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

The Leadership Development Committee and Immediate Past President Vickie J. Speltz will be working on identifying and recruiting eligible candidates based on leadership competencies and diversity. The LDC will prepare a slate of officers and after verification that the candidate has met eligibility requirements, the slate will be submitted to the executive board by April 1st.

#### **Candidate Eligibility Requirements**

##### **Vice President**

- Be a member in good standing for a minimum of two years preceding nomination and retains membership
- Hold a SNA Certificate or SNS Credential
- Employed in an eligible Field
- Demonstrated leadership skills by serving on a chapter board or committee

##### **Nutrition Chair**

- Be a member in good standing for a minimum of two years preceding nomination and retains membership
- Hold a SNA Certificate or SNS Credential
- Employed in an eligible field
- Demonstrated leadership skills by serving on a chapter board or committee

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

- Be a member in good standing for a minimum of two years preceding nomination and retains membership
- Employed in an eligible field

##### **Position Descriptions**

##### **Vice President**

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

##### **Nutrition Chair**

- Represent the association in matters that relate to the topic of nutrition and promote nutrition education
- Responsible for developing nutrition awareness among all members, enabling them to better cooperate in the coordination of the school food service program with nutrition education in their schools

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

- Shall identify and recruit eligible candidates based on leadership competencies and diversity.

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

\* Each nominee will get a packet of information on election procedures, time commitments and Campaign Policies. If you have any questions or need information please contact the MSNA office at [minnsna@gmail.com](mailto:minnsna@gmail.com) or Vickie Speltz, Leadership Development Chair at [vspeltz@lewalt.k12.mn.us](mailto:vspeltz@lewalt.k12.mn.us)

# President's Message



*Jo Lange, SNS  
MSNA President*

*Greetings MSNA members!*

As I sit down to write to you today, I am hoping that you all had a wonderfully relaxing and stress-free holiday break. It probably didn't look like years past, but I'm wishful that it was still filled with joy.

Your MSNA Executive Board has been busy realigning its Bylaws and Policies and Procedures with those of SNA. By the next issue of the *Thymes*, we should be able to share the proposed changes to the Bylaws, which will be voted upon at this year's Annual Conference. If the unavoidable happens and there is no Annual Conference, a House of Delegates will still be held so that a Bylaws vote will still happen.

The Policy and Procedures are also under review for any that may need editing. These will also be available to the members once any edits are approved by the full board.

The Annual Conference committee is working hard to plan and prepare for the 2021 Annual Conference in St. Cloud in August. The plan, at this time is to be at Rivers Edge Conference Center in person! The General Session speakers are ready to present and the Education Committee is busy scheduling a long list of exciting sessions for you to enjoy. Once again, fingers crossed that we will all be able to be together for an in-person conference. We are all looking forward to being able to see you!

The Marketing Committee is constantly finding ways to keep you informed, excited and motivated. Keep up to date with MSNA happenings on our website and social media outlets.

The PPL Committee is also actively monitoring the happenings at the capitals, both state and national. Watch for current developments coming your way, we are working to improve your food service guidelines and regulations and to ensure that school food service staff can continue to serve our students the nutritious meals they have come to love and expect. As we all know, it is more important than ever to be able to serve the students in our districts.

The Nutrition and Educations Chairs are collaborating to bring an exciting series of 1hour education sessions to you virtually beginning in early February. There are 10 sessions in the lineup, and you will be able to earn 1 CEU for each session that you attend. It has been a labor-intensive endeavor, but I think you will be happy with the results. Please watch the website for more details!

As I look at the paragraphs above, I see that even though we cannot be together in person, we have found creative ways to meet virtually and still conduct association business. Who would have thought this time last year that we would have encountered a pandemic, pivoted and adjusted to a new way of doing business. But we have, and while it is different, we are thriving in an ever- changing world. Pat yourselves on the back, and know that I am with you 100%, and we will all get through this and come out stronger and smarter on the other side.

Take care of yourself and each other, and stay safe, strong and hopeful.

Jo Lange, SNS



# President Elect



Carrie Frank  
President Elect

Welcome to 2021!

The new year is often a time of reflection and new year's resolutions for some. Personally for me, this year it is more personal than ever, reflecting on the past, present, and future not only for me but for the School Nutrition Industry.

As I wrote this past October about my elementary lunch lady, 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.

MSNA Members, take pride during this pandemic for showing compassion, non-judgment, and for making your community feel special. You are changing the lives of your community through your smiles, kind words, and patience.

The future of the MSNA has forever been changed. MSNA meetings have and most likely continue to be virtual, saving time and travel expenses. MSNA Chapter meetings have gone virtual as well, allowing the MSNA Board to attend, and in mid January, MSNA will be offering a Nutrition Education virtual training series. The 2021 MSNA Annual State Conference is being planned at this time for an "in person" conference. We will continue to monitor all guidelines in the hope we can meet again together!

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

Carrie Frank  
MSNA President Elect



# Vice President



Cheryl Pick  
Vice President

Happy New Year Everyone!

I am Cheryl Pick, your 2020-2021 Vice President and would like to share a bit about myself.

I am the Child Nutrition Director of Foley Public Schools. I have been in the Child Nutrition Profession for 20 years. During this time I have learned that our profession is extremely fun, challenging and change can be constant.

I grew up on a farm in a small

rural area, enjoyed the elementary school that I went to and always enjoyed school lunch. We had the best meals made from scratch and when I reached 6th grade, we were able to help serve on certain days. The cooks gave us a dime for helping. That was always something I remembered. Tuna hotdish and buttered noodles with cracker crumbs were the best! I still can't make it like they did. Then going to High School I still enjoyed the meals that were made. I knew the cooks worked hard and cared about what they did for the kids. At our high school reunion, the weiner gravy is still talked about. Yes, it was yummy!

My husband Roger and I have been married for 41 years! We have four remarkable married children, and eleven grandchildren whom we spoil dearly. Family is very important to me as well as my career in child nutrition.

Growing up in a small town has taught me core values that I still follow to this day. When I started in child nutrition, early in my career I knew I wanted to have the leadership to help my staff succeed every step of the way. I reached out to MSNA and SNA to help me with that. Meeting other school nutrition professionals and getting involved has helped me and my staff excel at the program we have in our district today.

I look forward to being part of a team that brings MSNA members to reach their goals, core values and succeed every step of the way. I look forward to meeting many of you and to helping in any way I can. My door is always open!

I wish you all a safe, healthy and good new year!

Cheryl Pick  
MSNA Vice President

# Secretary/Treasurer



*Vickie Speltz*  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

Hello MSNA Members!!

I hope everyone had a very nice holiday season and some much needed, well deserved rest. I for one, am very happy to be starting a new year.

I want to thank all the staff at MDE for working long hours and the great Tuesday @ 2 presentations. It has been so helpful getting the information and just hearing what other schools are doing and struggling

with. We are not alone!

MSNA is still working hard behind the scenes getting ready for our annual state conference. Fingers crossed, we are planning on being in person at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud. Mark your calendars for August 1-4, 2021. With looking at the future financial forecast and possible CDC guidelines, some conference budget items were trimmed back but we will still have a wonderful conference and it will be a great time to get together.

In my position as the treasurer, I want the membership to know that I am closely monitoring the fiscal status of the association and we are at a minimal spending status. The Executive Board approved a 2021 budget that included many line item cuts due to the COVID pandemic. We have implemented measures to help cut costs. No travel (outstate conferences or mileage) implemented all meetings be virtual to save on conference calling fees, mileage & meals. Due to the cancelations of the 2020 SNIP & Annual Conference

we were not able to have any registration income brought in and we have had to use our safety net in our savings account to help cover the monthly costs. If needed, we will be able to transfer funds from the investments. Our Association has been preparing for a possible 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, will be working with our Executive Director and I to prepare for the 2020 tax filings and to complete the financial audit. Watch for the business meeting coming soon.

Again, thank you members for your hard work. People appreciate you even if they do not tell you and your hard work does not go unnoticed.

Here is your financial report as of December 31, 2020:

Checking:	\$32,924.92
Savings:	\$6,627.10
Investments:	\$347,518.86
CD Investments:	\$108,448.85
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$495,519.73</b>

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

Stay Safe and Healthy  
Vickie



*Faith Ford*  
*Nutrition Chair*

## Nutrition Chair

Happy New Year to all!

The Education Chair, Michele Hawkinson and I have been busy working on an Nutrition Education Series that will be in one hour sessions that will cover many topics! There will be a total of 10 sessions, held once a week, that you will be able to pick/choose which session you

would like to attend. This has been a work in progress, and we will be sending out all the information on how to sign up and pay for sessions via the website.

We are planning the first session to be held on February 3rd at 3:30-4:30 via ZOOM Webinar. It will be a presentation on The Who, What and Why of Food and Kitchen Sanitation. The cost for each session will be \$10.00 and all sessions will meet the USDA

& SNA Professional Standards Codes. Once the presentation is completed, you will be able to ask questions. For a full listing of sessions and how to register visit the MSNA website.

### Media Opportunities

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 all your school foodservice news to Robby Piazzaroli at [rpiazzaroli@cjpr.com](mailto:rpiazzaroli@cjpr.com)!

# Member Services



Loriann Landowski  
Member Services Chair

Happy New Year!!

## Award Time!

It is again time to nominate colleagues you admire for an SNA and MSNA Award! We need to celebrate members who work every day to ensure well-nourished students. It is easy to nominate someone you work with! What a great way to help get them recognized for their great contributions! Especially this past year!

## March 1st Deadline for all awards

You will find all the nomination information for the SNA Employee, Manager, and Director of the Year Award on the [SNA website](#). To access the MSNA E Team Award and Innovation Award forms [click here](#). You can also find on the MSNA website under the Events/Registration tab. All award winners will be recognized at the 2021 MSNA Annual State Conference along with recognizing the 2020 award winners!

## SNA Awards

Individuals may be nominated by peers, staff, colleagues, or supervisors for these awards. All nominees must be SNA members who hold a SNA Certificate in School Nutrition or the SNS credential throughout the entire awards nomination and judging process. Please see [SNA website](#) about rescriptions for each award.



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



The Manager of the Year award, in honor of Louise Sublette recognizes school nutrition managers for the contributions they have made throughout their school nutrition career.



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

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

## MSNA Innovation Award

MSNA Innovation Award recognizes the development of an Innovative Process or Program within a school or district which adds value or streamlines operations. This award is for individuals and they must be nominated by any staff member within the school district. *Self-nominations* are not accepted. The nominated member must be an SNA/MSNA member and a school nutrition employee. Directors are not eligible for this award. Multiple candidates may be nominated from each district.

## +1 Membership Campaign

It is now more important than ever that we come together to raise our voices in support of school nutrition. SNA has developed new [+1 Membership Challenge materials](#) focusing on advocacy and the power of our voices. The new Challenge materials highlight the numerous tangible benefits resulting from SNA’s intensive advocacy efforts since the start of the pandemic.

The +1 Membership Challenge is the perfect way to show your support for SNA and help grow our membership to ensure that we remain strong and continue providing high-quality educational resources and advocacy to meet your needs.

## Annual Membership Campaign – Chance to Win Free ANC Registration

When you recruit at least one new member by May 31, 2021, you will be automatically entered for a chance to win [1 of 5 free registrations](#) for the 2022 Annual National Conference (ANC) in Orlando, FL.

Void where prohibited or restricted by law. See the [complete rules](#) for more details. **\*\*Make sure the new member writes your name in the referral section of the membership application -#10**

## Need Some Help Recruiting?

The best way to recruit new members is to emphasize what SNA membership means to you – make it personal! Visit the main [+1 Membership Challenge](#) page to find more materials, including videos, social media graphics and more! Good Luck!

MSNA is a state affiliate of SNA so by joining you get a national and state membership!

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

Lori

# Minnesota School Nutrition Association

Get highlighted on MSNA's FACEBOOK page!



## Photo/ News Ideas:

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

## Send News & Photos to:

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



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Steve Martel  
Industry Chair

I want to wish everyone a very Happy New Year!!

The Industry Advisory Board (IAB) have worked on the 2021 Industry membership materials and through our new member management system, all current and lapsed industry members were sent renewal invoices on December 23rd. We are hoping that this new payment system will help process membership payment quickly

and easy! We are also working on an "online" membership signup that will be coming soon! You can find the 2021 membership packet [here](#).

We deeply value partnerships with MSNA industry professionals and appreciate all our company's past memberships. We hope that you will take a moment now to renew your Industry Membership and continue to be included in our upcoming communications and opportunities.

We're proud of what we've been able to accomplish and by extending your commitment into 2021 you will help us continue to achieve great things together for our members.

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have forced us to pivot as an association and create different opportunities and methods to support the important work of our members. As you know, the pandemic forced the cancellation of our 2020 vendor show. We are closely following CDC & state guideline updates to plan 2021 in-person meeting opportunities accordingly.

A few changes to note:

- Premier membership has been put on hold for 2021
- 2021 booth sales are suspended and will open in in Spring (date TBD)
- All 2020 Premier & Elite Members who have rolled over their boothswillgetprioritylocationforfuturevendorschows

### Who Can Join?

Organizations or Industry vendors that provide support, products or services to school nutrition professionals and child nutrition programs is eligible to join MSNA as an industry member. MSNA industry members represents various supply chain segments including:

- Manufacturers of food or beverage products
- Equipment manufacturers
- Computer hardware/software and other technology companies
- Foodservice suppliers and small ware companies
- Brokers and Distributors
- Organizations that provide consulting services to the school nutrition profession

*\*Company membership is one membership with two contacts. If you have a broker membership, your manufacturers must have their own membership for MSNA benefits.*

We are still on track for the MSNA Industry Conference in May at Breezy Point Resort and planning the 2021 Annual Conference in August. Registration information will be sent out in March so please watch for this!

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.

# 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](#)!

## We want to acknowledge and thank our 2020 Elite Members



# Public Policy Update



*Brenton Lexvold, RD*  
*Public Policy Chair*

Happy New Year!!

The MSNA PPL Committee is continuing to monitor all the legislative items at the state and federal level. This will be a big focus as we go into the New Year.

During PPL committee meeting, held virtually on December 10th, we had a special guest join us. Cathy Schuchart, SNA Staff Vice President of Government

Affairs and Media Relations presented an excellent update of SNA's Advocacy at the Capital and they are expecting to release the SNA Position Paper in early January.

A state legislative review was given by Sam Walseth and Britta Torkelson, Capitol Hills Associates on what other advocates are working on. When the SNA Position paper is released, MSNA will be working on our state issue paper with potential legislative priorities. Once this is completed and board approved, it will be presented to the membership. A large focus as we get into the New Year will be universal meals.

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## Lobbyist Report

Now that we have completed the holidays, it's safe to say that most people are turning their attention towards the upcoming year, anxious to put 2020 in the rearview mirror. Thankfully, Minnesotans have had some uplifting news in the last couple weeks coming from St. Paul. Officials from MN Management and Budget released the November 2020 budget forecast on December 1. This forecast was anticipated to be full of doom and gloom, but everyone was pleasantly surprised to see the state's expected budget deficit was replaced with a projected \$641 million surplus as the state closes the current biennial budget on June 30, 2021.

The next budget forecast, issued at the end of February, will be used by lawmakers to make budget decisions in the upcoming session for fiscal years 2022-23, beginning on July 1, 2021. A structural deficit of \$1.3 billion is currently projected for the next budget period, but this is a more manageable situation that was projected last summer as COVID-19 drove unemployment numbers to almost 10%.

Minnesota legislators were called back for their 7th, special session of 2020 on December 14. This special session, as with the previous six, was a result of Governor Walz extending the Peacetime Emergency order for another month. As a result of the projected surplus in the budget, legislators successfully passed a \$216 million relief bill aimed mostly at businesses struggling due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This relief bill also provided schools an extension for FRE applications. The due date for applications was pushed to January 4, but it's unclear how much additional activity this generated at the local district level.

The Minnesota legislature will return for regular session on January 5, 2021. November elections tightened the margins of majorities in both bodies, but our state government remains divided. The House is still under Democratic control, and the Senate Republicans kept their majority. The House plans to continue operating remotely, with an extremely limited in-person presence at the capitol. House members will call in for floor sessions and hold

committee meetings over Zoom. The Senate wants to develop some sort of hybrid approach, but what that means exactly is unclear at this point.

House and Senate committee chairs were assigned and released by early December. Rep. Jim Davnie (DFL Minneapolis) kept his gavel and will remain the chair for the Education Finance Committee. In a nod to the growing power of the People of Color and Indigenous (POCI) Caucus, Rep. Ruth Richardson (DFL Mendota Heights), a second term representative, will now chair the Education Policy committee. The Senate's committee structure remains largely the same, but after 4 years as chair of the Senate E-12 Finance and Policy committee, Sen. Carla Nelson (GOP Rochester) is moving over to chair the Tax Committee. Sen. Roger Chamberlain (GOP Lino Lakes) will now take the Senate E-12 gavel.

MSNA is tracking several legislative efforts by coalition groups, including the Healthy Kids' Meals bill and Universal Meals campaign. Both efforts are currently in the strategy planning and bill drafting stages. The Healthy Kids' Meals bill would create a requirement for restaurants to offer water or milk as the default beverage, and a healthy side with a kid's meal. Currently, this bill would not directly affect schools and the coalition has had no discussions to expand the reach of the bill thus far.

The Universal Meals group plans to introduce a bill that would provide free breakfast and lunch for all children, while also developing potential fallback options behind the scenes. This is a big, if not impossible, ask of the state budget and our eyes are on the federal government as a new Congress and President look at potentially re-authorizing the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act, which was signed into law just over a decade ago. Considering the USDA extension of the free lunch waivers through the 2020/2021 school year and the incoming administration, there may be potential for action on this front in Washington.



## Make Every Bite Count: USDA, HHS Release Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025

Nutrition in America took a major step forward with the publication of [Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#).

2020-2025. Jointly published by the U.S. Departments of Agriculture (USDA) and Health and Human Services (HHS) every five years, the guidelines provide science-based recommendations designed to foster healthy dietary patterns for Americans of all ages – from birth through older adults. Importantly, this edition expands the guidance, for the first time including recommended healthy dietary patterns for infants and toddlers.

“At USDA and HHS, we work to serve the American people – to help every American thrive and live healthier lives through access to healthy foods and providing nutrition recommendations,” said *U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue*. “With the release of the dietary guidelines, we have taken the very important step to provide nutrition guidance that can help all Americans lead healthier lives by making every bite count.”

Dietary Guidelines for Americans is the nation’s trusted resource for evidence-based nutrition guidance. The guidelines are designed for use by healthcare professionals and policy makers for outreach to the general public and provide the nutritional foundation for federal nutrition programs. The dietary guidelines should not be considered clinical guidelines for the treatment of disease.

“The science tells us that good nutrition leads to better health outcomes, and the new dietary guidelines use the best available evidence to give Americans the information they need to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families,” said *HHS Secretary Alex Azar*. “USDA and HHS have expanded this edition of the dietary guidelines to provide new guidance for infants, toddlers, and pregnant and breastfeeding women, helping all Americans to improve their health, no matter their age or life stage.”

As always, the new guidelines build on the previous editions and were informed by the scientific report developed by the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee, along with comments from the public and input from federal agencies. USDA and HHS thank the committee for their work and dedication over the last fifteen months, providing the departments with a comprehensive scientific review and proposal of overarching recommendations, a highly regarded step of critical importance in dietary guidelines development. USDA and HHS also made transparency a priority in this edition and appreciate the many public comments that were received throughout this process.

This release provides the public with the most up-to-date evidence on dietary behaviors that promote health and may help prevent chronic disease. Steeped in scientific evidence, the key recommendations look similar to those of the past and address two topics that garnered much attention throughout the development of the guidelines – added sugars and alcoholic beverages.

Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025 carried forward the committee’s emphasis on limiting these dietary components, but did not include changes to quantitative recommendations, as there was not a [preponderance of evidence](#) in the material the committee reviewed to support specific changes, as required by law. As in previous editions, limited intake of these two food components is encouraged. In fact, this sentiment remains prominent throughout the policy document and complements the four overarching guidelines, which encourage Americans to “Make Every Bite Count” by:

- Following a healthy dietary pattern at every life stage.
- Customizing and enjoying nutrient-dense food and beverage choices to reflect personal preferences, cultural traditions, and budgetary considerations.
- Focusing on meeting food group needs with nutrient-dense foods and beverages from five food groups – vegetables, fruits, grains, dairy and fortified soy alternatives, and proteins – and staying within calorie limits.
- Limiting foods and beverages higher in added sugars, saturated fat, and sodium, and limiting alcoholic beverages.

For consumers, USDA’s MyPlate translates and packages these principles of dietary guidance for Americans in a way that is handy and accessible. To share these messages broadly, USDA offers the [Start Simple with MyPlate](#) campaign and a new MyPlate website to help individuals, families, and communities make healthy food choices that are easy, accessible, and affordable, in addition to helping prevent chronic disease.

For more information, please visit [www.myplate.gov](http://www.myplate.gov).



# Conference Corner

## 2021 SNIP Conference



*Breezy Point Resort  
Breezy Point MN*

Plans are moving forward for the 2021 SNIP conference May 6-8 2021 at Breezy Point Resort, Breezy Point MN. In light of current COVID-19 concerns, MSNA will 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 in March.

## 2021 Annual Conference



The Annual Conference Chairs, Amy Kimmel and Dale Winham and committee have started the work for the 2021 conference. They invite you to mark your calendars for August 1-4, 2021. The conference will be held at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud.

The workshop committee is working on all the education sessions for the 2021 conference. We are working with the speakers/presenters selected to present at the 2020 conference to present at the 2021 conference.

At this time the president and president elect are working on the service project that will benefit the St. Cloud Area Community. Watch for details!

With the pandemic, we have suspended booth sales until early spring. We will be working with our exhibit chair, Industry Representative, Industry Chair and the booth expo decorator to create a vendor show with the best safety guidelines. We want to make sure everyone will have the best show experience to be with our industry members!

We will be monitoring all State COVID-19 protocols and this will help determine when registration will open. We are looking at a late spring opening. More details will be available in April.

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 on Sunday, August 1st.

With the cancelation 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  
Wednesday Closing Session- Chris Heeter



*Holly Hoffman*



*Sioux Chef Sean Sherman*



*Chris Heeter*

# National Nibbles

## SNA Welcomes School Meal Program Relief Funds

SNA applauded Congress for passing a stimulus bill which includes critical funds to offset some of the losses school nutrition programs have incurred during the pandemic.

School meal program revenue has been slashed due to COVID-19 school closures and other challenges. A [Government Accountability Office \(GAO\) report](#) found that in March and April 2020, schools served almost 400 million fewer meals than in the same time frame in 2019, resulting in a drastic drop in federal reimbursements. Closures also curbed a la carte and catering sales just as food and labor costs spiked due to supply chain disruptions, high demand for meal packaging, and new Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and cleaning requirements.

The text of the bill is available [here](#). A division-by-division summary of the coronavirus relief provisions is [here](#).

## SNA Submits Comments on Restoring Flexibilities

On Friday, December 18, 2020, [SNA submitted comments](#) in response to [USDA's proposed rule](#), Restoration of Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Flexibilities, published in the Federal Register on November 25, 2020.

## School Nutrition Foundation Doubled its Giving Tuesday Goal!

Thank you to everyone who donated on Giving Tuesday to the School Nutrition Foundation. We more than doubled our goal of \$8,000 thanks to the generosity of SNF supporters and companies who matched their donations. Every dollar donated goes to ensuring the health and continuity of SNF to better serve our members with scholarships, grants, and professional development programs. We wish you and your family and friends a healthy and safe holiday season and a bright outlook for 2021!

## 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](#).

## SNA 2021 Election—February 15-28, 2021

The SNA 2021 election is coming soon! Remember to keep an eye on our election page to learn more about the candidates and prepare to cast your vote in February!

## Let's Get Stepping!

We're taking SNA's personal wellness program for school nutrition professionals to a whole new level—starting with a Community Holiday Challenge! It's not too late to join. The inaugural SNA Community Holiday Challenge is open now through January 3, 2021. Those reaching 50,000 steps or more will be eligible to win a special themed prize pack that will include a gift card! [Learn more](#).

## Year-End Membership Report

The November 2020 Membership Report shows SNA has 50,752 members. This is a decrease of 760 members compared to October 2020, 6,601 less than November 2019 and 3,796 less than May 2020 year-end total. The overall drop in membership is related to the COVID-19 pandemic and continues to be a major concern.

## SNA Relaunches +1 Membership Challenge

It is now more important than ever that we come together to raise our voices in support of school nutrition. SNA has developed new +1 Membership Challenge materials focusing on advocacy and the power of our voices. The new Challenge materials highlight the numerous tangible benefits resulting from SNA's intensive advocacy efforts since the start of the pandemic.



## SNA Strategic Quarterly Report Now Available

Did you know that SNA publishes a strategic quarterly report which details what we've accomplished? You can find the quarterly report [here](#), along with additional resources.



## Calendar of Events

**January 10-12, 2021**  
School Nutrition  
Industry Conference (SNIC)

**January 14, 2021**  
Executive Board Meeting

**February - April 2021**  
Nutrition Education Series

**March 8-10, 2021**  
SNA Legislative Conference  
Virtual Meeting

**March 8-12, 2021**  
Ntl School Breakfast Week  
Score Big with School Breakfast!

**May 6-8, 2021**  
SNIP Conference-Breezy Point

**August 1-4, 2021**  
Annual State Conference  
St. Cloud MN

## Industry Partners

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

### New Industry Members

- C-T Designs & Equipment
- Street Vision Foods

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)

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

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

Registration is now open for signing up for the exam. The SNA 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.

## Certified Food Protection Manager (CFPM) 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.](#)



Feeding Bodies.  
Fueling Minds.™

SCHOOL  
NUTRITION  
ASSOCIATION

# 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)