

Frequently Asked Questions –SNA and MSNA

What is SNA?

School Nutrition Association (SNA) is the only professional association dedicated solely to the support and well being of school nutrition professionals in advancing good nutrition for all children.

When did it start?

Since 1946 SNA has been advancing the availability and quality of school nutrition programs as an integral part of a student's education.

What is MSNA?

Minnesota School Nutrition Association is one of 52 affiliates of SNA. This year we have over 2,500 school foodservice professionals working hard to help children by advancing school nutrition programs in our state.

Who are the Board Members of MSNA?

President: Janeen Peterson

President Elect: Brenda Braulick

Vice President: Mary Fish

Secretary/Finance: Amy Thering

Nutrition Chair: Melissa Anderson

Education Chair: Nicole Barron

Member Services Chair: Roxy Knops

Public Policy Chair: Rachel Valesano

Industry & Allied Chair: Laurance Anderson

MN State Agency: Debra Lukkonen

MSNA Executive Director

Sharon Maus

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What are the classes of membership?

School Foodservice and Nutrition Members: Employees, Managers, Supervisors/Directors, Educators employed in eligible fields.

Associate Members: Industry individuals, Corporations, and others committed to furthering the goals of the Association.

Students: Full Time Students enrolled in college/university nutrition, health or other food related program. Does not include the right to vote in the annual SNA election.

Retired: Retired members

Child Care Employee: Child/Day/Family/Home Care providers.

Affiliate Members: School foodservice employees working less than four hours per day who choose the option of being **non-voting** supporter members; and Retired members who choose the option of being **non-voting** supporter members.

School District Owned Membership:

A SDM is a membership that is owned by a school district in the name of an individual that is transferable to another employee in the same membership category if the original assignee or person leaves the districts employ. The membership is nonrefundable. While in the employ of the district, the individual or assignee receives all the same benefits of an individual membership. All materials will be sent to the school district office or school address provided on the membership application and the home mailing option will not be available. This is not one membership for an entire school district's child nutrition staff. It is a new individual membership option to meet the needs of the changing workforce that enables a school district to keep its child nutrition staff informed and educated about feeding students.

Who is eligible to be a member?

Persons employed at the preschool, school, school district, college, state, or federal levels in a food and nutrition program. Persons engaged in teaching or administration at the aforementioned levels. Person engaged in teaching present or potential school food service personnel. Persons engaged in community nutrition programs or committed to furthering the goals of the Association. Persons employed by the Association or a state affiliate.

What are Chapters?

Chapters are SNA/MSNA members from one or more school districts that meet to promote the well being of its members and the students that they serve. The chapter has a constitution in harmony with the Articles and Bylaws of the Minnesota School Nutrition Inc.

Why should I become a member?

To enhance and further your career in many ways including:

- Enhance and further your career through SNA Certification and Credentialing.
- Increase your wealth of knowledge with professional development materials and up to date industry news.
- Express your concerns and show your support of child nutrition programs to local, state and national government officials.
- Network with industry peers, share information and discover best practices to apply in your programs at SNA conferences and through the Online Communities.
- Receive a subscription to SNA's award winning publication School Nutrition magazine.
- Take advantage of scholarship and grant opportunities.
- Enjoy a variety of member only discounts on products and programs, including Emporium purchases, conference registrations, latest research findings, SNA certification and insurance plans.
- Access members only information on the SNA website including additional news and talking points. Online Communities, archives of School Nutrition, Tuesday Morning and several "Tools You Can Use" such as Promotional Calendar.

How do you become a member?

Log on to schoolnutrition.org, go to membership, join or renew.

What Conferences can I attend?

There are many conferences each year. Anyone can attend-members get a discount.

Annual Conference:

National Conference (ANC) is in July each year. State Conference is usually the end of July or first part of August.

Legislative Conference:

National Conference (LAC) is in March in Washington, DC, state conference is February at the Minnesota State capital.

Nutrition Conference:

MSNA nutrition conference is held in October.(usually the last Saturday)

Industry Conference:

SNA Child Nutrition Industry Conference (CNIC) is in January. MSNA Industry Conference is in May.

MSNA Boot Camp:

Boot Camp is offered in June.

What are the Awards?

SNA has the Louise Sublette Award of Excellence, Heart of the Program Award, Outstanding Director of the Year Award, President's Award of Excellence, Thelma Flanagan Gold Award of Service, 100% Membership for Individual School and 100% Membership for Districts. All information on these awards can be found on the SNA website at schoolnutrition.org.

MSNA has the above awards and also The "E" Team Award, Innovation Award and Chapter President Award. Information on these can be found on the MSNA website at msna.org.

What is Certification?

Become Nationally Certified with SNA Certification Program. Do it for you! Do it for your community! Do it for your students! SNA develops and encourages the highest standards in school nutrition programs and provides educational opportunities to ensure the professional development of its members. SNA's Certification Program is based on the standards of practice and indicators in the Keys to Excellence in School Food and Nutrition Programs that define nationally accepted standards for quality programs. SNA certification adds credibility to your position and to your school nutrition operation. It showcases your expertise in this profession, provides a career ladder for advancement and demonstrates your commitment to school nutrition. In some school districts, certification even may gain you a pay raise. Information on how to become certified is at schoolnutrition.org, go to certification program, click on how to become certified.

What is the difference between membership and certification?

Two separate programs. Membership is joining SNA to meet others, get member only discounts, get scholarship and grant opportunities, etc.

Certification is taking the classes to become level 1, 2, or 3 certified and also a Trainer.

What is the STAR Club?

Most successful associations have a member recognition program such as the STAR Club as a way to recognize and thank their members for their hard work and tenacity in recruiting new members. The SNA STAR Club was developed in 1997 as a way of recognizing and thanking SNA members who are working hard to ensure the future of the association by recruiting new members. Every time a member's name is listed on a new member application as their sponsor the information is entered in SNA's database. Members accumulate credits for each new member they recruit. Based on the number of credits, members get a certain award.

Where can I find classes?

Classes are listed on the MSNA website. Go to mnsna.org, click on training, click on classes. SNA also has many opportunities such as webinars. Go to schoolnutrition.org. and go to school nutrition university.

How can I get on a conference committee?

Contact Executive Director, Sharon Maus and she will forward your name on to the conference chairs.

How can I get on the Executive Board?

Candidates for the Executive Board have demonstrated leadership ability by serving as a Chapter President and/or President Elect or have served on a standing committee. Check the MSNA website for the Governing Rules – August 2011 Article V Section B. To get to the website go to mnsna.org, click on site search, MSNA forms, continue reading, MSNA by-laws.