

Mush-On

Alaska School Nutrition Association Newsletter

The President's Report

Dear AKSNA Members,

If you missed the State Conference Feb. 19-21, 2014 you missed a great conference.



Leah Schmidt, SNA President, shared SNA's Plan of Action and the strategic realignment. It was great to have Leah join us for the entire conference. She had never been to Alaska so she came a few days early and drove to Denali and then stayed a few days after and was able to attend part of the Fur Rondy.



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**John Bennett**, Menu Magic, presented *Turning Service into Sales, Kids are Talking, and Nudge*. All three presentations were informative and relevant to our needs in school nutrition.



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 The **vendor show** was held on Thursday at the Egan Center. I made a promise to myself to visit every vendor and I did just that. I even won one of the Sunkist Wedgers. Yeah! One of my favorite booths was the DEC hand washing booth. I hope many of you visited that booth. I believe the overall thought from attendees is that the food was really good this year.



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President's Report cont.

The **panel discussion** on Nutritional Alaskan Foods Grant held on Friday was so informative. I know some folks missed it since it was at the end of the conference, but those of us that attended got a lot of great information.



AKSNA also welcomes Carol Larson as our secretary and Tanya Dube, our membership chair.

Some upcoming events:

Carlee Wells, AKSNA President-Elect, and I will be attending SNA Leadership training April 10-12, 2014 in St. Louis, Missouri.

The AKSNA Board will be meeting face to face on April 26, 2014 in Anchorage. We will be recapping our goals we set earlier in the school year, and establishing new ones for the next school year. We will be sending that information out to you in May's newsletter.

I am excited as I start my two-year term as your Alaska School Nutrition Association President. Please feel free to contact me if you need any information or just have questions.

aksna101@gmail.com

Sincerely,
Sandy Daws



AKSNA Executive Board (left to right): LaDonna Dean, Bob Eason, Jo Dawson, Dean Hamburg, Chris Johnson, Carlee Wells, Sandy Daws, Lori Buzzell, Walter Williams, and Alvin Arboleda. (New Board members Carol Larson and Tanya Dube not pictured.)

Public Policy & Legislation

SNA's 42nd Legislative Action Conference (LAC) took place March 2-5, 2014, at the J.W. Marriott Hotel in Washington, D.C. Chris Johnson and Dean Hamburg participated in the meetings and training surrounding legislative issues for the School Nutrition Association.

Legislative Action Conference (LAC) report:

The weather was great. I (Chris) arrived in to DC late Saturday evening, with registration and breakout sessions Sunday morning.

The Sunday breakouts included:

Managing Menu Curveballs: Allergens, Special Diets and Ethnic Diversity
Community Eligibility Provision
Produce Marketing Essentials
and many other state agency sessions.

Our keynote speaker was Kathleen Parker, great political activist/humorist.

Sunday evening the weather called for a winter event moving thru, by 7pm schools were closed for the following day, and most federal buildings as well. Your intrepid Arctic Adventurers made their way thru the blizzard (mild snow flurries) to meet with our Alaskan delegation. Upon arrival we found no Alaskans due to weather closures. We left notes at all three offices basically stating "Alaskans don't take snow days?" We eventually got a call back from Congressman Young's office who was very apologetic and was able to reschedule for the next day.

Our meeting with Don Young's office was scheduled for later in the afternoon, so in their defense we were several hours early. The same can't be said of the others, not even a call or email to let us know they were closed. They all were able to re-schedule for the next day. Once we arrived at Congressman Young's office we were told he was testifying. We watched on the monitors and both he and Senator Begich were testifying on By Pass Mail. Upon a break Congressman Young came and spoke personally with Dean and I. We took a copy of the SNA 2014 Position Paper on Federal Child Nutrition Programs to the hill with us.

~ Chris Johnson

In addition...

On Friday March 14, I (Dean) met with Senator Lisa Murkowski at Ted Stevens Airport- Anchorage. She shared her support for the progress with healthier foods in USDA school meals programs. And the Senator shared kudos to AKSNA regarding the inclusion of Alaska fish in menuing.

Senator Murkowski also expressed an understanding that 2015 is a year for reauthorization of the National School Lunch Act.

~ Dean Hamburg



State Policy

SNA has uploaded the improved [State and Grassroots Policy](#) section on their website which includes Reports, Advocacy Tools, and Local Wellness Policies. This section provides not only reports on the range of legislation and policies across the United States, but also how SNA members can effectively work with their state and local governments on ensuring strong and stable school nutrition programs.

Dates to Remember:

May 2, 2014 –
School Lunch Hero Day

May 5-9, 2014 –
School Nutrition Employee
Week

May 21-22, 2014 –
Industry Boot Camp
National Harbor, MD

July 13-16, 2014 –
Annual National Conference
Boston, MA

October 13-17, 2014 –
National School Lunch Week

“Feature Alaska Growers”

Highlighting some Alaska growers!

Trident Seafoods -

Recently Channel 11 News did a news story on the AK Grown Salmon Patties served at the Anchorage School District. The salmon patties are a product purchased from Trident Seafoods.

Trident Seafoods is a vertically integrated harvester, processor and marketer of seafood from Alaska, the Pacific Northwest and around the world.

Founded in 1973, they are a privately held, American owned corporation operating offshore processors and shore-side plants throughout Alaska and the Pacific Northwest.

Please follow the link to view Ch. 11’s story. <http://www.ktva.com/alaska-grown-salmon-served-to-schools-696/>



Sitka Conservation Society (SCS) -

THE SITKA CONSERVATION SOCIETY RELEASES GUIDE TO SERVING LOCAL FISH IN SCHOOL CAFETERIAS TO SUPPORT STATE-WIDE INITIATIVES

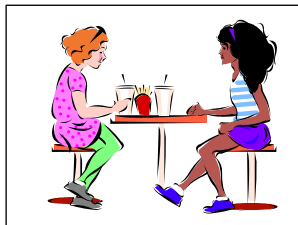
In an effort to support regional and state-wide efforts to serve local foods in schools, the Sitka Conservation Society developed a “how-to” guide to serving local fish in schools. Using Sitka as a case study it outlines procurement and processing strategies, legalities, tips, and recipes.

Also included is a "Stream to Plate" curriculum unit of seven lessons that connect salmon into the classroom. The lessons address the ecological significance and human relationship to salmon.

This program is so culturally and ecologically significant and informs students of the impact of their food choices on their body, the economy, and environment.

Please view the guide at the following link: <http://sitkawild.org/2014/03/a-guide-to-serving-local-fish-in-school-cafeterias/> or visit www.sitkawild.org.

For more information contact –
Tracy Gagnon
Sitka Conservation Society
tracy@sitkawild.org.



Helpful Links:

AKSNA Website –
www.AKSNA.org

AKSNA Facebook page -
www.facebook.com/pages/Alaska-School-Nutrition-Association/127128467377407

OR
www.facebook.com and search for the Alaska School Nutrition Association page

School Nutrition Association Website -
www.schoolnutrition.org

Fuel Up To Play 60 Homepage –
www.fueluptoplay60.com

Health education materials -
www.eatsmart.org if interested in free educational materials regarding health and wellness

Certification Recognition

Professional Development is your key to success! Whether you're just beginning your career in school nutrition or seeking to deepen your understanding of the intricacies of school feeding programs, SNA has the resources you need to get started.

Alaska has many school nutrition professionals who have succeeded in furthering their education through these SNA career and education programs. Please help us congratulate our fellow members for their SNA certification and SNS achievements.

CONGRATULATIONS to:

LaDonna Dean – Level 3 certification and also School Nutrition Specialist (SNS)

Nancy Fuller – Level 3 certification

Dean Hamburg – Level 3 certification and also School Nutrition Specialist (SNS)

Sue Lampert – Level 2 certification

Abigail Long – Level 1 certification

Cathy Patterson – Level 1 certification

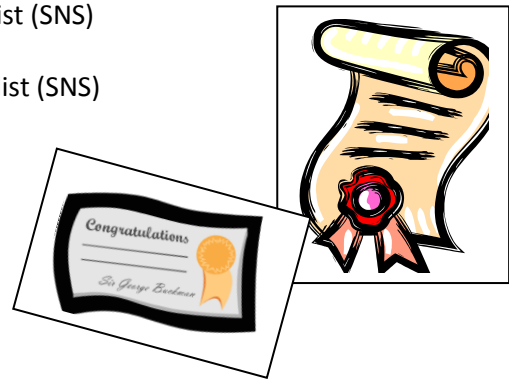
Greg Regester – Level 3 certification

Karen Richardson – Level 3 certification

Huitte Taylor – Level 3 certification

Carlee Wells – Level 3 certification

Walter Williams – Level 3 certification



The following links provide information on SNA's certification process and SNS credentialing:

SNA Certification Guide -

http://www.schoolnutrition.org/uploadedFiles/School_Nutrition/104_CareerEducation/ProfessionalDevelopment/Certification/Cerification_Documents/CertificationGuide2012%20.pdf?n=4992

SNS benefits, requirements and fees –

<http://www.schoolnutrition.org/Content.aspx?id=2258>

Professional development opportunities –

<http://www.schoolnutrition.org/CareerEducation.aspx>



School Lunch Hero Day: Celebrate Your School Nutrition Staff!

May 2, 2014

How can you show your favorite school nutrition staff that you value them? Start brainstorming now and get ready to celebrate on **May 2, 2014!**

Please take pictures and forward a couple to Lori Buzzell, *Mush-On* News Editor, at lori.buzzell@juneauschools.org. The May *Mush-On* will highlight a few of these celebratory moments!

SNA provides resources to help you honor your staff members – visit www.schoolnutrition.org/snew to access tools like:

- **NEW!** School Lunch Hero Day [merchandise](#) like posters, aprons, hats and t-shirts
- [Celebration ideas](#) to recognize your school nutrition employees and managers
- [Give the gift of membership](#) – recruit new SNA members in May, and be entered to win two sets of “The Lunch Lady” comic books!
- [Activity sheets and cards](#) for students to fill out and show their appreciation (available in [Spanish](#) too!)

Showing how much you appreciate your employees can be as simple as saying thank you or as special as holding a reception to recognize their achievements.