

Mush-On

Alaska School Nutrition Association Newsletter

Spring



2015

The President's Report

It is hard to believe that we are fast approaching the end of the school year. As we are closing the year out and planning next year it is important to remember that professional standards are coming our way. The final Professional Standards rule is a key provision of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 and is effective July 1, 2015. This rule will now require minimum training hours for all food service staff. As you create your budgets and plan for the next year it is important to know that AKSNA is looking at providing those hours at our annual conference February 2015 in Anchorage.

As we begin planning our next school year we are looking for new ideas for our association. I invite you to contact any member of our board and express your ideas for growth in AKSNA.

I wish you all a wonderful summer and look forward to much needed relaxation.

Carlee Johnson
AKSNA President

AKSNA Executive Board

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cwells@pcsd.us

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Vacant

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wwilliams@swrsd.org

**State Farm to School
Representative:**
Johanna Herron
johanna.herron@alaska.gov

Marketing Chair:
Vacant

AKSNA is growing and wants YOU!

Do you have ideas to share? Maybe a skill/specialty that you would like to share with the school nutrition professionals in Alaska? AKSNA would like to expand and is looking for new board members.

We currently have the following established positions vacant:

- Secretary
- Marketing Chair

AND are looking to create additional positions such as, but not limited to:

- IT and/or Social Media Specialist
- Allergy Specialist
- Registered Dietician

If you are interested in making a difference and being part of this energetic and professional organization please contact us at aksna101@hotmail.com.

We would like to WELCOME our newest board members:

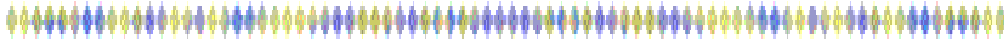
- Conference Committee Co-chairs September Horton and Greg Register
- RCCI Representative Mario Martinez

Coming this fall! Sit in on the board teleconferences to hear what it is all about and what kind of involvement is required. Stay tuned for teleconference call-in dates.

FFVP Exciting News!

Ellen Hackenmueller, Program Coordinator for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program has just shared the exciting news that they have received the 2015/2016 FFVP funding notice from USDA and are working on next year's award allocations. Please keep an eye out for an initial approval letter and a Notice of Grant Award.

For more information on this program or the grant process please contact Ellen at: ellen.hackenmueller@alaska.gov



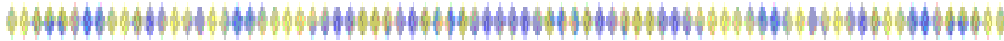
SNA News

Nationwide School Cafeteria Challenges Map

There's a new tool on the School Nutrition Association website that allows you to see a breadth of samples of how schools have been affected by some of the requirements of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act. The "[Cafeteria Challenges](#)" map documents how schools in every region of the country have struggled with unintended negative consequences of USDA's school food regulations. Examples extend from Oregon's Portland Public Schools drastic participation decline all the way to the east coast where the Green Lake School District was backed into opting out of the National School Lunch altogether so that it could serve healthy meals that students will eat.

Professional Standards Rule

If you missed the April 1st webinar on [Everything you need to know about the Final Professional Standards Rule for school nutrition program personnel!](#) visit: www.schoolnutrition.org/webinars for a full listing of upcoming SNA webinars and an archive of previous SNA webinar recordings.



Mark your calendars... AKDEED August Training Dates

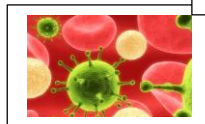
August 4-6 in Juneau
August 11-13 in Anchorage

Please contact Debbie Soto at Debbie.soto@alaska.gov to register.



Allergy Corner

Toolkit for Managing Food Allergies in Schools:
<http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/foodallergies/toolkit.htm>



Conference Committee Co-chairs:

September Horton
septemberh@mehs.us

Greg Regester
greg.regester@nmsusa.com

RCCI Representative:

Mario Martinez
mario.martinez@alaska.gov

Dates to Remember:

May 1, 2015 –
School Lunch Hero Day

May 13-14, 2015 –
Spring Industry Boot Camp
National Harbor, MD

July 12-15, 2015 –
Annual National Conference
Salt Lake City, UT

Aug 4-6, 2015 –
AKDEED Training
Juneau, AK

Aug 11-13, 2015 –
AKDEED Training
Anchorage, AK

Oct 12-16, 2015 –
National School Lunch Week

AK Farm to School Updates!

Grant Opportunities:

The Alaska Farm Bureau is accepting applications for small agriculture education projects to increase awareness, knowledge and appreciation of Alaska agriculture in our youth. The Alaska Farm Bureau intends to award up to \$15,000.00 in grants to individuals or organizations across the state. **Application deadline is May 15, 2015.**

USDA Farm to School grants are NOW OPEN, there are multiple tracks to apply for. The remaining Planning, Implementation, and Support Service grants are due on May 20th. For more information go to:
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmentoschool/farm-school-grant-program>

For more information contact Johanna Herron at: johanna.herron@alaska.gov



Public Policy and Legislation Report

Our board members, Tanya Dube and Walter Williams traveled to Juneau in March to visit the Juneau Hill in support of school nutrition. They had many appointments with Honorable legislators and shared the great things that are happening for school meals in Alaska as well as some needs and hopes for state support for feeding Alaska children. Following is a brief summary of their visit:

As you can well imagine the reception wasn't super fabulous in Juneau. There are many folks (mostly in the minority) that believe in what we do and encourage us to keep fighting but will be unable to financially support us at this time. On the Senate side the best receptions we got were with Senators: Costello, Bishop, and Hoffman. They were willing to take a look at NAFS and Farm to School. So if you have wonderful success stories direct them to their offices.

The one thing we heard over and over is that they want to hear from growers and producers, so I encourage you to reach out to whomever you spent your NAFS money with and ask them to reach out to their local representatives. Encourage them to not only discuss how they benefitted from NAFS but how FTS is key in facilitating the relationships that we are developing between growers and schools. In addition to growers and producers I would like you to reach out to your local reps if you haven't already. There are 20 Senators and 40 Representatives and Walter and I saw 17, so there are a lot of people at the Capitol that haven't heard our story. The best way to do that is to have you reach out. Especially Juneau folks, their delegation only wants to hear from constituents. ~ Tanya

AK District maps: http://www.elections.alaska.gov/er_rd_dd_pm_2013.php

Find your Representative: <http://house.legis.state.ak.us/>

Find your Senator: <http://senate.legis.state.ak.us/#bot>

Thank you Tanya and Walter for expressing the needs and concerns of healthy nutrition for kids in our schools on behalf of AKSNA and schools across the state.

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

Washington State Dairy Council –
www.eatsmart.org

Food Allergy Research and Education (FARE) –
www.foodallergy.org

Healthier US Schools Challenge Online Application –
www.fns.usda.gov/tn/HealthierUS/application.html

State of Alaska, Child Nutrition Program –
www.eed.state.ak.us