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January 2018

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# MUSH-ON

Alaska School Nutrition Association

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

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## State Agency Updates Submitted by Jo Dawson

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season! We're busy here wrapping up the monitoring for the year and looking forward to the next year already. A few important dates coming up to keep in mind are:

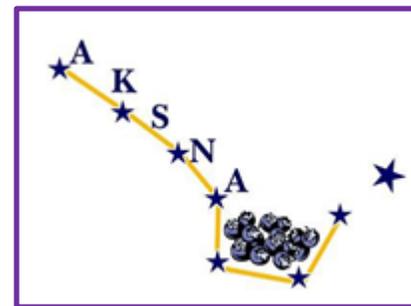
January 23 – USDA Foods surveys for next school year will open

January 29 & 30 – Training on Forecasting for the Procurement of Food

February 1 – Deadline to submit the Verification Summary Report

February 15 On-Site Review for Counting and Claiming

I look forward to seeing many of you at the AKSNA conference next month.



## AKSNA Executive Board

### **President:**

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### **Secretary:**

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## Conference Updates

The registration form for the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Alaska School Nutrition Conference is attached. Please note the Pre-Conference is scheduled for Monday, February 12, 2018 with options such as Food Safety Training and Certification exam and Nutrition 101. The full conference dates are February 13-15, 2018 with the vendor show on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

To celebrate our Golden Anniversary (50 years!), instead of the vendor social we will be holding an awards banquet on the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup>. Please plan to attend. There will also be an apron fashion show and auction at the banquet. This will be an AKSNA fundraiser, so please dust off your sewing machine and try to take 1<sup>st</sup> place honors!

## Warm Up to winter with SNA's Webinar Wednesdays

A new year, brings new webinars! Register now to join us next month as we E-G-G-S-P-L-O-R-E the power of protein in meals that will keep your students feeling full and focused throughout the day. This year's webinar schedule is filled with exciting, new, topics that you'll be glad you were a part of!

Click on the link below to learn more about the webinar and check the SNA webinar page for new webinars.

[The Power of Protein!](#)

**2:00 pm ET on Wednesday, January 17, 2018**

Power up your school nutrition program with protein based foods, like E-G-G-S. The high-quality protein in eggs will keep your students feeling full and focused throughout the day. This Webinar covers the latest in egg nutrition research, foodservice trends, success stories, and marketing material to attract your students to the protein power of eggs! Successful completion of the webinar and quiz is awarded 1 SNA CEU, or 1 CPEU for RDs/DTRs.

### **2018 Webinar Registration Opening Soon!**

- February 7, 2018 -- Community Eligibility Series, Part 1: Community Eligibility Provision 101
- February 21, 2018 -- Best of #SNIC18: Simple Tech Tools from Your Nerdy Best Friend
- February 28, 2018 -- Best of #SNIC18: When it comes to Food and ingredients, What Do Consumers Really Want?

## AKSNA Executive Board (Continued)

### **State Farm to School**

#### **Representative:**

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#### **Marketing Chair:**

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#### **Member at Large:**

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#### **RCCI Representative:**

Vacant

## Dates to Remember

### **The 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Alaska School Nutrition Conference is coming!**

Pre-Conference Monday,  
**February 12, 2018**

Conference dates  
**February 13-15, 2018.**

## Upcoming Webinar Wednesdays

The Power of Protein  
**Wednesday, January 17, 2018**  
**10:00 a.m. (Alaskan Time)**

Community Eligibility Part 1  
**Wednesday, February 7, 2018**  
**10:00 a.m. (Alaskan Time)**

Community Eligibility Part 2  
**Wednesday, March 14, 2018**  
**10:00 a.m. (Alaskan Time)**

Community Eligibility Part 3  
**Wednesday, April 11, 2018**  
**10:00 a.m. (Alaskan Time)**

- March 14, 2018 -- Community Eligibility Series, Part 2: Making It Work with ISPs Below 60%
- April 11, 2018 -- Community Eligibility Series, Part 3: Strategies for Partial Implementation

Participation in Webinar Wednesdays will help you earn CEUs toward your USDA Professional Standards annual training requirements, along with your SNA Certificate or SNS Credential. All webinars are held at 2 pm Eastern Time (1 pm CT/Noon MT/11 am PT). For more information and to access the webinar archive, please visit [www.schoolnutrition.org/webinars](http://www.schoolnutrition.org/webinars).

### **[Register Now for SNA's Virtual Expo!](#)**

[Register now](#) for SNA's free [2018 Virtual Expo](#) and be among the first in line to know when the expo officially opens on February 6! This is your opportunity to experience the future of sourcing new products, equipment, and technology—all with the click of a mouse—from 34 top industry vendors. Plus, you'll be able to earn up to 20 CEUs by viewing [pre-recorded education sessions](#) chosen from some of our most popular #ANC17 sessions. The Virtual Expo offers 24-7 access with everything right at your fingertips—no travel or funding required! You'll be able to come back as often as you like during the expo's six week run through March 16, so please spread the word to state affiliate and local chapter members to [register now](#) for this exciting opportunity.

### **[Ruby's on the Move: Submit Your Ruby Reader Photos by January 26](#)**

School Nutrition magazine's beloved mascot, Ruby Reader, is on the move again for the "Where's Ruby Roaming?" Contest. Submit your photos by January 26 to enter! [Read More](#)



### **[Save the Date: SNA's Virtual Expo Launches on February 6, 2018](#)**

Get ready...SNA's Virtual Expo launches on February 6, 2018. This free, virtual trade show will be accessible to attendees from February 6 –March 16, 2018.

This unique experience is open to all SNA members, and it will provide access to content twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Going virtual allows you to visit as often as you'd like from the comfort of your own computer. A few conference highlights include:

- Virtual Exhibit Hall: Explore products and services from up to 50 exhibitors

- Learning Center: Access education sessions you may have missed from SNA's Annual National Conference in 2017
- Networking Lounge: Meet and chat with other attendees and easily exchange contact information

Free registration opens January 2018. Be on the lookout for the registration link on the SNA website and other Association communication outlets.

### **STEPS January Challenge: Small Changes for Success!**

This month, break down a health/wellness goal into small manageable steps. Maybe it is drinking an extra glass of water each day or bringing lunch instead of going out. It's up to you. Give yourself two (2) points for every day you follow through on your goal. At the end of the month, be sure to add up your points and enter them online at [www.schoolnutrition.org/STEPS](http://www.schoolnutrition.org/STEPS) – you could win a prize!

### **USDA Issues Interim Final Rule on School Meal Flexibility**

On November 29, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released an [interim final rule](#) to extend current regulatory flexibility for school meal programs through School Year (SY) 2018-19. The interim rule maintains Target 1 sodium limits for school meals. USDA “anticipates” extending this deadline through SY 2020-21. State agencies can continue to offer waivers to schools demonstrating hardship in procuring or preparing specific whole-grain rich foods that are acceptable to students (e.g. whole grain tortillas or brown rice). Finally, the rule provides schools the option to offer flavored 1% milk. USDA requests public comment on the interim rule and the sodium reduction timeline to inform the development of a final rule, effective in SY 2019-20.

In response, SNA issued a [press release](#) commending USDA for the extension and expressing support for greater flexibility under whole grain and sodium mandates to address challenges while maintaining strong standards to benefit students. SNA is assembling a member working group to develop detailed recommendations to improve a final rule.