
November 2017

MUSH-ON

Alaska School Nutrition Association

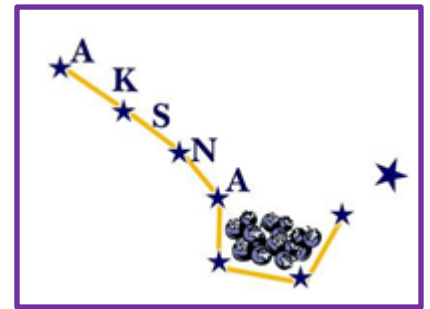
www.aksna.org

State Agency Updates Submitted by Jo Dawson

I hope this month of thanks is a good one for each and every one of you! Just a few items for update:

- Debbie Soto has recently been promoted within the Child Nutrition Programs unit. Some of Debbie's new duties will include overseeing the Special Milk Program and more oversight of the PrimeroEdge system to support school district use. Debbie's new phone number is 907-465-8712. For general NSLP questions, Mary Sutkowski began work this past week and will be in training to assist you.
- Andrew Mergens, Anchorage School District, and Walter Williams, Southwest Region Schools did an awesome job representing best practices in school nutrition at the Alaska School Wellness Institute last week. If you have a chance to talk about either of them about Breakfast in the Classroom, I really encourage it!
- We continue to receive a lot of questions on the state grocery contracts. The current status is that USDA is reviewing the state procurement for the contracts to make a determination if the contract can be used without competition at the local level. We'll let you all know when we hear more from USDA.

That is all for now; we at Child Nutrition Programs are all thankful for the work you do to keep Alaska's children healthy and happy.



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Conference Updates

The registration form for the 50th 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 15th.

To celebrate our Golden Anniversary (50 years!), instead of the vendor social we will be holding an awards banquet on the evening of the 14th. 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 1st place honors!

Giving Thanks for SNA's Webinars!

It's time to gobble up November's webinar before it's gone! Earn CEUs that meet Professional Standards and can be used towards the Certificate and Credentialing programs. Don't miss the opportunity to participate in this upcoming webinar.

Wednesday, November 8, 2017, 10:00 a.m. Alaska Time:
Best of #ANC17: Offer vs. Serve Simplified

Wednesday, December 6, 2017, 10:00 a.m. Alaska Time:
In a Crazy World... There are Simple Solutions for Positive Communication

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

AKSNA Executive Board (Continued)

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Dates to Remember

**The 50th Annual Alaska School
Nutrition Conference is coming!**

Pre-Conference Monday,
February 12, 2018

Conference dates
February 13-15, 2018.

Upcoming Webinar Wednesdays

November 8, 2017- Offer vs.
Serve Simplified

December 6, 2017- In a Crazy
World... There are Simple
Solutions for Positive
Communication

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

STEPS November Challenge: Say Yes to Veggies!

Give veggies some love this month. Bring fresh veggies to that mid-day snack, choose salads (or at least side salads) during dinner or sneak some spinach into a morning smoothie. Award yourself one (1) point for each time you consume one serving of vegetables. At the end of the month, be sure to add up your points and enter them online at www.schoolnutrition.org/STEPS – you could win a prize!

SNA Legislative Focus Submitted by Dean Hamburg

I wanted share today's SNA PPL focus. Is an interesting time for SNA with Congress keeping re-authorization on the back-burner. Still, seems SNA is moving on some topics with proposals and letters and such.

SNA sent a letter to Appropriations with the equipment grant minimum purchase per site to be lowered from \$5,000.00 to \$1,000.00... My experience with this equipment grant sometimes included wishing it was lower than the \$5,000.00 purchase minimum per site. As small kitchens in Alaska sometimes did not need or have capacity for a \$5,000.00 equipment fix, it seemed a lesser minimum amount would have been more meaningful. Is my thought anyway.

Please take a look at the appropriations letter. Also-- please check out the SNA comment on the always challenging **Verification-Non Response** topic.

I do like how SNA brings up the concern about those households that may not respond due to language or literacy issues. Congress is currently touting changes in tax forms, to keep them simple for American taxpayers..... Seems to me the verification process is a hyper-complex non-simple task/process expected of school lunch programs and State Agencies and Households.

We want integrity and good records for NSLPs.... But sometimes seems local NSLP operators are required to be IRS like, when we just want to feed kids.

Click on link below to go to SNA site

[SNA Submits Comment on Study of Non-Response to the School Meals Application Verification Process](#)