

Mush-On



A Note from the State Association President

Jo Dawson, MS, SNS

Welcome to the 2019-2020 School Year!

This has been a very busy summer for your state Association. Several members were able to attend the annual School Nutrition Association Conference in St. Louis, Missouri in July. We received updates on the national association, attended great sessions on improving our programs, and got to network with amazing school nutrition professionals from across the nation. If you've never attended, you should consider the 2020 conference in Tennessee.

During the summer months the AKSNA conference committee continued preparations to bring you an amazing conference this coming January – our key note this year is Chef Garrett Berdan. Next month we will be rolling out our new and improved online registration so look for that email.

We are still looking for another AKSNA subcommittee volunteer for Public Policy and Legislation, if you have questions or would like more information, please let me know.

Have a wonderful school year ahead!

See What All the Commotion is About: Discover the New Training Zone

SNAC Bites, August 2019

SNA is pleased to introduce the new Training Zone! Located in the Learning Center on the SNA website, this new platform allows you to stream live and on-demand webinars, take evaluations, quizzes and print/download certificates all in one place. Now compatible with all web browsers, including Android and iOS's browsers for smartphones, it's easier than ever to get the training you need on the go and at your convenience.

The greatest part? The Training Zone will track your CEU certificates, so you no longer have to! That's right! You no longer have to search to find your certificates for audits. Simply log back into the Training Zone and every module, webinar or education session you've completed will be tracked in one place. With new content added regularly, you'll never run out of training opportunities. Check it out to see how beneficial training can be to your day-to-day operations, and how easy it is to gain CEUs while you're at it! Go to bit.ly/SNA-TZ.

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IMPORTANT DATES

52nd Annual Conference



WEBINAR WEDNESDAYS.

Best of LAC: Group Purchasing

Cooperatives: Should You Buy In?

10:00 a.m. 11 September 2019 AKDT

Best of ANC: Farm to Table: A Small District Approach to Partnership in Nutrition

10:00 a.m. 18 September 2019 AKDT

Host a Legislator Site Visit

10:00 a.m. 25 September 2019 AKDT

Best of ANC: Social Media: Marketing Strategies to Build Your Following

10:00 a.m. 2 October 2019 AKDT

ANC Ideas@Work: Small District? Make the Most of Your Resources

10:00 a.m. 9 October 2019 AKDT

ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE



FNSBSD Presents: Summer Boot Camp, School Nutrition Program Introduction and Training

Trevor Bridgewater, SNS

Interviewing and training new staff is a continuous job throughout the year and when done right creates a relationship that is beneficial for everyone. With a staggering turnover rate of over 60%, School Nutrition Programs are constantly recruiting for dedicated people to help feed our students. Our programs are highly regulated from the federal level, creating a work environment that is unfamiliar even to most food service professionals. The need to have well trained staff at every level is key to having a program be successful.

For the 18-19 School year, our department started with 19 vacancies. Everything from central kitchen to administrative staff to front line server positions needed to be filled. Putting out “fires” daily is nothing new to school nutrition staff, but if you don’t have the people, the “fires” can get out of control. Prioritizing staffing needs was the only way to ensure meal programs for students. This environment created a stress on existing employees we could not afford to lose. Something new had to be done.

As the school year slightly calmed down, we discussed how to promote jobs with our department and educate prospective applicants about what we do. So Summer Boot Camp was launched! An introduction to School Nutrition and they jobs available throughout our department. We developed presentations explaining the history and regulations for our programs as well as that definition of all the acronyms (NSLP,SBP,SFSP,FFVP,CACFP,SFA.....). We concluded with scenarios including customer service examples, ordering, planning meals, and a meal component quiz. Attendees received a certificate of completion they can add to applications for training and certifications.

I will admit, this was a lot of extra work, but it really helped to be able to present to the public what our program does and the benefits of working in school nutrition. We have had attendees apply and get hired with the district and feel confident that the training they received made them more prepared for success.

Membership Processing Fee and Certificate Fee Changes

Excerpt from SNAC Bites, August 2019

As of 1 October 2019, SNA's Membership Processing Fee will increase to \$2.50. SNA Certificate Application, Renewal, and Reinstatement Fees will also increase.

National School Lunch Week 2019: The Crowd Needs to Hear Your Playlist

SNAC Bites, September 2019

Have you started sharing what's on your **#SchoolLunchPlaylist** with your students, staff, parents, school administration and other community stakeholders? **#NSLW19** starts October 14 and will be here before you know it! While you fine tune your playlist of all things school lunch, SNA is here to help with [marketing materials and PR resources](#) to get the crowds jumping as you gear up for #NSLW19.

And a new marketing tool has been added! SNA's pre-designed Microsoft® PowerPoint presentations are ready for you to promote the NSLW 2019 theme to staff and key stakeholders!

Remember to check out the latest [Emporium Catalog](#) or [shop online](#) for hot new NSLW merchandise that you and your staff can sport (bulk discounts available), along with fun cafeteria decorations. Order your merch early because concert swag is always hot!

Safeguarding School Lunch Food Safety

Tanya Dube, SNS

Adapted from: <https://statefoodsafety.com>

As summer break ends and school begins, school cafeterias across Alaska are reopening. Nearly nine million school meals will be served to students in Alaska this year and since children are considered a highly susceptible population, they are at a higher risk for foodborne illnesses.

The National School Lunch Act promotes food safety in schools to protect students. It requires that a food safety program be based on Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) principles. Additionally, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 extended this to apply to all facilities involved in a school meal program, not just the cafeteria. Recently, the United States Department of Agriculture released the Food-Safe Schools Action Guide for School Nutrition Directors:

<https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/Food-Safe-Schools-Action-Guide.pdf>

The most important part of food safety in schools is to create a food safety culture. That means encouraging as much education as possible for anyone involved in school nutrition programs, or creating a program for school cafeteria inspections specifically. School cafeterias cannot close their doors due to a poor inspection; so, encouraging a good food safety foundation, such as the prerequisite programs detailed in the HACCP process, is key in preventing major violations and foodborne illness outbreaks.

Remember, everyone is responsible for food safety!

RED CARPET AWARDS



Jo Dawson receives the President's Award of Achievement



Adriane Schwartz receives the Northwest Regional Director of the Year award

New School Meal Bills Introduced to Congress

SNAC Bites, September 2019

Nine new bills impacting school nutrition programs were introduced in August 2019:

- Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) and Rep. DeSaulnier (D-CA) introduced [S. 1949](#) and [H.R. 3444](#), the *School Food Modernization Act*. This act would require the Secretary of Agriculture to make loan guarantees and grants to finance specific improvements to school lunch facilities and to train school foodservice personnel.
- Sen Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-OH) introduced [S.2026](#) and [H.R. 3562](#), the *Farm to School Act of 2019*. The bill expands participation in the Farm to School Grant Program to preschools, afterschool programs and summer food service sites, and increases annual mandatory funding from \$5 to \$15 million.
- Rep. Joseph Morelle (D-NY) introduced [H.R. 3667](#) , the *Summer Meals and Learning Act of 2019*. The bill would create a new federal grant program to allow schools operating a summer lunch program to keep their libraries open during the summer months. The bill appropriates \$5 million per year to fund the program through 2024.
- Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) introduced [H.R 4065](#), the *Food for Thought Act of 2019*. This bill would authorize Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to make grants available for community college campuses in order to establish a free meal program for eligible students, prepare and purchase meals from manufacturers and provide information to eligible students on federal food assistance programs through campus outreach.
- Sen. John Kennedy (R-LA) introduced [S.2359](#), a bill that amends the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, requiring the consideration of “non-income assets” in a household that qualifies for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) through broad-based categorical eligibility.
- Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) introduced [S.2331](#), the *Improve Training for School Food Service Workers Act of 2019* to address issues in training food service workers. This bill amends the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to clarify the availability and appropriateness of training for local food service personnel.
- Sen. Robert Casey (D-PA) introduced [S. 2358](#), the *Wise Investment in Children Act of 2019*, to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to increase the age of eligibility for children to receive benefits under the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children (WIC).

Summer Programs Teach Kids About Alaska-Grown Foods in Juneau

Photo and Excerpt from the *Juneau Empire* (Photo by Michael Penn)

Master gardener Joel Bos points out plants to Julie Leary, Harborview Connect! program supervisor, as Elyzsa Sapinoso waters plants with Jelena Lumba Cano and Emery Marte at Harborview Elementary School on Wednesday.

Full Article

<https://www.juneauempire.com/news/juneau-schools-summer-programs-teach-kids-about-alaska-grown-foods/>



Because You're Worth It

SNAC Bites, August 2019

Calling all SNA members who never stop learning! Mark your calendars: The School Nutrition Foundation's Professional Development and SNA Conference Scholarship application process opens on Sept. 1, 2019.

These scholarships enable curious members like yourself the opportunity to attend one of SNA's conferences or pursue education opportunities. If you or someone you know is interested in attending SNA's School Nutrition Industry Conference (SNIC) or the Legislative Action Conference (LAC), you can discover more by [checking out the SNF website](#). Interested in starting or continuing your education? SNF offers more than \$100,000 in professional development scholarships to eligible SNA members, too!

[Watch what these SNF scholarship winners](#) say about how winning a scholarship changed their lives and helped them both personally and professionally. The application process is simple, and you can start, save and return to your application until it is completed. Questions about the scholarships? Write to us at snf@schoolnutrition.org.

State Agency Update

Jo Dawson, MS, SNS

What a great summer it has been for the State Agency, do you know our summer meal programs served 24% more meals than last year? I am so impressed! We had two new districts start the Summer Food Service Program this year – thank you Chatham and Craig – approximately 1/3 of our districts are now providing summer meals at all or some of their sites. Summertime can be hard for our students who are food insecure, so these efforts are so appreciated. If you are interested in learning more about summer meal options, please let me know. We've been able to streamline some of the program for school districts and I'm hoping to support more changes this coming year.

By now, you should have seen that our CNP Web is morphing into the new and improved CNP Web. The changes should result in a stronger system with more flexibilities; that being said, we won't get through this without a few hiccups along the way. Please reach out to our staff if you have any questions, suggestions, or just need some assistance along the way. We're in this together!

Big news is that we received a waiver from USDA to allow us to extend the Administrative Review cycle from 3 years up to 5 years. This doesn't mean that it will definitely be 5 years between reviews as the cycle is very risk based so factors such as staff turnover, prior AR issues, training, etc. are all considered as we develop the schedule but it will provide some measure of relief and allow us to provide more technical assistance than we've been able to do since the 3 year AR was established in 2013.

That's it for now, as ever please feel free to contact us if you need anything, we're here to help you succeed

Share your success! Send articles, photos, success stories, and more to share with your colleagues working across the Great State to fuel our future. Email: news@aksna.org.