

MUSH-ON

Alaska School Nutrition Association

www.aksna.org



AKSNA Executive Board

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Adrienne.schwartz@juneauschools.org

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A Word From Our State President – Sandie Ponte

For those of you that don't know me, my name is Sandie Ponte and I am this year's President. I would like to welcome everyone back to a new school year. Fall is in the air, leaves are turning and there is a definite chill. I love this time of year, especially this year, being able to see all our students in person again, watching the kindergarteners with their huge eyes as they navigate the lunch line for the first time.

As School Nutrition professionals, we have always supported student success and learning by providing good, nutritious, healthy meals and snacks. This last year and a half we were called to do more than ever before. We rose to the challenge brought on by Covid-19 without pause. We adjusted everything from type of meal service and service times, to how we went about getting it done, short staffed and under supplied in many cases.

This year is starting off with many of it's own challenges. Staffing is still a major issue and supply chains are getting even worse. But we always get the job done, for our students. **You are all hero's in my eyes!**

Sandie Ponte, AKSNA President

Save the Date!!

The 54th AKSNA Conference will be held **January 25-26, 2022** with preconference sessions January 24, 2022.

The AKSNA Conference Committee has been hard at work planning the 2022 annual AKSNA conference for January 2022. We would like to hold the conference in-person this year; however, before making a decision on in-person or virtual, we would like to gather input from members to help us make the determination. Please take a moment to complete this survey to help guide the conference planning:

National School Lunch Week



Mark your calendar for National School Lunch Week—**October 15-19, 2021!** The #NSLW21 theme is **“Wild About School Lunch,”** which was designed to help students and school nutrition professionals connect and share what each loves most about school lunch with parents, school officials, the media and the general public. Start planning your celebration today—get started with the help of our resources

<https://schoolnutrition.org/meetings/events/nslw/2021/get-started/>

State Agency Updates

I'd like to start off by telling you all how much we appreciate the hard work you are doing across Alaska, I'm not sure any of us predicted where we would be this fall. We know that Alaskan schools are facing staff shortages and food cancellations and delays like we've never seen before. Please know that we are here to help support you in problem-solving issues. USDA has issued many waivers to support the flexibilities that school districts may need. USDA has issued more than one hundred waiver memos, so if you are trying to track one down, please see their COVID response page at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/fns-disaster-assistance/fns-responds-covid-19/child-nutrition-covid-19-waivers>.

Another resource available for you is the Wednesday roundtable we hold to discuss waivers, regulation changes, and other issues impacting school nutrition. It is a great opportunity to talk to peers from across the state.

October is coming, and this is a reminder that all schools and residential child care intuitions must complete the verification report, even if they do not traditionally receive applications for free or reduced-price meals.

AKSNA Executive Board (Continued)

RCCI Representative:

Noni Albino

noni@kpccc.org

Dates to Remember

AKSNA Annual Conference
Date: TBD

National School Lunch Week

October 11-15, 2021

This year's theme: WILD about School Lunch

Fall Virtual Industry Boot Camp - Level 1

November 8-10, 2021

Fall Virtual Industrial Boot Camp – Level 2

November 15-17

School Nutrition Industry Conference

San Antonio, Tx
January 16-18, 2022

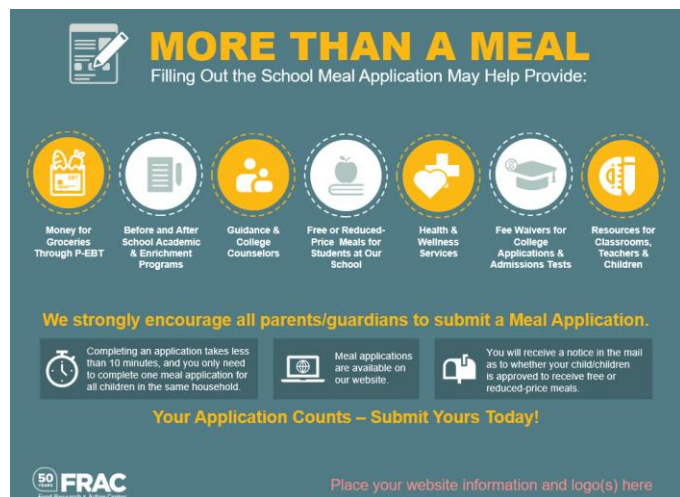
Upcoming Webinar

WEBINAR WEDNESDAYS®

Get WILD with Global Flavors!

September 29, 2021, 11:00 am AKDT

One last reminder, as our partners at the Department of Health & Social Services get ready issue the next round of P-EBT cards, those schools who do receive applications, please consider distributing the “More than a Meal” flyer found on our P-EBT webpage at <https://education.alaska.gov/cnp/pandemic-ebt>; as best we can encourage families to submit applications, the more prepared other programs are to support those families.



Jo Dawson, MS, SNS | Child Nutrition Program Manager



Annual AKSNA Membership Campaign

Greetings AK Food Service Professionals –

You have such an important job serving school meals to our nation’s children. By belonging to SNA, you are part of something bigger than just your school or district. You are joining the many committed members from across the country who are feeding the bodies and fueling the minds of future generations. You represent all the hungry children who eat at school and ***your voice matters.***

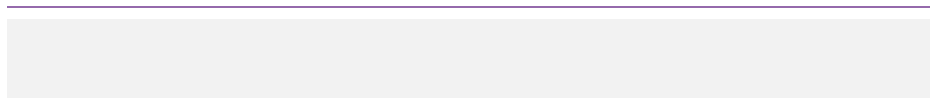
Also, by being a member of SNA, you get a support network of friends who understand the everyday challenges of the cafeteria and access to resources that help make your job easier. This includes a monthly magazine, professional development opportunities including free webinars and e-newsletters.

SNA’s all new monthly membership campaign is the perfect opportunity to show your support for school nutrition and earn the chance to win great prizes! We encourage you to recruit a new SNA member today.

This revamped approach to the Annual Membership Campaign will have 1 (one) randomly selected winner each month from August 2021 through May 2022*.

Examples of Monthly Campaign Prizes**

Free SNA Membership



Gift Card to SNA Shop
Free SNA Training Zone Class

- It's easy! Recruit at least 1 (one) new SNA member during a calendar month between August 1, 2021 and May 31, 2022 and you will automatically be entered into the random prize drawing for the month that you recruited.
- Be sure that the new member you recruit enters your name as the Referrer when joining SNA using the [print](#) or [online application](#). The new member must list you as the Referrer in order for it to count toward the monthly campaign prize drawing.
- Read the [Official Campaign Rules](#) for full details, monthly prize schedule and more.
- For more information or questions about the monthly membership campaign, contact us at membership@schoolnutrition.org
- * This prize drawing is not available in any state or local jurisdiction where prohibited or restricted by law.
** Prizes subject to change. See Official Campaign Rules for more details.

If you would like more information or have questions about becoming a SNA member, please contact me anytime or visit <https://schoolnutrition.org/membership/> to join/renew your membership.

Adrienne Schwartz
AKSNA Membership Chair
adrienne.schwartz@juneauschools.org
907-780-1989
907-209-3372

IN THE SPOTLIGHT!



On May 13, 2021 The Alaska Legislature Honored the Community, State Providers, & Staff of the Juneau School District Food Service Program for their collaborative efforts in sustaining the Juneau School District Food Service Program that fed thousands of students in spite of challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

See the attached letter for the “rest of the story”!

If your district has something exciting to share please email it to me at Debbie.soto@alaska.gov to be included in the next Mush On!

Nominate Your Choice for the Leadership Development Committee

Deadline: September 30, 2021

The leadership Development Committee is recruiting diverse, talented individuals for the following positions:

Board of Directors

- Vice President
- Secretary/Treasurer
- 2 Directors Positions
- School Nutrition Employee/Manager Rep

Leadership Development Committee

- West Region Representative (AK, CA, HI, ID, OR, WA)

Nominate yourself or someone else for up to two of the open positions. Visit the [SNA website](#) for more information.

For questions, please contact nominations@schoolnutrition.org



Q & A's with the USDA Team

September 30, 2021, 11:00am AKDT

Join SNA and the USDA team as they answer frequently asked questions to some of the key challenges operators are facing.

From procurement strategies due to supply chain disruptions to guidance for feeding virtual learners – you don't want to miss this!

This webinar is part of SNA's School Nutrition Supply Chain Series made possible with support from InTeam & Associates and Titan a LINQ solution.

<https://www.pathlms.com/sna/courses/34638/webinars/24069>