

MUSH-ON

October 2022



A Word from Our State President – Trevor Bridgewater



My name is Trevor Bridgewater and as your 2022 -2023 AKSNA President, I am looking forward to this opportunity to serve our association in this role. As we navigate the uncertainties in our programs due to supply chain and staffing challenges, our mission

remains the same. Advancing the quality of child nutrition programs in Alaska through education, advocacy, and engagement.

In 2008, I started in school nutrition in North Carolina with the attitude, “What’s so hard about feeding students?” Well, I was in for quite a ride. Between the low reimbursement rates, short lunch times, complex meal requirements, student preferences and parents demands it’s a wonder we are able to feed anyone. I have had the opportunity to experience school nutrition in different states and for districts with different needs. The one constant I have found in my journey has been the dedicated professionals that know students are able to achieve more when they have access to appealing nutritious meals. Being a member of AKSNA and SNA has given me the opportunity to learn from the very best in our industry. The support provided from other program operators and our state agency make the hoops we have to jump through a little easier. I have found resources through SNA and at our annual AKSNA conference extremely helpful in my professional growth and ability to help others in their careers. I am inspired by the dedication and strength I see throughout Alaska and my hope is that your membership with AKSNA allows you to continue to better serve your students and community. Thank you for all that you do!

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LEAd to Succeed – Communication for Impact



AKSNA is pleased to host the LEAd to Succeed Communication for Impact Series through a series of virtual and in-person trainings. We have two upcoming virtual events!

Getting Your Ideas Adopted (2-hour)

26 October 2022 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (AKDT)
Registration is FREE

Advanced Registration is required: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZltd-upqDopHdPal8JVI7wc-k3OcKOK1Wnk>

There are many steps between the initial proposal of an idea and getting organizational buy-in. This 2-hour training will guide participants through the “diffusion of innovations” framework. This framework is designed to help participants learn how to effectively give and receive ideas and feedback from their network, and to show how and whom participants should communicate with to get their ideas adopted.

You and Your Network (2-hour)

30 November 2022 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (AKST)
Registration is FREE

Advanced registration is required:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpcOyrrzMsGNBQa4Jn4AzZpxssSHWqPQCLTENTATIVE>
30 November 2022 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (AKST)

Networking and understanding the value someone brings to an organization are essential to advancing one’s professionalism. In this 2-hour training, participants will receive a tour of frameworks and tools to help them more effectively communicate who they are and the value they bring to their organizations. Topics such as nonverbal communication, defining “your personal brand,” and networking are just some of the tools that will help participants communicate the unique value they bring to their school nutrition organization.

Nutrition Standards & Education:
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Anchorage News:

- Anchorage's Central Kitchen has installed a Large TV in the break room that they use to Upcoming Student Nutrition Department news, inspirational quotes to encourage teamwork – which are also applicable to our personal lives, food safety & sanitation topics, introducing new employees and spotlighting one long time employee a month.
- The Student Nutrition Director position was vacated in September. Marci McGill who previously worked as the ASD Dietician has been hired to fill the role.
- Operations Supervisor Michele Powers retired in September after 25 years with the district. Senior Coordinator Mica Night was chosen to fill the position.
- After 15 years, Karen Richardson retired as the Central Kitchen Manager. Susan Sery who has been with Student Nutrition for 15 years has taken on the task of leading the team that prepares over 25,000 breakfast and lunches daily.
- AKSNA Past President, Tanya Dube, joined the ASD team in July as a Coordinator. In October she was promoted to Senior Coordinator.



SCHOOL
NUTRITION
ASSOCIATION

s n
e x p r e s s the latest news from
the school nutrition association

Dates & Deadlines

SNA Member Resources

November 4, 2022

[#ANC23 Call for Proposals Deadline](#)

November 15-17, 2022

[School Nutrition Virtual Boot Camp](#)

January 15-17, 2023

[School Nutrition Industry Conference](#)

Recruiting Video: School Nutrition Professionals Bring More to the Table

We know you're still struggling with staffing challenges. Let potential new hires know how meaning the work school nutrition professionals do can be with our recently developed video, "School Nutrition Professionals Bring More to the Table." Embed it on your website, link to it on social media, include it in your newsletters and show it at recruiting events! [Get the Video](#)

Find All Your Answers to Food Allergy Questions

Managing food allergies in school cafeterias can be vexing, but it's a vital part of running a safe school meals program. The Food Allergy Resource Center provides information on major allergens, offers links to important resources, offers up food allergy training on demand and more. There's even a place where you can submit your questions to a food allergy expert! [Visit the Resource Center](#)

AKSNA 55th Annual Conference (2023)



Registration opens November 1st, 2022, check the AKSNA web site for details!

Featured Speakers

DeWayne Rawls, Keynote Speaker



DeWayne Rawls is an award-winning southern gospel music recording artist, motivational speaker, and entertainer. DeWayne obtained his C.P.-F.S. registry (Certified Professional of Food Safety & Sanitation), through the National Environmental Health Association in 2011 and worked as a Health Inspector for a short time before returning to school food service in 2012.

DeWayne started working in school food service in 1999 at the young age of eighteen. He accepted what was supposed to be a temporary job to work his way

through school and obtain medical insurance, but soon the business of child nutrition and school food service became his passion.

His grandmother, who initially got him involved in school food service, was an area supervisor for Aldine ISD for 22 years when she convinced him to come work in one of her kitchens. After reluctantly accepting the offer, DeWayne eventually went on to become a cafeteria manager and after several years of working through multiple levels of child nutrition management, moving on to become an area supervisor and eventually taking on the role as the operations manager for the largest school district in the state of Texas, twenty-one years later, DeWayne is still passionate about feeding hungry children and serving the child nutrition industry.

Barry Sackin

Barry Sackin retired this year after 42 years in school nutrition, first as an operator and then as a policy expert and advocate. From 1997 to 2005 he was Vice President for Public Policy at the School Nutrition Association.

While on staff at SNA, he was part of a USDA taskforce, and then the Institute of Child Nutrition charged with drafting a comprehensive online procurement training program for state agency personnel. Barry was the principle author of the SNA White Paper – Solving the Procurement Puzzle, and has taught procurement at conferences and for state agencies around the country.

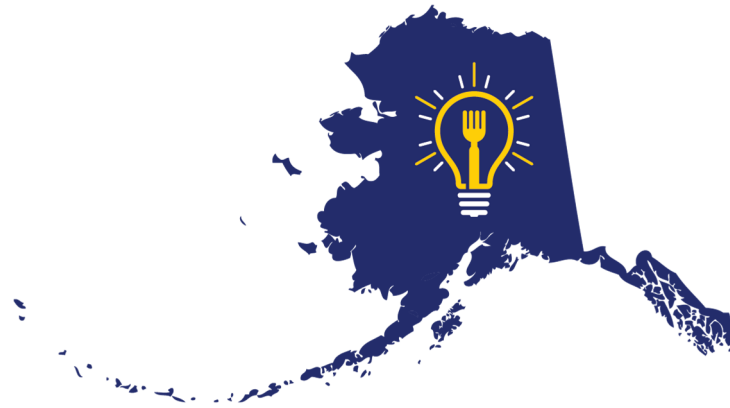


Barry is the author of more than 100 published articles and journal papers on the full range of programs and policies affecting school nutrition. He has presented at dozens of state, regional and national conferences. He was the recipient of the 2016 Silver Friend of Child Nutrition FAME Award.

Sandy Voss, LEAd to Succeed



Sandy Voss is the Director of Food & Nutrition Services for Arlington Heights School District 25 which is located about 15 miles outside of Chicago. The district serves approximately 5600 students in Kindergarten through 8th grades. Sandy has 16 years of experience as a Food & Nutrition Service Director and is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. Sandy also holds her School Nutrition Specialist credential and mostly recently completed schooling for her certification as a School Business Official. She is currently serving as Secretary/Treasurer for the Illinois School Nutrition Association and has also had the pleasure of serving in multiple volunteer positions with the School Nutrition Association as well as being a trainer for the Institute of Child Nutrition in the past.



Arctic School Food Service **Innovation Competition** Alaska School Nutrition Association

AKSNA is pleased to announce the first annual Arctic School Food Innovations Competition. The competition recognizes an individual in School Food Service that has contributed to an innovation that has expanded access to school meals, improved the quality or nutritional value of school meals, improved student and community relationships of the school meal program, improved logistical or financial support of school meals, and/or overcome another challenge to making, distributing, and serving school meals.

The winner will be selected and announced at the Award Banquet during the 55th Annual AKSNA Conference in Anchorage, Alaska, happening 24 – 26 January 2023.

The winner will be awarded travel and registration to the **SNA Annual National Conference in Denver, Colorado**, 9 – 11 July 2023.

To nominate, complete the nomination form at <https://aksna.org/arctic-school-food-service-competition/>

Award Details

The winner will attend the 2023 SNA Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado 9 – 11 July 2023. This includes:

- Conference registration
- Airfare from the winner's home city in Alaska to Denver, Colorado (round-trip, coach)
- Lodging at one of SNA's partner hotels
- A \$300 cash allowance for meals and ground transportation