



SNAC Bites

January 2017 Edition

Welcome to the January 2017 issue of SNA Communication (SNAC) Bites! SNAC Bites highlights new SNA programs and provides content for your state association publications, chapter meetings, & social media.

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1. Legislative Action Conference 2017 Registration is Open!

Now is the time to make plans to attend SNA's 2017 [Legislative Action Conference](#) (LAC)! Following an unprecedented election year, the conference will provide you with tools to steer your program and advocacy efforts in the new Congress and Administration. The program opens with the can't-miss Pre-Conference, [Advocacy in the New Congress](#), scheduled for Saturday, April 1. Presidential historian, Pulitzer Prize-winner and contributing editor at TIME, [Jon Meacham](#), will join attendees on Sunday, April 2 as keynote speaker! Be sure to visit [the conference webpage](#) for more details and to [register](#) for the conference.

2. New! SNA's First Virtual Expo

Have you heard the news? Registration is now open for SNA's first virtual expo! This FREE expo will be accessible from January 31 through April 30, 2017. Not only will attendees have the chance to visit 36 virtual exhibitors from the comfort of their own computer 24/7, they can also access education sessions to earn CEU's and network with colleagues and industry reps. Visiting the Expo also gives you a chance to win an ANC 2017 registration (full details and sweeps rules will be posted online). Learn more and register for the expo at: www.schoolnutrition.org/virtualexpo



3. Nominate Someone You Admire for an SNA Award

Are you inspired by your school nutrition colleagues, friends, and mentors? Nominate someone you admire for an SNA Award for the 2016-17 school year. Nominations for the Employee of the Year, Manager of the Year and Director of the Year awards are now being accepted online by SNA. Being nominated for an SNA Award is a great honor. All state, regional and national winners will be recognized at the Red Carpet Awards Ceremony at SNA's Annual National Conference 2017 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Who do you know who should be honored with a SNA award? To learn more and to submit your nomination online today, please visit www.schoolnutrition.org/SNAawards.

4. NEW! Scholarship Opportunities to Attend SNA National Conferences

In an ongoing effort to help members develop professionally, the School Nutrition Association (SNA) has donated money to the School Nutrition Foundation (SNF) this year to award scholarships to [help members attend SNA meetings](#), as well as [professional development scholarships](#) for them to continue their education and take college-level classes.

SNA Conference Scholarships will provide members with the opportunity to attend SNA's [2017 Legislative Action Conference](#) (LAC), [2017 Annual National Conference](#) (ANC), and 2018 School Nutrition Industry Conference (SNIC). Recipients of the scholarships will each receive \$1,500 to help cover the costs of registration, airfare, hotels and meals. To apply for the scholarship, individuals must be current School Nutrition Employee, Manager or Director members, who have been members of SNA for at least 2 years. State Agency and Industry members are not eligible.

Visit SNA's [Conference Scholarships](#) page for details and to submit your application online today!

5. It's a New Year to Earn New CEUs – Mark Your Calendar!

This New Year, hit the ground running on your education goals with SNA's Webinar Wednesdays! We have new webinars coming in February and March, including the "Best of #SNIC17" Webinar Series from three highly anticipated SNIC sessions. If you can't make it to SNIC this year, register for the upcoming webinar series to gain valuable information, CEUs, and much more!

- [2/8 – Best of #SNIC17 1 of 3: Fats in Vogue, Wheat Woes, Uh-oh GMOs \(Registration Opens 1/11\)](#)
- [2/22 – Blueberry Council Webinar \(Registration Opens 1/25\)](#)
- [3/8 – Best of #SNIC17 3 of 3 \(Registration Opens 2/8\)](#)

Click [here](#) to register and take advantage of these e-learning events! All webinars are held at 2pm Eastern Time (1pmCT/Noon MT/11am PT). Visit [SNA Webinars](#) for more information. Missed a recent webinar? Check out the [Webinars On-Demand](#) library and catch up on the hottest topics in school nutrition; available to SNA members 24/7.



6. Your Vote Counts! Meet the Candidates in the 2017 SNA Election

It's time to vote and elect the new members of the SNA Board of Directors and the Leadership Development Committee. Elect the leadership talent the Association needs to advance school nutrition programs in the future!

The SNA Election will take place over a two-week period in February 2017 (February 15-28) through a secure online voting website. In order to vote, you must have your SNA username and password available. You are eligible to vote if you are currently an active member and were a member in good standing on November 30, 2016. To meet the candidates and learn how to cast your vote, visit www.schoolnutrition.org/snaelection. The site will be updated with biographies and voting instructions in mid-January.

7. Mark Your Calendar: ANC 2017 Registration Opens February 8th!

Mark your calendar! Registration and housing for SNA's [Annual National Conference \(ANC\)](#) in Atlanta, Georgia on July 9-12 will open on February 8th. Just like last year, all attendees will be required to register for the conference before they are provided access to book their hotel room. This requirement was designed to help SNA better control the number of available rooms, ensuring more attendees will be able to have access to their first-choice hotels and preferred travel dates.

This year's General Session speakers include Captains Mark and Scott Kelly, twin brothers and NASA astronauts, and Derreck Kayongo, founder of the Global Soap Project and CEO of the National Center for Civil and Human Rights. [Click here](#) to learn more about the General Session speakers.

In addition to hot topics offered in education sessions and an exciting Exhibit Hall, the Barenaked Ladies (BNL) will be the entertainment at our Closing Event. BNL has been performing for nearly three decades, producing 14 studio albums which have collectively sold more than 14 million copies and earned multiple Grammy nominations, a U.S. chart-topping single ("One Week") and the theme song to one of TV's most popular shows, *The Big Bang Theory*. You'll be front and center for one of the most amazing – and FUN – concerts on the current rock circuit.

8. Achieve Your Educational Dreams with an SNF Scholarship!

The School Nutrition Foundation (SNF) is now accepting applications for the professional development scholarships! Professional Development scholarships help you achieve your educational dreams by offsetting the costs of books and tuition for SNA members pursuing a degree in a school nutrition-related program of study. To learn more and apply today, please visit: <https://schoolnutrition.org/EducationScholarships/>.

9. Highlights for SNIC 2017

The 2017 [School Nutrition Industry Conference \(SNIC\)](#) is taking place in Orlando, Florida on January 22-24 and currently is on track to set a record in attendance. Attendees of the conference will explore the theme, "imagination + knowledge = INNOVATION" and will have the opportunity to hear from General Session speakers Kai Kight – violinist and motivational speaker, Dr. Jim Painter – Food Trends Forecaster, Chef Sharon Schaefer, Cindy Long – Deputy Administrator for Child Nutrition at USDA's Food and Nutrition Service, and a panel of experts discussing Clean Label Trends.

10. "Fun Pun" Posters Now in the SNA Emporium





Since the launch of SNA's PR campaign, there has been a high demand to turn the [fun puns](#) into posters. Four of the designs have been converted to posters and are available for sale in the [SNA Emporium](#)! Perfect to spruce up the cafeteria for the new year.

In addition to these posters, there is also a new set of winter-themed shareable content items which can be downloaded and shared through [this webpage](#). To learn more about the PR campaign or to browse and download other pieces of content, click [here](#).

11. STEPS January Challenge: Changes for Success

Gear up for January's Challenge, *Changes for Success*, by taking baby steps to change your daily routine like bringing your own lunch instead of eating out or adding a couple extra glasses of water a day into your routine. 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!

12. Celebrating School Nutrition Heroes

Are you attending SNA's Legislative Action Conference (LAC)? If so, join us on Monday, April 3, 2017 to celebrate school nutrition heroes and to support the School Nutrition Foundation (SNF) as it provides education, research, and scholarships to help SNA members as they nourish America's school children. The five heroes for 2017 are:

- **David Schwake, MS, RD, SNS**, Food Service Director, Litchfield Elementary School District #79, Litchfield Park, AZ
- **Timikel Blakey Sharpe, MS**, Deputy Director of Food Service, Los Angeles Unified School District, Los Angeles, CA
- **Doreen Simonds**, Food Service Director, Waterford School District, Waterford, MI
- **Elizabeth Whidden**, Child Nutrition Program Manager, Hoover City Schools, Hoover, AL
- **Betti Wiggins**, Executive Director of Office of School Nutrition, Detroit Public Schools Community District, Detroit, MI

Consider getting a table of ten together to support one or more of the heroes being recognized. For information on tickets and tables, [click here](#). If you have any questions about the SNF or the celebration, contact Janet Hedrick at jhedrick@schoolnutrition.org.

13. Attend SNA National Leadership Conference as a Future Leader

Our state association has the opportunity to send up to 2 individuals to the [National Leadership Conference](#) on May 4-6, 2017 in Baltimore, Maryland as part of the [SNA Future Leaders Program](#). We are looking for SNA members who hold the SNA Certificate in School Nutrition or the SNS credential and who want to network with other emerging SNA stars from across the country, hone their leadership and communication skills, and learn from seasoned SNA leaders in a fun, refreshed, and interactive environment. Contact State President **NAME** at **CONTACT INFORMATION** for more information and to be considered for this opportunity.



14. Win a FREE Trip to 2017 LAC

SNA's annual [Legislative Action Conference Sweepstakes](#) is back! The winner will enjoy FREE registration for LAC 2017, flights, and accommodations for themselves and a guest, as well as be recognized during the Opening General Session. SNA will also reserve a VIP table for the winner and guest at the conference.

This year's contest is all about getting creative – something we know school nutrition professionals do every day. Send us a patriotic picture of yourself in a fun costume such as Rosie the Riveter or Uncle Sam! Send in your Federal Election, or Veterans Day themed photos, your USA themed menu items, and of course pictures of your elected officials touring a school cafeteria are always encouraged and welcomed. We want to show the world that school nutrition professionals make a difference by speaking up and participating in our Democracy.

Email your pictures to advocacy@schoolnutrition.org by February 15th, 2017. Read more details about the 2017 LAC Sweepstakes [here](#).

15. Join the Fight to Reduce Food Waste

Would you be interested in participating in a waste measurement study, if the work involved is minimal? Check out [this tool on reporting food waste](#)! Developed by the Environmental Research & Education Foundation (EREF), and in collaboration with the [School Nutrition Foundation](#) (SNF), the School Cafeteria Discards Assessment Project (SCrAP), aims to gather information regarding the quantity of waste generated in school cafeterias and obtain an understanding of how this waste is managed both at the school and after it is hauled away. Learn more about [how to sign up schools in SCrAP](#).