



SNAC Bites

March 2017 Edition

Welcome to the March 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. NEW! SNA Winter Update Video

Why read about all the exciting projects and initiatives underway at SNA when you can *see* and *hear* them instead? SNA has released its first video update to showcase the many ways that the Association is working to serve its members. Introduced by SNA President Dr. Becky Domokos-Bays, RD, SNS, the 2-minute video includes highlights about membership, Capitol Hill advocacy, the continuing development of fun public awareness tools, professional development initiatives, our first Virtual Expo and much more.

View the video here, and [share this link](#) with employees and colleagues to show them all the benefits of becoming an SNA member. SNA state affiliates will be receiving a copy to use on their own websites or share with attendees at upcoming meetings. Two more videos are planned for spring and summer.

2. Design Your ANC Education Schedule

Will it be "Take Charge of Your Charging Policy" or "Unscrambling Offer vs. Serve" or, perhaps, "Creating a Culture of Food Safety" or something else enticing? Will you focus on training your team, innovative menu planning, customer service, teamwork or another critical area of school nutrition operations? With more than 100 sessions on the agenda at SNA's Annual National Conference (ANC), how will you decide which ones to prioritize? Head online to www.schoolnutrition.org/anc to access a filter tool that will allow you to identify your options based on date, topic, target audience and Professional Standards key area and then customize your schedule accordingly. At ANC, you have the opportunity to earn more than 12 CEUs across all four key areas! You'll need to register to attend, of course--so start making your plans to take advantage of all the hot topics and cool connections that await in Atlanta in July. SchoolNutrition.org/ANC is your first stop.



3. SNA Announces 2017 Election Results

Members of the School Nutrition Association (SNA) have spoken, casting their ballots in the annual election for the Association's top leadership positions. The winning candidates for the Board of Directors will be installed this summer during SNA's Annual National Conference (ANC) in Atlanta, Georgia. The elected Leadership Development Committee members will serve a two-year term, beginning after the election on March 1. The Industry Advisory Council Chair will serve a two-year term beginning August 1.

SNA congratulates the following candidates for their election to the SNA Board of Directors, Leadership Development Committee and Industry Advisory Council, and thanks all the candidates for their enthusiasm and commitment to serve the national Association.

SNA Board of Directors

- **Midwest Regional Director:** Tamara Earl, SNS, Mason City Schools, Ohio
- **Midwest Regional Director:** Sandi Kramer, Yankton School District, South Dakota
- **Southwest Regional Director:** Monica Deines-Henderson, SNS, Falcon School District, Colorado
- **At Large Director:** Stephanie Dillard, SNS, Geneva County Schools, Alabama

SNA Leadership Development Committee

- **Northeast Region Representative:** Judy White, Wrentham Public Schools, Massachusetts
- **Northwest Region Representative:** Ariane Shanley, South Kitsap Schools, Washington
- **Southwest Region Representative:** Kevin Ponce, SNS, Oklahoma City Public Schools, Oklahoma

SNA Industry Advisory Council

- **Industry Advisory Council Chair:** Michael Miller, SMART Temps, Indiana

4. Don't Miss SNA's Virtual Expo Live Days

Don't miss your chance to chat with booth representatives from 11am – 3 pm ET on March 9 or April 6 in the Virtual Expo. Visiting the Expo also gives you a chance to win an ANC 2017 registration (full details and sweeps rules are posted online). Learn more and register for the expo through April 30, 2017, at:

www.schoolnutrition.org/virtualexpo

5. 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/>.



6. SNA March Webinars: A Slam Dunk!

It's March Madness with 5 NEW Webinars from SNA! Take advantage of the many opportunities to earn CEUs on hot training topics this month. See below to register and for a detailed list of this month's webinars.

- **Wed, March 8th at 2pm EST** – [Best of #SNIC17 2 of 4: Clean, Processed and Natural... OH MY!](#)
- **Wed, March 15th at 2pm EST** – [Food Allergy: Discussing the Science Behind the Facts](#)
- **Wed, March 21st at 2pm EST** – [2017 SNA Position Paper, What you need to know!](#)
- **Wed, March 22nd at 2pm EST** – [Schools as Nutrition Hubs: The Business Savvy Strategy to Reduce Childhood Hunger](#)
- **Wed, March 29th at 2pm EST** – [Buy American Act](#)

Click [here](#) to register! 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.

7. SNA Releases 2017 Position Paper

The School Nutrition Association (SNA) has released its [2017 Position Paper](#), which outlines legislative priorities that urge Congress to protect and strengthen school meal programs. SNA forcefully opposed last year's House-proposed school meal block grant pilot and is again taking a firm stand in opposition to any effort to dismantle federal school meal programs. SNA also calls for greater support to preserve the financial stability of school meal programs in the next Farm Bill by providing 6 cents in USDA Foods for every school breakfast served.

To help ease menu planning challenges and appeal to diverse student tastes, SNA requests maintaining Target 1 sodium levels and restoring the initial requirement that at least half of grains offered through school meals be whole grain rich. SNA also calls for an independent study of the federal child nutrition programs to identify steps to reduce regulatory and administrative complexities. SNA's 2017 Position Paper will be the focus of SNA's 45th annual [Legislative Action Conference \(LAC\)](#), which runs from April 2-4, 2017 in Washington, D.C.

8. Attend ANC 2017 with a First-Timer Scholarship!

The ANC First-Timer Scholarship provides recipients with \$500 to cover registration and travel expenses associated with attending SNA's [Annual National Conference \(ANC\)](#) in Atlanta, Georgia, July 9-12, 2017. District directors, who are active SNA members and are registered to attend ANC 2017, may nominate one member of their staff for this scholarship. The staff member must be an active SNA member in the employee or manager category who has never attended ANC. To learn more, visit our [ANC First-Timer Scholarship](#) page. Scholarships are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, so encourage your director to nominate you today!



9. Celebrate School Lunch Hero Day | May 5, 2017

May 5, 2017 marks the fifth annual [School Lunch Hero Day \(SLHD\)](#). School officials, students and parents from all over the country will recognize the hardworking professionals in school cafeterias. Find way to [recognize](#) your heroes from the gift of membership to an employee lunch or shop: the [SNA Emporium](#) for official School Lunch Hero Day merchandise including posters, aprons and bookmarks

Also watch out for new SLHD related sharable social media content on SNA's Facebook page in the lead up to School Lunch Hero Day!

10. Don't Forget to Register for SNA's Legislative Action Conference!

Be sure to [register for SNA's Legislative Action Conference \(LAC\)](#), which will run from April 2-4, 2017 at the JW Marriott in Washington, D.C. The conference gathers school nutrition professionals from across the country to share their stories and learn valuable advocacy skills. This year's LAC will feature a "Fireside Chat with Washington Insiders". This talk-show style session provides insight from panelists including former Secretary of Agriculture, Dan Glickman, and Senior Vice President of the Bipartisan Policy Center, William Hoagland.

There will be educational sessions on topics like Successful State Lobbying Strategies, Hot Topics in School Nutrition, and Recruit and Retain School Nutrition Young Professionals. On the last day of the conference, attendees "Charge the Hill" in order to put their advocacy to the test and speak out about school nutrition issues. Visit the [conference webpage](#) for more details to [register](#) for the conference.

11. STEPS March Challenge: Start Right with Breakfast

This March, the STEPS Challenge is focused on breakfast. Start your day with a healthy breakfast that includes whole grains or fruit, in honor of National School Breakfast Week! 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. USDA Releases Memo Outlining Flexibility for Target 2 Sodium Requirements for 2017-18

On January 6, 2017, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released a memo, [SP 15-2017](#), to regional and state directors regarding flexibility for the Target 2 sodium requirements for School Year 2017-18. As you may know, Target 2 sodium requirements are scheduled to take effect on July 1, 2017. To help address some challenges with meeting Target 2 reduction, USDA is offering some flexibility. School food authorities (SFAs) are expected to comply, however if SFAs that are working toward compliance, but not fully in compliance will NOT incur fiscal action during administrative reviews.

During the period of flexibility, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) plans to continue to gather ongoing challenges in order to develop technical assistance. Review the memo [SP 15-2017](#) for further guidance.



13. Recruit this Spring for a Chance to be an SNA VIP!

We have the opportunity to [win big this spring](#) and boost our membership to strengthen our association! Our mission is to recruit as many new members and retain as many current members as possible to meet or exceed our 3% membership growth goal. Our state association could be the Membership Division Champion!

Plus, if YOU recruit members, you can win, too! If you bring in 5 or more new members to SNA this year through the Annual Membership Campaign, you will be entered in a raffle to win 1 of 5 VIP registrations to ANC 2018 in Las Vegas! For more information about the Annual Membership Campaign and how you can win big by recruiting, visit: <https://schoolnutrition.org/vegas/>.

14. 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.