



SNAC Bites – December 2015

Welcome to the December 2015 issue of SNA Communication (SNAC) Bites! SNAC Bites highlights new SNA programs and provides content for your state association publications, chapter meetings, and social media.

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1. Don't Miss SNIC 2016! Regular Rate Registration Extended to Dec 15

The Regular Registration Rate for SNA's [School Nutrition Industry Conference](#) (SNIC) has been extended until December 15, 2015. The conference is just a little over a month away (January 17-19) in sunny San Diego—and we don't want you to miss it!

Begin your professional development a day early, by registering for one of two free [bonus sessions](#)—**USDA Foods – Reaching Out to Stakeholders for Solutions** or **Business Ethics: From Theory to Practice**. All of SNIC's [education sessions](#) will build on the conference theme, “Building Practical Solutions for School Nutrition” and will provide you with tangible skills and take-aways that you can utilize immediately.

SNIC is the perfect way to start the New Year and design your master plan for school nutrition success! Visit www.schoolnutrition.org/SNIC to register today. See you in San Diego!

2. Get Ready for the SNA Election- Your Voice Matters!

The SNA election is right around the corner- are you ready to participate? The SNA Board of Directors and SNA Leadership Development Committee election will take place over a two-week period in February 2016 (February 15-29) through a secure online voting website. To be eligible to vote, you must have been a member in good standing as of May 31, 2015.

To learn about the candidates, please visit www.schoolnutrition.org/SNAelection. To create an online account with SNA, please visit www.schoolnutrition.org and click on the red **Login to My Account** button. From there, click on **Member Registration** and provide your information. For assistance, please contact the SNA Service Center at ServiceCenter@schoolnutrition.org or (800) 877-8822



3. Earn One More CEU before the New Year

SNA will host one more Webinar Wednesday opportunity in 2015 on Wednesday, December 9 at 2pm Eastern Time: [Media 101: Best Ways to Work with the Media](#). Participate in this webinar to learn great tips and earn one more CEU before the calendar year is up!

Check back at schoolnutrition.org/Webinars after the New Year to find out what learning opportunities are in store for 2016! All webinars are held at 2pm Eastern Time (1pmCT/Noon MT/11am PT).

4. 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 2015-16 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 2016 in San Antonio, Texas.

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.

5. LAST CHANCE: Promote Your Program and Enter to Win a Trip to LAC 2016

SNA is pleased to see so many members inviting their Members of Congress to visit their cafeterias, which is one of the best ways to promote school nutrition programs. As an incentive, SNA is hosting the **Cafeteria Site Visit Sweepstakes** that will award one randomly-selected member with a trip for two to the [2016 Legislative Action Conference](#) (LAC) in Washington, D.C. LAC 2016 will be an exciting conference as attendees "Charge the Hill" to continue the education of Congressional members and staff on the importance of feeding America's children.

To enter the Cafeteria Site Visit Sweepstakes, simply invite a Member of the U.S. Senate or House of Representatives to your school and provide proof of the invitation or visit (email, photos, video, news stories, etc.) to SNA's Government Affairs & Media Relations team at advocacy@schoolnutrition.org or fax it to (301) 686-3115 by **December 31, 2015**. We will accept all invitations dated back to July 1, 2015. You must be an SNA member to enter. View the [Sweepstakes Rules](#) for more information.

6. Wake Up to School Breakfast during NSBW 2016!

National School Breakfast Week (NSBW) 2016 will take place March 7-11, 2016. Use the 2016 NSBW theme "Wake Up to School Breakfast" to spread the message to administrators, parents, and students that a healthy school breakfast brings a sunny start to the day for students. Visit www.schoolnutrition.org/nsbw to download SNA's resources and celebration tips to get started today.

7. STEPS December Challenge: Make Time for Meditation

This December, the STEPS Challenge is all about relaxing your mind and body during this stressful season. All month long, make an effort to find a quiet place and a few minutes to be peaceful, breathe deeply and find your sense of calm. 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!



8. Win an Oven *and* an ANC 2016 Scholarship from Baxter!

The Baxter Equipment for Education Grant will award one school district with One (1) OV310 Mini Rotating Rack Convection Oven and \$500 for the winning school district director to offset costs to attend [Annual National Conference \(ANC\)](#) in San Antonio, July 10-13, 2016.

The online grant application is now open, but only the first 50 submitted applications will be considered- so apply as soon as possible.! To learn more about the Baxter Equipment for Education Grant and apply, [click here](#).

9. 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 April 21-23, 2016 in Minneapolis, Minnesota 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.

10. Achieve Your Education Dreams with an SNF Scholarship

The School Nutrition Foundation will offer multiple scholarships in 2016 to SNA members who would like to achieve their education dreams by pursuing a degree program at a vocational/technical, undergraduate, graduate or post-graduate level. Professional Development scholarships provide SNA members with funding for tuition and books for the following school year.

SNF will begin accepting online applications in January 2016. To find more detailed information and to download the Application Preparation Worksheet to start getting your application ready, please [click here](#).

11. Win 10 Pieces of Equipment for Your School District from Winston Industries

Through a competitive grant process, the Winston Industries Equipment Grant provides 10 pieces of equipment from Winston Industries to one school district in need of improving its school meal kitchen facilities. Winston Industries works closely with the grant winner to determine its needs and help make final selections, as well as arrange delivery of the equipment to the district.

To apply, you must:

- Be an active SNA director-level member, who has been a member of SNA for at least one year
- Be the person responsible for directing the school nutrition program of the school district

The Winston Equipment Grant will open for online applications on Tuesday, January 5, 2016. Only the first 50 applications will be accepted. To start preparing your application, download the [Application Preparation Worksheet](#). Responses may be copied and pasted from the worksheet into the online application.

12. Thanks for Giving on #GivingTuesday!

Thank you to all who contributed to the School Nutrition Foundation on Giving Tuesday, December 1, 2015. Considering the total for January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014 was \$26,519, this one day represents about 18% of that total for one year. On Giving Tuesday, SNF received 36 contributions totaling \$4,680. Thank you! If you have not made a contribution for the 2015 Annual Fund, it's not too late. [Click here](#) to make a contribution online. Be sure and make your contribution before midnight on 12/31/2015 to support the 2015 Annual Fund.



13. Support the Foundation for a Chance at VIP Status

The State Competition for Highest Percentage Participation in the 2015 Annual Fund ends on December 31, 2015. The competition is close as we go into the last few weeks of the year. The “Giving State Champion” (one in each of the three SNA membership divisions) with the highest percentage participation in giving to the Annual Fund in 2015 will win two reserved seats for the ANC Entertainment in San Antonio in 2016.

For your chance to win, contribute at least \$10 to the 2015 SNF Annual Fund by midnight on 12/31/2015 and become a part of the *2015 Individual Giving Campaign: Lighting the Way*. By donating, you help “Light the Way” to professional development, research to support “best practices”, and scholarships for SNA members. [Click here](#) to give online.

*We hope SNAC Bites is a helpful tool for you as a state leader.
For questions or feedback, contact StateSupport@schoolnutrition.org.*