



SNAC Bites – February 2016

Welcome to the February 2016 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. SNA 2016 Election!

The 2016 election will take place over a two week period in February, beginning February 15 and closing February 29. This new election schedule is part of the governance changes approved by the House of Delegates last July at ANC. Candidates elected in February will be installed at the ANC General Session installation ceremony each year.

The biographies and photos for 2016 candidates for the Board of Directors and the Leadership Development Committee (formerly the Nominating Committee) are posted on the SNA website. A list of the candidates is on the Election page of the website at www.schoolnutrition.org/SNAelection. The election will again be conducted through the same secure online voting process through SNA's website. Make casting your vote a top priority to elect the leadership talent needed to lead SNA into the future!

2. Don't Forget to Register for the 2016 Legislative Action Conference!

There's still time to make plans to attend SNA's 2016 [Legislative Action Conference!](#) With Child Nutrition Reauthorization underway, your participation in shaping school meal legislation is critical. Learn the latest on school meal policy, gain tips and techniques to advocate for your program, and hit the Hill with your fellow colleagues! Special events and features include the can't-miss Pre-Conference, [Congress: Politics, Procedures and Power](#) scheduled for February 27th at 1:00 pm. Top Congressional analyst and scholar, Walter Oleszek, will provide attendees with a behind-the-scenes look at the inner workings of the House and Senate.

Other highlights of the conference program include, keynote speaker, [Amy Walter](#), the national editor of the Cook Political Report and the former political director of ABC News. Amy Walter will provide her insights on the upcoming 2016 Presidential Election and an overview of the potential impact on the 115th Congress in 2017. And there to provide you with some political comedy relief, the [Capitol Steps](#) will be making an appearance!

Be sure to visit [SNA's website](#) for more details and to register for the conference!



3. New Webinars for the New Year

SNA has been busy developing a full schedule of new webinars. We have a host of relevant topics coming up that you won't want to miss. Register now to take advantage of these webinars and earn CEUs. Participation in Webinar Wednesdays will help you earn CEUs toward your USDA Professional Standards annual training requirements, along with your SNA Certificate or SNS Credential. Register today for these SNA upcoming webinars:

- Wed, February 9, 2016: [Best of School Nutrition Industry Conference \(#SNIC16\) Series: 1 of 3](#)
- Wed, February 17, 2016: [Blueberries: Nutrition, Benefits, Recipe Ideas and Food Pairings](#)
- Tue, February 23, 2016: [Welcome Webinar for New Members](#)
- Wed, February 24, 2016: [Managing Food Allergies](#)

All webinars are held at 2pm Eastern Time (1pmCT/Noon MT/11am PT). For more information and to access the webinar archive, please visit schoolnutrition.org/Webinars.

4. New Resources for Professional Standards:

Got questions about professional standards? Visit www.schoolnutrition.org/professionalstandards—SNA's main hub for professional standards information—and download the newly released *USDA Guide to Professional Standards for School Nutrition Programs*. The Guide provides detailed information on Job Categories, Training Standards, Hiring Standards and State Agency Standards.

SNA members are encouraged to pay special attention to:

Page 3: USDA suggests at least 15 minutes per training segment

Page 7: New detailed record keeping requirements

Pages 8-10: Concrete examples for how to achieve annual training hours for professional standards

Page 16: Glossary

Additionally, SNA's [professional standards hub](#) is where SNA members can access members-only tracking tools, FAQs and user-friendly summaries. For questions, please email SNA at education@schoolnutrition.org.

5. ANC 2016 San Antonio, TX:

SNA's 70th Annual National Conference (ANC) will be held July 10-13, 2016! Join more than 6,000 attendees, including school nutrition professionals, industry members and allied organization representatives at the school nutrition event of the year. Come prepared for fun, educational and thought-provoking experience in beautiful San Antonio, Texas!

Registration will open the third week of February. For more information click here: [ANC 2016 San Antonio](#)

6. Win a Free Registration to ANC 2016!

We want to hear from you! Tell us how SNA's Annual National Conference helps you LEARN, LEAD and SUCCEED in 100 characters or less. Three winners, drawn at random, will win free registration to ANC 2016 in San Antonio, Texas! Enter [HERE](#). Sweepstakes ends **March 31, 2016**.

7. There's Still Time to Nominate Someone You Admire for an SNA Award:

Are you inspired by your school nutrition colleagues, friends, and mentors? Nominate someone you admire for Employee of the Year, Manager of the Year or Director of the Year award. 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. **Nominations are due online by March 1, 2016** (unless otherwise noted by your state). To learn more and to submit your nomination online today,



please visit www.schoolnutrition.org/SNAawards. For questions, please contact StateSupport@schoolnutrition.org.

8. Celebrate National School Breakfast Week:

It's almost that time of year again; to kick off National School Breakfast Week starting March 7th. This year's theme, "Wake Up to School Breakfast" reminds us that school breakfast provides a healthy and energizing start to the day. Resources to help you activate this campaign can be downloaded [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. Scholarships: Now Accepting Online Applications:

The Deadline for applications for SNF Professional Development Scholarships is April 4, 2016. Don't procrastinate! You have only eight weeks left to apply for funding for tuition and books in 2016 – 17 (beginning June 1, 2016). For more information, [click here](#).

11. STEPS February Challenge: Spread Some Love

This February, the STEPS Challenge is focusing on spreading good feelings all around you. Do something nice, call an old friend, write a card for a co-worker or cook dinner for your spouse. When you do nice things for other, you feel better about yourself! 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. Senate Child Nutrition Reauthorization Bill Released:

On Tuesday, January 19th the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry released *The Improving Child Nutrition Integrity and Access Act of 2016*, legislation to reauthorize the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act.

[Click here](#) to download the complete bill text.

[Click here](#) to download a section by section, detailing the bill's provisions.

[Click here](#) to read the SNA Press Release.

On January 15th, SNA announced details of the bill's [agreement on nutrition standards](#) for school meals.

The School Nutrition Association greatly appreciates the leadership of the Senate Agriculture Committee in crafting a bipartisan reauthorization bill that offers practical solutions for school meal programs and the students they serve," said SNA President Jean Ronnei, SNS.

13. Celebrating School Nutrition Heroes:

If you are attending LAC, be sure and get a ticket for the Celebration of School Nutrition Heroes to be held on Monday, February 29, 2016. You may even want to get a table together to support one or more of the heroes being recognized that evening. For information on tickets and tables, [click here](#). The five heroes are:

- **Chris Burkhardt, SNS**, Director of Child Nutrition and Wellness (Lakota Local School District, Liberty Township, OH)
- **Sandra Hearn**, Cafeteria Manager (Vicksburg Warren School District), Vicksburg, MS



- **Jody Houston, SNS**, Food Services Director (Corpus Christi Independent School District), Corpus Christi, TX
- **Samantha Ingram**, Samson Elementary Child Nutrition Manager (Geneva County Schools), Samson, AL
- **Suellen Smith**, Zephyrhills (Pasco County) High School Cafeteria Manager, Zephyrhills, FL

The evening will celebrate school nutrition heroes and will support the School Nutrition Foundation as it provides education, research, and scholarships to assist SNA members as they nourish America's school children. If you have any questions about the School Nutrition Foundation or the Celebration of School Nutrition Heroes, please contact Janet Hedrick at jhedrick@schoolnutrition.org.

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