



MUSH ON NEWS

Letter from our President

Special Interest Articles:

- Letter from our new President.
- A Glimpse of the Southeast Island S.D..
- Member Awards & Accomplishments
- * LAC Update

Message From Dean Hamburg-SNS-President- Alaska School Nutrition Association:

Congratulations to all AKSNA members, in your successful participation with AKSNA activities. Our numbers have reached a level of 104 active AKSNA members across the Great-Land of Alaska, all serving our most precious persons—Alaska students!

Your active membership in AKSNA serves as a significant resource for success in meeting the challenges of school meal program operations across all of Alaska.

A majority of AKSNA members took advantage of the AKSNA & State Agency inspiration and education provided at the Annual Conference in January. Thank you to all who participated in this productive event.

Your AKSNA Board of Directors has been making remarkable efforts in supporting continued education of members, managing

association finances, representing Alaska at all national SNA events, and networking with all members for meal program success.

The AKSNA opportunities ahead include: Working with the United States Congress and the Alaska State Legislature for improved meal program support, helping AKSNA members take advantage of continued education, and recognizing the outstanding contributions that AKSNA members provide in service to Alaska children.

I invite you to increase your involvement with AKSNA by joining one of our several committees, sharing your stories of program success, or simply developing professional relationships with Alaskans who share the same joy of service to students that you experience day to day in the last frontier.

Our New AKSNA Executive Board

President

Dean Hamburg

Secretary

Suasan Hansen

Treasurer

Nancy Huff

Nominating Chair

Sue Smith

Public Policy & Legislation

Amy Rouse

Resolutions & By-Laws

Bob Eason

Education & Nutrition

Huitt Taylor

President Elect

Chris Johnson CDM,CFPP

Mush On News Editor

Judie Kotongan

Member Services

Diane Buchanan

Coordinator of Child Nutrition Programs

Stacy Goade

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Greetings to All



Food Service at Southeast Island School District is still going strong.

Like Postmen down in the lower 48, weather doesn't stop us from getting food to our schools.

Everyone helps unload even when it's snowing in Port Alexander.

They have no roads and we fly in.

In Port Protection, we go in by boat. Here is a picture of one of the students' going home from school.

There is also a picture of the ice we had to go through and the GPS that guided us through the narrow passageway to get there.

It's been fun this winter...

How is it going with you?

Let us hear from you.

Keep up the good work!!!

Your food service friend from the "Far South of the Deep North."

Nancy Huff

Southeast Island School District

Thorne Bay, AK

Prince of Wales Island.



Unloading Lunch



GPS 8 ft Depth



Going Home from School



Breaking through the Ice



Congratulations Huitte

I received today my Level 3 certification from SNA. I am the legislative network coordinator for the Alaska Dietetic Association, and I will be representing the State of Alaska in Washington, DC on April 23-25, 2007. The American Dietetic Association will be asking congress on three things: 1. ADA will ask Congress to create a National Institute for Food and Agriculture; 2. With a focus on the nutritional status of all Americans, ADA will call for reforms to the process of creating the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and 3. ADA recommends food assistance should cover and create incentives for purchases consistent with the Dietary Guidelines, so beneficiaries can make dietary choices that will keep them healthier for life.

The governor signed a proclamation for the state of Alaska declaring March as National Nutrition Month.



Congratulations to these Members for their Outstanding Accomplishments

Recently Certified members include

HUITTE TAYLOR, DIANE BUCHANAN AND NANCY HUFF.

Congratulations on continued education success.

ALASKA State Winner for OUTSTANDING PROGRAM DIRECTOR of the year

is Judie Kotongan. Her highest quality of professional service to Alaska Students in her role as Program Director for the Bering Strait School District is truly an OUTSTANDING example of successful program leadership. The School Nutrition Association (SNA) has accepted the application of Judie Kotongan for consideration as Outstanding Director of the year at a national level.

Congratulations Judie!

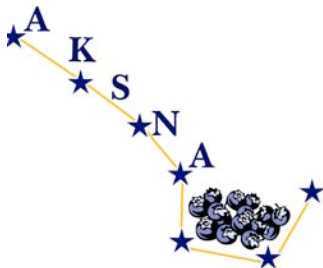
Alaska State Winner of the School Nutrition Association- HEART OF THE PROGRAM AWARD

is Diane Buchanan, who serves as an AKSNA Member with the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. Her dedicated role as a supporting staff member in nutrition service to students, and heart felt efforts for AKSNA activities has earned her this special recognition. The School Nutrition Association (SNA) has accepted the application of Diane Buchanan for consideration as HEART OF THE PROGRAM winner of the year at a national level.

Congratulations Diane!



Alaska School Nutrition Association



LAC - What an Experience !!

It began on March 4, 2007. What you ask? The School Nutrition Association's annual Legislative Action Conference. Dean Hamburg and I began with a Northwest regional meeting to discuss what we should expect during the conference and on Capitol Hill. The rest of the day was spent meeting people and learning about the legislative process. Think of high school civics class and you have some idea - what a bill is, the process of a bill to a law, etc. A nice refresher when you think about it. A great speaker, Charlie Cook and a brief overview of the SNA legislative paper finished the day. On Monday, we heard from several legislative aides and USDA about the Farm Bill. This provides an opportunity to obtain the funding for the elimination of the reduced price pilot. The rest of the day was spent reviewing the SNA legislative paper and "planning" for our day on the Hill (as those in D.C. call it). On Tuesday, Dean and I finally got through security and found our way from the House Rayburn office building to the Senate Hart office building. We attended a Senate hearing where SNA's president Janey Thorton and Des Moines, IA director Teresa Nece spoke before the Senate Committee about consistent nutrition standards, elimination of the reduced price meal

pilot, .10 commodity allocation for each breakfast served, and the fruit and vegetable program. We had to leave early so we could meet with Senator Ted Stevens' aide Liz Connell. After that we hurried back to the Rayburn building to meet with Congressman Don Young's aide Pamela Day. Congressman Young joined us and his wife took us to lunch!!! What a great experience. Dean and I finished our day by meeting with Senator Murkowski and two of her aides, Danielle Gorash Holland, and Isaac Edwards. Everyone was interested in our message and the issues - consistent nutrition standards, elimination of the reduced price pilot, .10 commodity allocation for each breakfast served, and the fruit and vegetable program. As always, money is tight and so no one made a commitment one way or the other. Some of our industry partners attended meetings with us and we would like to thank them for their support - Bonnie Conger (Schwan's Foodservice), Troy Schmidt (ConAgra), Tim Franson (encore Sales), and Ryan Richardson (Trident Seafoods). We also need to thank Lincoln Pierce (SNA Northwest Region PP&L) for his support.

What a great experience. I cannot wait until next year!!

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.aksna.org

Deans LAC Comments

It was a privilege to serve as Amy's LAC partner as your AKSNA played a special role in this very action oriented conference. We both attended all the meetings and preparatory sessions that provided us the tools for representing Alaska school nutrition issues on our nations capitol hill.

Please go to the SNA site www.schoolnutrition.org and search out the LAC information that includes the issue paper, and vital topics that were addressed at this conference.

This year's LAC included about 600 SNA members made up of program directors, online-staff, state agency staff and industry representatives.

Your SNA board of directors, led by SNA President Janey Thorton performed marvelously in organizing the conference, presenting issues clearly, and speaking before Senate committee panel.

You can be very proud to be part of SNA, as an organization that is spectacularly effective in getting the opportunity to clearly deliver messages concerning the nutrition needs of

Americas children to congress.

As AKSNA, we have a unique position in national school lunch/breakfast history, as our own Senator Lisa Murkowski is very active in a focus on issues involving foods served in our nations schools, both in school meal programs and outside of meal program operations.

It was my privilege to introduce Senator Murkowski as a speaker to LAC attendees at the LAC closing general session on Wednesday March 7th. Senator Murkowski shared her thoughts and concerns about those foods served outside school meal programs and thanked SNA members for their efforts with Wellness program practices.

SNA now looks to your AKSNA as a vital participant in communicating school nutrition issues and ideas to the Alaska congressional delegation and all members of the United States Congress.

Please be ready to play your part in the process.