
March 2017

MUSH-ON

Alaska School Nutrition Association

www.aksna.org



Message from President Tanya Dube

Dear Members:

I want to thank all of you that were able to join us at our annual conference last month in Anchorage. It was great to visit with so many of you and I look forward to serving you as the new president of AKSNA.

During the conference we elected a new president-elect, congratulations Jo Dawson! Jo has served on the AKSNA board for over five years and will be an inspiring leader in our association. Carlee Johnson has transitioned into her role as past-president. She has been dedicated to AKSNA and faithfully served the board for several years as well. She will now head up both the nominating and by-laws committees. We also welcomed Adrienne Schwartz from the Juneau School District as our new membership chair. Welcome Adrienne, your enthusiasm is a welcome addition to our association.

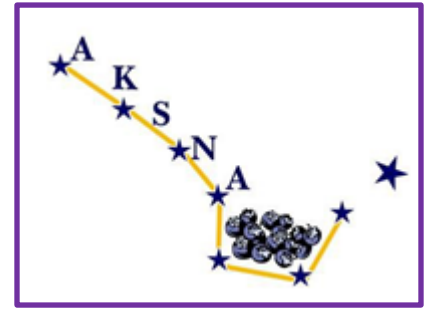
With our new board in place it's time to get back to basics and refocus the direction of AKSNA. We will be meeting over spring break to review our by-laws, develop a state plan of action, work on our legislative position paper, and collaborate on other association business. I will update you on our progress in April.

The days are getting longer and the weather is getting warmer. Be sure to make some time for yourself and get out and enjoy your surroundings! If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about AKSNA please don't hesitate to contact me at: tdube@bbbsd.net.

Warmest regards,



Tanya Dube, AKSNA President



AKSNA Executive Board

President:

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President-Elect:

Josephine Dawson
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Past President:

Carlee Johnson
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Treasurer:

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Nutrition Standards & Education:

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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 (10 am Alaska Time). 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.

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!

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,

[AKSNA Executive Board](#) [\(Continued\)](#)

State Farm to School

Representative:

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Marketing Chair:

September Horton
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Member at Large:

Geno Ceccarelli
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RCCI Representative:

Vacant

[Dates to Remember](#)

May 5, 2017

School Lunch Hero Day

July 9-12, 2017

Annual National Conference

[Upcoming Webinar Wednesdays](#)

March 8, 2017- Clean, Processed and Natural, OH MY!!

March 15, 2017- Food Allergy: Discussing the Science Behind the Facts

March 21, 2017- SNA Position Paper, What YOU Need to Know

March 22, 2017- Schools as Nutrition Hubs

March 29, 2017- Buy American Act

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.

Smarter Lunchroom Techniques Training in May

Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) is offering a one-day intensive training on Smarter Lunchroom Techniques. Smarter Lunchrooms uses research-based behavioral economic interventions to create sustainable lunchrooms that guide smarter student choices, thus improving the health of children. Mini-grants, ongoing training and technical assistance will be available for implementation projects through CNP's 2015 Team Nutrition Grant. Please contact Debbie Soto for a registration form at 907-465-3316 or Debbie.soto@alaska.gov.

Travel scholarships are available upon request on a first-come, first-serve basis.

AKSNA Membership

Thank you for your continued support to the School Nutrition Association and your commitment to feeding our nation's children each day. Our current AKSNA membership includes 164 active members, 31 renewing members, and 87 members are in their grace period.

Is it time to renew your membership?

If you are not sure, or need assistance renewing your membership, please contact AKSNA membership chair, Adrienne Schwartz, at 907-796-5384 or 907-209-3372. You can also log into MySNA at <https://schoolnutrition.org/> to renew online and update your contact information. For assistance please call 301-686-3100 or membership@schoolnutrition.org

We need your help to increase our membership!

Check your membership status. If it has expired or in the grace period, please renew.

We all know how much fun, and how many benefits are involved with AKSNA membership. Tell your co-workers and friends about this great opportunity.

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/>.

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

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.

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!

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.



Sign up today and get one step closer to living a healthy lifestyle!

The STEPS Challenge is 100% free for SNA members. It's a health and wellness program, created just for school nutrition professionals. Sign to up today to access healthy recipes, simple fitness ideas, challenges, prize drawings, and much more at <https://schoolnutrition.org/Resources/STEPS/SignUp/>

Once you signed up to move toward living a healthier lifestyle, why not challenge yourself? Consider participating in the STEPS monthly challenges! In addition to helping you make healthier choices, participating also means that you'll be entered for a chance to win special health and wellness-themed prizes.

Every challenge will have a specific theme (eating more fruits, managing stress, getting active, etc.). Participating is easy:

- Download the monthly tracking sheet and print it out.
- March 2017 Challenge: Start Right with Breakfast
- All month long, record your habits on the tracking sheet and give yourself points for every time you make a healthy choice.
- At the end of the month, add up your points. If you fall in the 50+ points range, you're eligible to receive prizes from SNA at the end of the challenges!
- Upload your points to the STEPS website.