

J
A
N
U
A
R
Y

2
0
1
6

**SCHOOL
NUTRITION
ASSOCIATION™**
OF KANSAS

Making the right food choices, together.



SNA KANSAS KARRIER

SNA-KS Members Nominate Someone You Admire for an SNA Award

Are you inspired by your school nutrition colleagues, friends, and mentors? Nominate someone you admire today for a SNA Award! Awards include:

- [Employee of the Year](#)
- [Manager of the Year](#)
- [Director of the Year](#)



Nominations are due online by March 1, 2016 (unless otherwise noted by your state). All award winners will be recognized at the Red Carpet Awards Ceremony at SNA's [Annual National Conference](#) in San Antonio, Texas, July 10-13, 2016. Nominees must be current SNA members who hold a SNA Certificate in School Nutrition or the SNS Credential.

For details and to submit your nomination, visit www.schoolnutrition.org/SNAawards. For questions, please contact (800) 877-8822 or StateSupport@schoolnutrition.org.

New Webinars for the New Year



SNA has a full schedule of new webinars just in time for the New Year. 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 3, 2016: [Best of SNIC Sessions Series: 1 of 3](#)
- Wed, February 10, 2016: [Adult Learning Principles and CEU Training](#)

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.

Kansas School Lunch Week January 25-29, 2016



The theme for Kansas School Lunch Week 2016 is "Farm to School". Celebrate Kansas farm foods on your menus! Promote dairy, pork, beef, wheat, and corn as agriculture products that are produced in the state of Kansas. According to the Kansas State Department of Agriculture website, Kansas is a leader in wheat, grain sorghum, and beef production. The Kansas Dairy industry is expanding and the demand for healthy foods is increasing. Please visit: <http://www.sna-ks.org/>, KSLW page for more information and to watch the *Dairy Video* provided by Midwest Dairy.

Kansas has a rich agricultural history and a promising future, and school nutrition programs are encouraged to celebrate this heritage each January during Kansas School Lunch Week!

How will you celebrate Kansas School Lunch Week in 2016?

STEPS January Challenge: Set a Goal



This January, the STEPS Challenge is all about setting realistic resolutions you can keep. Pick one healthy habit you'd like to embrace in 2016! Maybe it's cutting out fast food, bringing your lunch to work or squeezing in a daily walk. 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!

Serve on a National SNA Committee in 2016-17!

Serving on a School Nutrition Association's national committee offers exciting opportunities to grow professionally, develop new skills and make a contribution to the school nutrition profession. SNA needs members who want to play an active role in shaping the future of school nutrition programs. Each committee is charged by the Board of Directors to complete work based on the Association's Annual Plan of Action. Per the SNA Bylaws, committee appointments are appointed by the SNA President-elect for the coming year and approved by the SNA Board of Directors.

The Membership, Professional Development, Public Policy and Legislation, and Resolutions and Bylaws Committees have committee member openings for the 2016-17 year. If you are interested in serving, click [here](#) to download the interest form and submit it by January 31, 2016 to Deborah Van Balen, Executive Assistant, at dvanbalen@schoolnutrition.org or via fax to 301-686-3115. For questions, contact Deborah via email or by calling (800) 877-8822, ext. 114

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 is now open! Only the first 50 applications will be accepted. Visit: <https://schoolnutrition.org/equipmentgrants/> to learn more and submit your online application today.

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 is now accepting online common application submissions until April 4, 2016! To find more detailed information and to download the Application Preparation Worksheet to start getting your application ready, please visit: <https://schoolnutrition.org/EducationScholarships/>



Celebrating School Nutrition Heroes!

Join us on Monday, February 29, 2016 to celebrate school nutrition heroes and to support the School Nutrition Foundation as it provides education, research, and scholarships to assist SNA members as they nourish America's school children. 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

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

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 2016SNAelection@schoolnutrition.org.

Chapter Connection

Common Meeting Issues and Solutions

Below is a list of common issues local chapters might hear from members who don't attend meetings, along with possible responses and solutions for your local chapter to test out:

Common Issue	Possible Solutions
Scheduled time for the meetings and/or the travel required deter participation.	Consider involving school district to plan meetings on a rotational basis; so that everyone travels more or less throughout the year. You can also consider holding "virtual meetings" through webinars or conference calls to cut back on travel time and expenses. This is an especially good option for board meetings, as less people are involved.
Meetings are too long.	Linking your meetings to earning CEUs is also an effective way to make members feel they are getting the most out
Generational issues arise about which topics are most interesting	Survey members to find out what are hot topics or educational opportunities of interest <i>for them</i> . Customizing your chapter to the desires of your members should help focus your efforts and ensure members feel compelled to participate.
Childcare issues deter participation, as members need a babysitter just to attend the meeting.	If you are finding that members (or potential members) of your chapter need childcare to participate in chapter meetings, consider hiring a babysitter to attend your meetings. Ask a trusted student, friend, or daughter/son of a member to be a babysitter for the duration of your meeting. Having crafts or a story-time for the kids of your members will be an added bonus for your members!

Meeting Ideas from Local Chapters (across the country)

- **Baking and Cooking Workshops:** Hold a workshop to teach new baking and cooking techniques and recipes.
- **Tours:** Many local chapters take field trips to tour commercial kitchens, industry facilities or other interesting locations (such as a dairy farm, university kitchen, flour mill, food production facility)
- **Fall and Spring Meetings:** Many local chapters hold meetings each year with a set agenda. Have different speakers at these meetings that are geared towards what is going on in school nutrition. When new regulations are passed, ask someone from the state agency to speak about how they will impact your programs.
- **Wellness Walk:** Get members together to form a team for a wellness walk. This is a great way to get involved in the community, a fun way for members to connect, and a healthy way to stay in shape.
- **Community Service:** Give back to the community in a meaningful way of your members' choosing, such as a collection for the local food bank or a holiday toy drive. This will give you some good publicity with the community and is a thoughtful way for members to find value in being a part of SNA.
- **Thanksgiving Dinner:** Invite the mayor, local newspaper editors, principals, school board members, community businesses, school nutrition professionals and family to come together for a good home cooked meal. Showcase the valuable work your school nutrition professionals do by thanking them publicly in front of the community.
- **Holiday Party/ End of Year Meeting:** The holidays are a great time to come together and celebrate! Have a just-for-fun meeting to regroup, enjoy each other's company and highlight upcoming opportunities through SNA for the year ahead.
- **Chili Cook-off/ Kitchen Olympics:** Hold a fun competition for members in your chapter, such as a chili cook-off or kitchen Olympics. Ask local community members (such as the principals, school board members, local government officials) to act as judges. Ask a local newspaper to cover the event and promote SNA.