We won!!

Kansas won the Back 2 School Membership Drive for our Division. From National:

Congratulations to you and your State Board! The SNA of Kansas is the winner of the Back to School Membership Drive for the 1-500 membership division. You recruited 109 new members to SNA from September 1 to November 30, 2016.

As the winner of this drive, your state association has won one free registration to SNA’s National Leadership Conference (NLC) on May 4-6, 2017 in Baltimore, Maryland.

Keep Recruiting!

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 2016-17 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 2017 in Atlanta, Georgia.

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.

New “Fun Pun” Posters Now in the SNA Emporium

Since the launch of SNA’s PR campaign, there has been a high demand to turn the fun puns into posters. Four of the designs have been converted to posters and are available for sale in the SNA Emporium! Perfect to spruce up the cafeteria for the new year.

In addition to these posters, there is also a new set of winter-themed shareable content items which can be downloaded and shared through this webpage. To learn more about the PR campaign or to browse and download other pieces of content, click here.

New “Fun Pun” Posters Now in the SNA Emporium
Get a Head Start on Your SNF Equipment Grant Application!

The School Nutrition Foundation (SNF) will start accepting online applications for the equipment grants at 11am Eastern Time on Tuesday, January 10th, 2017. 2017 SNF Equipment Grants include:

- **Winston Industries Equipment Grant:** awards 10 pieces of equipment to one school district
- **Baxter Equipment for Education Grant:** awards one mini rotating rack convention oven and a $500 scholarship to the winning school nutrition director

Only the first 50 submitted online applications will be accepted for each grant—so be sure to prepare your application as soon as possible! [Click here](https://schoolnutrition.org) to download the Application Preparation Worksheets and learn more about these grants.

Achieve Your Educational Dreams with an SNF Scholarship!

The School Nutrition Foundation (SNF) will begin accepting applications for the professional development scholarships on January 10, 2017. Professional Development scholarships help you achieve your educational dreams by offsetting the costs of books and tuition for SNA members pursuing a degree in a school nutrition-related program of study.

To learn more and begin preparing your application, please visit: [https://schoolnutrition.org/EducationScholarships/](https://schoolnutrition.org/EducationScholarships/).

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 May 4-6, 2017 in Baltimore, Maryland 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 Laura Fails at failsl@usd320.com for more information and to be considered for this opportunity.

December Challenge: De-Stress Your Holidays

For many, the winter holidays—beginning with Thanksgiving and ending after the new year can be a long, stressful few months. Try a few of these suggestions to combat the hectic holiday season. Earn five points for every occasion where you take time for personal relaxation. Read a book, organize something, create a holiday playlist, or go for a walk. At the end of the month, be sure to add up your points and enter them online at [www.schoolnutrition.org/STEPS](http://www.schoolnutrition.org/STEPS) — you could win a prize!

2016 State Legislation Report

Since January, 70 child nutrition bills were considered by lawmakers in State legislatures. Of the 70, 10 were signed into law. Gain a sense of the top local child nutrition policy issues addressed in your State and across the country in SNA’s [latest installment](http://www.schoolnutrition.org/) of the 2016 State Legislation Reports. Readers will also find two child nutrition bills filed in advance for consideration in 2017. More information on the following page.
114th Congress Adjourns: Where Do We Stand?

The 114th Congress officially adjourned in the early morning of Saturday, December 10. What does this mean for Child Nutrition policy? A brief Q&A follows.

Q: What happens now that the 114th Congress has adjourned without passing a Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR)?
A: While the House and Senate Committees of jurisdiction passed individual CNR bills, action stalled, and neither bill advanced to become law. Therefore, until the next Congress takes up a new reauthorization process, programs contained as provisions within the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (HHFKA) of 2010 will continue to remain in effect.

Q: Didn’t the HHFKA expire on September 30, 2015?
A: Although the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 technically expired on September 30, 2015 – the child nutrition programs continue to operate under the Act. The school meals programs have permanent status, so the reauthorization of the actual programs is not required for them to continue. But the Reauthorization process provides an important opportunity for Congress to expand access to and improve these programs.

Q: So the HHFKA is still the law we operate under?
A: Yes. Absent a new CNR, HHFKA remains in place.

Q: What will happen when the new Congress begins in January? Will the Senate Agriculture Committee and the House Education and the Workforce Committee continue with the bills they passed in 2016?
A: When the 115th Congress begins, the Committees of jurisdiction must start over. A CNR bill will have to be drafted, debated and amended in both the House and Senate Committees and voted out for the full House and Senate to vote on. Once the House and Senate pass their versions of the bills, a small group of legislators – a “conference committee” – meets to merge them into one bill and resolve differences. Then, both the full House and Senate must pass the Conference Committee’s final version of the Child Nutrition Act, which then goes to the White House for the President’s signature.

Q: Given that the Target 2 sodium requirements are scheduled to go into effect July 2017, will that happen on schedule?
A: As you may know, the previous two Fiscal Year (FY) Appropriations bills contained language addressing sodium and whole grains. Fortunately, the recently passed FY 2017 spending bill also includes the same language, which extends through September 30, 2017. Given that this is a temporary solution, SNA will work with the new Administration and Congress to find a permanent solution.

Q: What has SNA been doing to address the looming Target 2 sodium reduction mandate?
A: SNA Leadership met privately with Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts (R-KS) on November 17, 2016, urging him to help us with the challenges of sodium-reduction regulations. Chairman Roberts committed to working with SNA to find a permanent solution in the next Congress. SNA is also reaching out to the House Education and the Workforce Committee Chairwoman Virginia Foxx (R-NC) and Senate Agriculture Committee Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) for meetings as well.

Q: What's Next?
A: The 115th Congress will be sworn in on January 3, 2017. Read the accompanying news story with a sneak peek of the 2017 legislative landscape. Also, be on the lookout for an early 2017 SNA survey regarding top priorities for school nutrition policy issues. These responses will be used to write the SNA 2017 Legislative Position Paper in mid-February 2017, and this Paper will chart the course for the Association’s advocacy efforts in the new Congress.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from SNA-KS!

WARMEST WISHES to Our School Nutrition Family!
Nominate a colleague you admire!

SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION
EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION
MANAGER OF THE YEAR

SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION
DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

Nominations are due online by March 1, 2016.

www.schoolnutrition.org/awards

The SNA Awards Program recognizes school nutrition professionals who work every day to ensure well-nourished students are prepared for success.
You are invited to help identify the five School Nutrition Heroes to be recognized in 2017. Help us tell the stories of school nutrition heroes and shine a much-deserved spotlight on the extraordinary efforts of SNA members.

CRITERIA:

Must be a member of SNA

Goes far “above and beyond” their job responsibilities to make an impact in their school and/or community

Have made or are making a difference in the lives of others

Have done or are currently doing truly extraordinary things in their school and/or community

Must be nominated by a member of SNA

  Nominators may submit only one nomination for consideration.

  Industry partners may submit only one nomination from the company.

Application must be received no later than Friday, October 21, 2016.

Got someone in mind? The process is simple:

In 500 words or less, answer these two questions about the nominee.

  Why should your nominee be recognized as a School Nutrition Hero?

  What are specific examples of the impact the nominee has had on the lives of others?

Please note that nominations that exceed the word count for either of the two questions (500 each) will be disqualified.

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Get Dollars Back for Scholarships in Our State

The School Nutrition Foundation (SNF) has created an exciting opportunity for us at Kansas SNA to better serve you: our members! State Affiliates which reach 3% of participation from members in donating to the SNF Annual Fund (and a specific dollar amount) will receive 20% of the dollars donated in the state. States which reach 5% participation and a specific dollar goal will receive 25% of the dollars donated. The money received by the state as part of this program will be available for scholarships for professional development and/or attendance at SNA meetings just for our members.

You can support school nutrition through education, research, and scholarships by making an SNF Annual Fund contribution and help our state get dollars back for scholarships. If you would like to help, contact our SNF state ambassador, Elaine Harris at elaine_harris@usd368.org.