



SNAC Bites

January 2018 Edition

Welcome to the January 2018 issue of SNA Communication (SNAC) Bites! SNAC Bites highlights new SNA programs and provides content for your state association publications, chapter meetings, & social media. In some cases, the content will need to be customized for your state association's needs.

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1. Register Now for SNA's Virtual Expo!

[Register now](#) for SNA's free [2018 Virtual Expo](#) and be among the first in line to know when the expo officially opens on February 6! This is your opportunity to experience the future of sourcing new products, equipment, and technology—all with the click of a mouse—from 34 top industry vendors. Plus, you'll be able to earn up to 20 CEUs by viewing [pre-recorded education sessions](#) chosen from some of our most popular #ANC17 sessions. The Virtual Expo offers 24-7 access with everything right at your fingertips—no travel or funding required! You'll be able to come back as often as you like during the expo's six week run through March 16, so please spread the word to state affiliate and local chapter members to [register now](#) for this exciting opportunity.

2. SNA 2018 Election – February 15-28, 2018

The SNA 2018 election is coming soon! Remember to cast your vote to elect the new members of the Board of Directors and the Leadership Development Committee. Add it to your February calendar as a top priority! Elect the leadership talent the association needs to protect and advance school nutrition programs in the future! The voting opens Thursday, February 15 and closes Wednesday, February 28. It will again be conducted online through a secure voting site. Watch for candidate biographies and photos as well as further details about how to vote at www.schoolnutrition.org/snaelection later in January.



3. Serve on a National SNA Committee in 2018-19!

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, Nutrition & Research, Professional Development, Public Policy and Legislation, and Resolutions and Bylaws Committees have committee member openings for the 2018-19 year. If you are interested in serving, click [here](#) to download the interest form and submit it by January 31, 2018 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.

4. #LAC18: Early-bird Registration Deadline Extended to January 19!

SNA's 46th Annual [Legislative Action Conference](#) (LAC) takes place March 4-6, 2018, at the J.W. Marriott Hotel in Washington, D.C. Today, it is more important than ever to let our elected officials know the importance of child nutrition programs. LAC provides the perfect opportunity to build your relationships with elected officials and make sure they understand the importance of school meals and how these programs contribute to the overall success of America's students. Due to overwhelming demand, we've extended the deadline for the early bird rate one week to **Friday, January 19**. [Register early](#) and **save \$50!**

5. School Nutrition Specialist (SNS) Credentialing Preparation Course – New Pilot Course!

LAC 2018 -- Saturday, March 3, 8:30 am-4:30 pm

Thinking about taking the SNS exam or do you simply want to learn more about different content areas in school nutrition? Join us for the second pilot offering of this exciting course and seize the opportunity to provide your valuable insights and feedback before its launch to the rest of the school nutrition community. The course will be taught by subject matter experts and is based on the SNS Exam Study Guide. Please note that seating is limited. (Lunch is included). For more information [click here](#).

6. Keys to Excellence: New Logo & Updated Best Practices

Check out SNA's new [Keys to Excellence](#) logo and updated best practices. Keys to Excellence is designed to assist schools in achieving nutrition integrity goals at the administrative, management, and operational levels. The four key areas of Keys to Excellence are the basis for USDA Professional Standards. The updated best practices document defines national standards for quality programs and provides a framework for continuous program review, evaluation, and improvement. The best practices were recently updated by SNA's Professional Development and Nutrition and Research Committee members. **If your school or state uses or promotes the Keys to Excellence program, please update any documentation with the new logo.**

7. What Should You Do? Ethical Decision-Making in School Nutrition

The NEW SNA online ethics module is coming in January 2018! This introductory level course is both interactive and fun! This course has been designed to reinforce the importance of ethics and the factors of ethical decision-



making. A fundamental goal of this course is to help school nutrition professionals learn to recognize and address ethical dilemmas in the workplace. As you work through the course you will interact with the training as you work through fun activities, a case study, a self-assessment and a video. www.SchoolNutrition.org/Ethics

8. Warm Up to Winter with SNA's Webinar Wednesdays

A new year, brings new webinars! Register now to join us next month as we E-G-G-S-P-L-O-R-E the power of protein in meals that will keep your students feeling full and focused throughout the day. This year's webinar schedule is filled with exciting, new, topics that you'll be glad you were a part of!

Click on the link below to learn more about the webinar and check the SNA webinar page for new webinars.

[The Power of Protein!](#)

2:00 pm ET on Wednesday, January 17, 2018

Power up your school nutrition program with protein based foods, like E-G-G-S. The high-quality protein in eggs will keep your students feeling full and focused throughout the day. This Webinar covers the latest in egg nutrition research, foodservice trends, success stories, and marketing material to attract your students to the protein power of eggs! Successful completion of the webinar and quiz is awarded 1 SNA CEU, or 1 CPEU for RDs/DTRs.

2018 Webinar Registration Opening Soon!

- February 7, 2018 -- Community Eligibility Series, Part 1: Community Eligibility Provision 101
- February 21, 2018 -- Best of #SNIC18: Simple Tech Tools from Your Nerdy Best Friend
- February 28, 2018 -- Best of #SNIC18: When it Comes to Food and ingredients, What Do Consumers Really Want?
- March 14, 2018 -- Community Eligibility Series, Part 2: Making It Work with ISPs Below 60%
- April 11, 2018 -- Community Eligibility Series, Part 3: Strategies for Partial Implementation

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

9. Nominate an Outstanding School Nutrition Member!

Every day SNA members are going above and beyond in their work to provide nutritious meals to students! Give them the recognition they deserve by submitting their nomination for a SNA Award for the 2017-2018 year. [Nominations](#) for the Employee, Manager and Director of the Year awards are now being accepted online by SNA. All state, regional and national winners will be recognized at the Red Carpet Awards Ceremony at SNA's 2018 Annual National Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

10. Attend SNA National Leadership Conference as a Future Leader

Our state association has the opportunity to send up to two individuals to the [National Leadership Conference](#) on April 26-28, 2018 in Long Beach, California 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 leaders from across the country, hone their leadership and communication skills, and learn from seasoned SNA leaders in a fun, refreshed, and interactive learning environment. Contact your State President for more information and to be considered for this opportunity.

11. STEPS January Challenge: Small Changes for Success!

This month, break down a health/wellness goal into small manageable steps. Maybe it is drinking an extra glass of water each day or bringing lunch instead of going out. It's up to you. Give yourself two (2) points for every day you follow through on your goal. 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. SNF Scholarships Available for SNA Members

Are you thinking of attending SNA's Annual National Conference (ANC) in Las Vegas? Do you need some new kitchen equipment? Have you been thinking about going back to school? The School Nutrition Foundation has scholarships and grants – you just need to apply! Don't delay, though because the deadlines are coming up fast! Deadlines: ANC Scholarships: February 15, 2018; Winston Equipment Grant: January 31, 2018 (we only accept the first 75 applications); and Professional Development Scholarships: April 2, 2018. [Learn more.](#)

13. SNA's PPL Committee Meets to Draft 2018 Position Paper

On Monday, December 4, SNA's President, President-Elect, Public Policy & Legislation Committee and SNA Government Affairs and Media Relations staff met in Alexandria, Va., for the annual Position Paper Drafting Meeting. During the meeting, the results of the *2018 Position Paper* Survey were presented and discussed in detail. The survey was sent out from November 1-15 and had over 3,600 respondents. The survey included questions about block grants, nutrition standards, administrative and reporting requirements, support for streamlining regulations, and allowed for additional comments. At the meeting, SNA used the responses to help narrow down what should be included in the *2018 Position Paper*, which will inform next year's legislative and regulatory advocacy efforts. The final paper will be released in early January, so be sure to be on the lookout for that announcement!

14. SNA Holds Inaugural Block Grant Task Force Meeting

On December 4, the SNA President and President-Elect, alongside the Public Policy & Legislation Committee (PPL), met to draft the Association's *2018 Position Paper*. The *Position Paper* reflects the Association's top legislative/regulatory priorities and will serve as the roadmap for SNA's 2018 advocacy efforts. SNA and members will advocate for these positions to Congress, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Trump Administration during the 2018 Legislative Action Conference's "Charge to the Hill" and throughout the year. In early November, an online survey was distributed via email to all SNA members in order to collect feedback on the issues that members feel are most important to include in the *Position Paper*. The survey was conducted from November 1-15, 2017 and a total of 3,646 responses were received.

15. Submit Your Comments on School Nutrition Programs Regulatory Reform

Since the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) [Regulatory Reform Federal Register notice](#) was posted on June 17, 2017, SNA has been collecting comments from members about how best to simplify school nutrition program regulations. SNA is getting ready to submit its third batch of regulatory reform comments in early



February. [Complete this form](#) to have your ideas included. USDA is specifically looking for ideas on regulations, guidance documents, or policy documents that are in need of streamlining, modification, or repeal. Submit your comments and SNA will do the paperwork to make your recommendations to USDA are received.