



## SNAC Bites

### February 2018 Edition

Welcome to the February 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. Virtual Expo Now Open—Live Chat with Exhibitors on February 7 & 9!

SNA's free [2018 Virtual Expo](#) is now open—no funding or travel required—[register now!](#) Visit 30+ industry exhibit booths, access 8 [pre-recorded education sessions](#) (with 15 more to come) in the Learning Center, and network with more than 1,000 attendees in the Networking Lounge! Industry representatives will be on hand to answer your questions via live chat on Wednesday, February 7 from 11:00 am–3:00 pm EST and Friday, February 9 from 1:00–3:00 pm EST. [Register now!](#)

#### 2. Register for LAC 2018!

SNA's 2018 Legislative Action Conference (LAC) will be held March 4-6 at the JW Marriot Hotel in Washington, D.C. [Register today](#) to learn the latest in child nutrition policy and regulation, hear our two keynote speakers, pollsters Frank Luntz and Peter Hart and make sure your voice is heard on Capitol Hill! The [pre-conference session](#) titled, "How to Write a Winning Grant Application," will teach you how to find, write and prepare grants that will advance the quality of your school meal programs. Participants of this pre-conference session are encouraged to bring their laptops for an interactive lesson lead by Dr. Tillie Harris, Executive Director of the Grant Training Center in Alexandria, Va. With everything going on in Washington and the threat of a block grant looming closer, advocacy is critical in ensuring that child nutrition programs remain funded and secure.



### **3. Your Vote Counts! Meet the Candidates in the 2018 SNA Election**

It's time to vote and elect the new members of the SNA Board of Directors and the Leadership Development Committee. Elect the leadership talent the Association needs to advance school nutrition programs in the future!

The SNA Election will take place over a two-week period in February 2018 (February 15-28) through a secure online voting website. In order to vote, you must have your SNA username and password available. You are eligible to vote if you are currently an active member and were a member in good standing on November 30, 2017. To meet the candidates and learn how to cast your vote, visit [www.schoolnutrition.org/snaelection](http://www.schoolnutrition.org/snaelection).

### **4. Only One Month Away! Don't Forget to Submit Your Award Nominations**

Don't delay! Recognize your colleague today for the Employee of the Year, Manager of the Year, and Director of the Year awards. Nominations are being accepted online or to your State President until March 1, 2018. 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.

### **5. 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 deadline to apply to be considered for this opportunity.

### **6. I Heart NSBW Resources**

National School Breakfast Week (NSBW) is only a few weeks away and time is running out to order posters, balloons, aprons and other fun products to support your "I Heart School Breakfast" campaign activities! This year's emoji-based theme is already getting many thumb's-up likes and huge smiley faces. Are you ready to "speak" to your student customers about the benefits of school breakfast in *their* language? The SNA Emporium is your source for giveaways, cafeteria décor and team garb to make sure your celebration earns hearts during NSBW—and any other time you are promoting school breakfast. Don't delay—place orders **today** to ensure products arrive on time! Visit the [SNA Emporium](http://www.schoolnutrition.org/snaemporium) or call (800) 728-0728. For celebration ideas, media tips and details on an exciting NSBW contest, visit [www.schoolnutrition.org/nsbw](http://www.schoolnutrition.org/nsbw).

### **7. SNA's New Online Ethics Module is Now Available!**

In today's world, ethics and ethical behavior have never been more important. Just turn on the news or browse the latest headline on your favorite app. There seems to be no end of coverage on the people who are getting it wrong. Which is why it's critical that school nutrition professionals get it right! But how do you approach this subject with your staff? Have them take SNA's new online training module, "What Should You Do? Ethical Decision-Making in School Nutrition." This training module introduces the basic principles of ethics and ethical



behavior. It also provides a pathway to making ethical decisions through an engaging platform. This is not a sit-and-listen presentation. Participants will be interacting with each screen as they work their way through the content, activities, questions, videos, self-assessment and case studies.

To learn more and to review purchasing options, visit [www.schoolnutrition.org/ethics](http://www.schoolnutrition.org/ethics).

### **8. 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](#).

### **9. Unpaid Meal Charge Talking Points**

National news stories and recently introduced state legislative proposals have brought renewed attention to “school lunch shaming” and unpaid meal charge policies. Given heightened interest in this issue, SNA members should be prepared to discuss local meal charge policies. SNA has updated [unpaid meal charge talking points](#) to assist members in responding to questions about meal charge policies and to educate parents, reporters and legislators on the challenges school nutrition professionals face when students are unable to pay for their school meals. The talking points also link to SNA’s 2017 press statement on the issue and survey data on the extent of unpaid meal charge debt nationwide.

### **10. You’ll Love February Webinar Wednesdays!**

February, is often one of the most misspelled words in the English language, but it brings two new webinars to get excited about! Join us for the first webinar in the 3-part CEP series. Also coming in February is the first of our Best of #SNIC18 webinar.

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

#### **[Community Eligibility Series, Part 1: Community Eligibility Provision 101](#)**

**Wednesday, February 7, 2018, 2:00 pm ET**

Join this webinar to learn the nuts, bolts and many benefits Community Eligibility offers to students, schools and communities.

*Successful completion of the webinar and quiz is awarded 1 SNA CEU, or 1 CPEU for RDs/DTRs.*

[> Learn More](#)

#### **[Best of #SNIC18: Simple Tech Tools from Your Nerdy Best Friend](#)**

**Wednesday, February 21, 2018, 2:00 pm ET**

In today's high-tech world, apps can solve all kinds of challenges in your School Nutrition Puzzle! We've



brainstormed some of the toughest tasks in your typical day for this practical webinar with tech tools you just can't miss.

*Successful completion of the webinar and quiz is awarded 1 SNA CEU, or 1 CPEU for RDs/DTRs.*

[> Learn More](#)

### **2018 Webinar Registration Opening Soon!**

- 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](http://www.schoolnutrition.org/webinars).

### **11. STEPS February Challenge: Spread Some Love!**

In honor of Valentine's Day, spread good feeling all around you. Do something nice, call an old friend, write a card for a co-worker, or cook dinner for your spouse. When you do nice things for others, you feel better about yourself! Give yourself ten (10) points for every act of kindness or friendly gesture you do in February. 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!

### **12. Release of SNA's 2018 Position Paper and Member Resources**

On Thursday, January 11, SNA released its [2018 Position Paper](#), outlining the Association's legislative priorities for the year. The *Position Paper* calls on Congress to oppose any school meal block grant proposal. In a [press release](#), SNA President Lynn Harvey, EdD, RDN, SNS, explained, "American families cannot afford for Congress to dismantle the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs through a dangerous block grant experiment. Block grants would slash child nutrition budgets and void federal rules that protect America's most vulnerable students." As Congress drafts a new Farm Bill, SNA is also urging passage of [H.R. 3738](#), the "Healthy Breakfasts Help Kids Learn Act." The bipartisan bill would expand U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Foods to support school breakfast. Finally, the *Position Paper* calls on Congress to monitor USDA's efforts to provide school meal program flexibility, stating that USDA's final rule should maintain Target 1 sodium levels and restore the initial requirement that at least half of grains offered through school meals be whole grain-rich.

The *2018 Position Paper* was released in advance of SNA's [2018 Legislative Action Conference](#) (LAC) to be held in Washington, D.C. on March 4-6. On the final day of the conference, members will "Charge the Hill" with the *Position Paper* in hand to advocate on behalf of school meal programs and make sure their voices are heard by their Congressional representatives! SNA members are encouraged to visit the [LAC Resources page](#) for [talking points](#) on the *Position Paper* and for other helpful tools.



### **13. Summer Food Service Program 2018 Reimbursement Rates**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) released a [notice announcing the annual adjustments](#) to the reimbursement rates for meals served in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). These adjustments are based on changes in the Consumer Price Index and are required by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act. The memo presents the rates in three tables: operations rates, administrative rates and the combined rates of the two, and, additionally, breaks the tables down into breakfast, lunch/supper and snack. The rates and accompanying information on calculations can be found in the [Federal Register notice](#).

### **14. USDA Seeking Input on Child Nutrition Food Crediting**

In a [Federal Register Notice](#) published on December 14, 2017, USDA announced an information collection on food crediting for Child Nutrition Programs. Child Nutrition Programs must reflect the meal patterns and nutrition standards set forth by the USDA in order to claim Federal reimbursement, and crediting is the process designed by USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to specify how individual food items contribute to those meal patterns. The Request for Information is intended to help FNS gather feedback from stakeholders on how the crediting system can be improved and to offer customer service to those operating and benefitting from the Child Nutrition Programs. Electronic comments are preferred and may be submitted to the [Federal Register](#) by February 12, 2018. More information can be found in [USDA's press release](#) as well.