



SNAC Bites August 2017 Edition

Welcome to the August 2017 issue of SNA Communication (SNAC) Bites! SNAC Bites highlights new SNA programs and provides content for your state association publications, chapter meetings, & social media.

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1. SNA Membership Matters - Announcing the 2017-2018 SNA Annual Membership Campaign!

SNA is 58,000 members strong! Because **membership matters** to the school nutrition profession, help SNA recruit new members. Your reward could be the chance to win a registration to ANC 2019! Recruit **five or more** new members between **June 1, 2017 and May 31, 2018** and you will automatically be entered into a drawing to win 1 of 5 VIP registrations to SNA's 2019 Annual National Conference (ANC) in St. Louis, MO. For more details, please visit www.schoolnutrition.org/amc.



2. It's All About the Videos!

SNA has a number of new video resources available to keep you up to date or to add to your state conference line up. Newly available videos are:

1. [SNA Summer 2017 Update Video](#): a brief recap of some of the SNA's highlights and milestones the past year.
2. [ANC 2018 – Save the Date](#): get excited about ANC 2018 in Las Vegas, NV (members only link)
3. [A Word from Your President](#): kick off your annual state conference with a short welcome from SNA President Lynn Harvey (members only link)



3. Will You Answer the Call for Proposals?

ANC 2017 may have wrapped up last month; however, SNA is already busy preparing for next year's conference. We invite you to submit proposals for presentation consideration at the 2018 Annual National Conference (ANC) in Las Vegas, NV, July 9-12, 2018. SNA is seeking proposals on a variety of in-demand topics identified by member needs surveys and based on the four key areas of USDA Professional Standards. [Submit your proposal here.](#)

4. 2018 Election Nominations

The 2018 election nominations process is open! SNA needs members with strong leadership skills, outstanding professional achievements and a record of active participation in their state association and at SNA to lead the association in the future. The Leadership Development Committee is recruiting for the following positions.

Board of Directors

- President-elect
- Secretary/Treasurer
- Southeast Regional Director
- West Regional Director
- At Large Director

Leadership Development Committee

- Mideast Region Representative
- Midwest Region Representative
- Southeast Region Representative
- West Region Representative

5. UPDATE! Ethics Course Pilot

The ethics piloting has been moved to August/September. There is still time to sign up to help SNA review its new online ethics module! Volunteers will be able to take the training course and provide feedback. Interested? Send an email to education@schoolnutrition.org with your contact information and we will let you know when and how to review this exciting new training.

6. "Fall" into Webinar Wednesdays this September!

It's back to school time again and SNA has the webinars you need! Don't miss out on the first webinar of the school year. The "Host a Legislator Site Visit" webinar will cover how bringing your legislator in for a behind-the-scenes look at the daily operation of your school cafeteria could make the difference in preventing block grants, preserving funding and expanding commodity support. Join experienced school nutrition advocates to get the scoop on how they hosted successful site visits. We'll wrap up with a walkthrough of the recently updated SNA Cafeteria Site Visit Toolkit – your guidebook providing step-by-step instructions of the invitation and hosting process. Registration for the September 6 webinar opens in August. Visit www.schoolnutrition.org/webinars to register for this webinar and others!



7. New Food Allergy Resource Center for SNA Members

SNA's Food Allergy Resource Center for School Nutrition Professionals has launched! Find all the food allergy resources that you need in one place. From the Big 8 allergens that cause approximately 90% of food allergy reactions, to the Top 10 FAQs, this new resource center will help you find the information that you need to manage food allergies in your child nutrition programs. You can also submit questions to the allergy expert and your questions will be answered by food allergy experts and posted quarterly! Visit www.schoolnutrition.org/FoodAllergy.

8. Back to School Season is a Great Time to Promote Your Program

With back to school just around the corner, now is a great time to think about promoting your school nutrition program. SNA has an enormous amount of free online tools and resources available, to help you spread the message about the healthy, delicious (and a great value) meals your program provides. Between downloadable customized flyers, outreach guides, talking points, brochures, banners, videos and more, it's easier than ever to acquire positive coverage for your school nutrition operation. For a complete list of all tools and resources, visit [www.https://schoolnutrition.org/pr](https://schoolnutrition.org/pr).

Additionally, as part of your outreach, don't forget about student engagement. SNA has created resource materials to assist you with this important component of your promotional efforts. Use these tips and activity ideas to empower students, improve communication and increase awareness of and participation in school meals. Visit www.schoolnutrition.org/engage to learn more.

9. SY2016-17 State Meal Mandates and Reimbursements

SNA has updated its [State School Meal Mandates and Reimbursements report](#) for School Year 2016-17, which is a comprehensive summary of each state's mandates and financial support accompanied with a comprehensive reference table.

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) are federally funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Each year, the USDA sets rates to cover the cost of free and reduced meals, as well as partial support for paid meals. Many states provide additional reimbursement which can range from per meal reimbursements, to salary support, to general funds which assist with program operations. It is up to each state if participation in these programs is optional or mandated, and there is variability among states. SNA government affairs staff collected the [updated information](#) from state agencies across the country.

10. SNA's 2017 Second Quarter State Legislative Summary

The [2017 Second Quarter Report](#) of SNA's quarterly State Legislative Summary is available on SNA's website. The report is a summary of school nutrition relevant state bills introduced between January 1 and June 17, 2017. In it are updates on States in session or adjourned, emerging trends, and status of current legislation. To date, 143 bills have been introduced – not counting annual appropriations legislation. [See what's brewing in your state!](#)



11. Sonny Perdue Addresses SNA Members and Holds Listening Session at ANC 2017

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue, addressed a crowd of over 7,000 school nutrition professionals during the Closing General Session on July 12, 2017 at SNA's Annual National Conference. The Secretary took the opportunity to recognize the many contributions of school nutrition professionals to students' academic achievement. He also joined in a listening session with SNA leaders—school nutrition professionals elected to represent the broad range of meal programs across the country. The event allowed Secretary Perdue to hear first-hand about successes and challenges encountered by those working on the frontlines to improve menus for students while meeting updated nutrition standards for meals and snacks. Perdue has invited Lynn Harvey, SNA's President-Elect, and her incoming board to come and meet with his team at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to give direct, specific advice on how to make the best rules going forward regarding school nutrition and school meals. [View SNA's full press release](#) and to watch the video of Secretary Perdue at ANC.

12. Your Mid-Year Advocacy Update

2017 has been an action-packed year for school nutrition advocacy. SNA members have really stepped up to the plate; [calling and writing](#) legislators, inviting them to school cafeterias and breaking attendance records at the 2017 Legislative Action Conference where more than 900 school nutrition professionals lobbied on Capitol Hill! As a direct result, we've seen whole grains and sodium flexibility, funding for the study of program simplification, and the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture soliciting school nutrition professional expertise in the shaping of school meal policies. View the full list of SNA advocacy wins on the [website](#).

Great job SNA! Let's keep the momentum moving forward.

- Check out the [School Nutrition Association Action Network](#) to see federal bills, read policy news, participate in advocacy engagements and view the latest school nutrition policy media.
- [Share](#) your personal school nutrition story!
- Subscribe to [Tuesday Morning](#) for a bite-sized weekly digest of policy hot topics.
- [Donate](#) to PAC to show support for those legislators that advocate on our behalf.

Pat yourself on the back for going the extra mile to design and defend the school nutrition policies that feed over 30 million kids in schools every school day!

13. Scholarship Dollars for Our State

The School Nutrition Foundation (SNF) had an active booth at ANC 2017 with 245 SNA members contributing over \$7,000. Several states made significant progress in meeting the percentage participation goals that qualify the state for scholarship funds in 2018. But, it's not too late for **[our state!]** We have until December 31 to reach the goal of 3% participation in the 2017 Annual Fund. How does it work? If 3% of members in **[our state]** contribute to the SNF Annual Fund, we will receive 20% of the total raised for scholarships for professional development for the SNA members in our state. If 5% of our members contribute to the SNF Annual Fund, **[our state]** will receive 25% of the total raised! Each contribution of \$10 or more counts toward our goal.

Donations can be made [online](#) or through our State Ambassador, **[Name of State Ambassador]**, at **[contact information]**. If you prefer, you can mail your donation using this [form](#).



For more information, contact SNF Director of Development Janet Hedrick at jhedrick@schoolnutrition.org or call (800) 877-8822 ext. 181.