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Members of NMSNA

I hope this letter finds you well and ready for a new, memorable, but great school year. It will be one like no other we have seen before. Together we can, we have and we will continue to feed our students.

Thank you isn't enough, but I do Thank You for your dedication and the extremely hard work you've been doing to keep our students fed during this unprecedented time. You all are undeniably the Super Heroes we wanted to celebrate last June and want to let you know you will always be "OUR SUPER HEROES".

The NMSNA will be working towards helping you all reach your goals in helping you to get Professional Development hours by posting many options on our website. Stay tuned and check in often.

Our Education Chair is working with all of our Regional Chairs to get some ZOOM meetings and trainings posted on our website that you can watch, have your Director confirm and get some CEUS for your required Professional Standards Training. SNA is also posting free training and webinars on their website. ICN is another avenue you can reach out to and get more training hours.

SNA is holding a membership drive until November 30th and now more than ever, we need to recruit and retain membership. Recruit a new member before November 30th and be entered into a drawing for \$50 discount on the next in person conference with NMSNA.

"Some people could be given an entire field of roses and only see the thorns in it.

Others could be given a single weed and only see the wildflower in it.

Perception is a key component to gratitude. And gratitude is a key component to joy."

Amy Weatherly

Wishing you all many blessings and success in your 20-21 SY. Please reach out to anyone of us on the NMSNA board. We are all in this together.

Sincerely,

Janet Sanchez, NMSNA President

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Pauline Raia, NMSNA Executive Director

Welcome back to a very different way of life and a different way of doing business in New Mexico school food service cafeterias. I cannot thank you enough for all the work you have done to ensure that New Mexico's children have been fed during this pandemic. You are truly their super heroes and these children will always remember what you did for them. You provided our children comfort and stability during a time when they were not sure what was happening. As always school food service personnel always know what our children need.

The NMSNA board was very sad NMSNA had to cancel the June 2020 annual conference. We just needed to ensure that all our members stayed safe and healthy and that was the right things to do, especially since Covid 19 was very contagious at that time.

By cancelling the June conference, we realized that many of you did not earn the CEU's you usually get at conference. With that said, NMSNA is working very hard to provide virtual trainings to help all of you earn you CEU's for this year to ensure you meet your professional standard requirements. We are constantly sending out emails to directors about these virtual trainings and hope they are sharing this info with their staff. You can also go to the NMSNA website at www.nmsna.com and find all virtual trainings that are available for NMSNA members. To ensure you can take these virtual classes and earn you CEU's, please be sure that you continue to keep your SNA membership updated and not let it lapse. Now more than ever you will need your SNA membership to help you through this difficult time. NMSNA is there for you by networking and providing virtual classes and making sure the communication is there for all its members.

Hope you all have a safe and healthy school year.

EDUCATION CHAIR'S CORNER

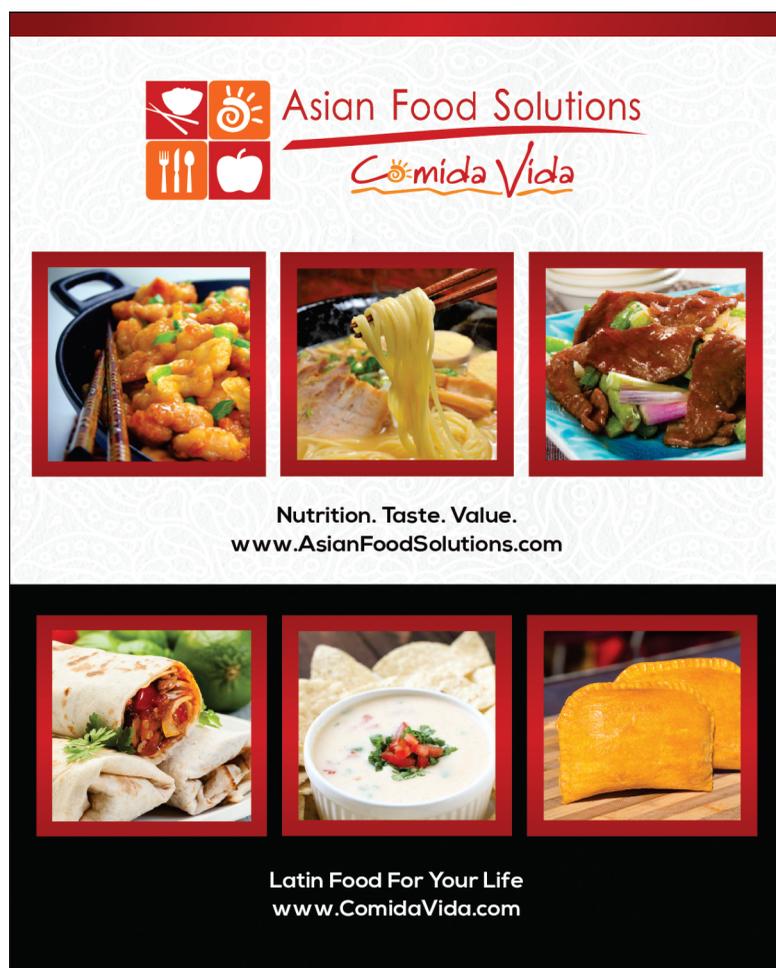
Shelley Montgomery, NMSNA Education Chair

Greetings NMSNA

What a challenging year we have had! Without face-to-face trainings, it has been hard to get the professional standards hours that our employees and we need. The Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) offers all kinds of professional standards training hours free of charge. Their website is theicn.org.

Our NMSNA region chairs have been hard at work making zoom videos that will soon be on our website for you to view to get some of your professional standards training hours. After you or your staff have viewed the short videos please email Sabrina Gonzales at Sabrina67nmsna@gmail.com and attach a copy of your sign in sheet proving that you or your staff have viewed the video(s) and Sabrina will then in return email you a certificate of completion.

Have a great year!



The advertisement features a white background with a subtle floral pattern. At the top, there is a logo for 'Asian Food Solutions' with 'Comida Vida' written in a red script font below it. The logo includes icons for a bowl, a sun, a fork and knife, and an apple. Below the logo are three square images showing different Asian dishes: a bowl of orange chicken, a bowl of yellow noodles, and a plate of braised meat. At the bottom of the advertisement, there is a black banner with three square images showing different Latin dishes: a burrito, a bowl of white soup, and a yellow corn tamale. The text 'Nutrition. Taste. Value.' and the website 'www.AsianFoodSolutions.com' are centered below the top images. The text 'Latin Food For Your Life' and the website 'www.ComidaVida.com' are centered below the bottom images.

Asian Food Solutions
Comida Vida

Nutrition. Taste. Value.
www.AsianFoodSolutions.com

Latin Food For Your Life
www.ComidaVida.com

NOMINATING AND FOUNDATION CHAIR'S CORNER

Rachel Martinez, Nominating and Foundation Chair

Welcome back to a unique school year! It has been a rough six months for School Nutrition employees with so many changes on a day to day basis. I hope that you all were able to get some much-needed rest in between Summer feeding and the upcoming School Year.

If you are interested in getting more involved with the NM School Nutrition Association, I strongly suggest that you consider the vice-president and treasurer positions that will be open for election at the 2021 Annual State Conference.

You may have many questions regarding these positions and the best way to know exactly what to expect is to speak with any person that has served in these positions in the past. They can tell you from their experience what an honor, how much experience and growth they have acquired from serving as an officer.

Listed below are a few good reasons you should consider sitting on the NMSNA Executive Board.

- The leadership helps improve your skill and keeps you up to date on important information firsthand.
- Best practices in school nutrition are brought back to your school district and you get recognition for your accomplishments.
- Improves your public speaking skills, critical thinking skills, understanding of budgeting and financial management, as well as management skills through trainings and the leadership of the Association.

The qualifications for the Vice-President and Treasurer positions is as follows:

Candidates for officer's positions shall have held membership in the Association for at least one year preceding the nominations, shall have served in at least one appointed office on the Executive Board or appointed committee, have attended one State Conference, and must live in New Mexico. The vice-president position is a four-year commitment and the treasurer position is a two-year commitment.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have. You may contact me at rmartinez@mora.k12.nm.us or 575-387-3115.

Hope you all stay safe and healthy! Have a wonderful year!

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Mix and match your Rich Chicks products with the perfect sauce to spice up your plate
- GRAB-N-GO**
Over 45 easy solutions incorporating wraps, containers, and our new Rich Chicks Sticker Labels
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www.richchicks.com CONTACT DAWNETTA MILLER DMILLER@RICHCHICKS.COM

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Samples or Questions?
Contact: Cindy DeLuca
cdeluca@bvfoods.com

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Virginia Schroeder, Legislative Chair

Your NMSNA Legislative Committee members are Rachel Martinez, Maria Guerra, Roger Gonzales and Virginia Schroeder, Chair. With our world being turned upside down due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Legislative Committee has not had a chance to meet. Everyone has been spending their time putting out fires in their individual districts or offices. We hope to have an official meeting in September.

We have reached out to our local legislators asking for their support in requesting USDA for flexibilities during the pandemic. It does not appear the congress will pass a Universal Free Meal bill this session but our hope is that we could move back to the SSO or SFSP Emergency Feeding programs we were approved to do during the spring and summer months.

Most schools that we have talked with are seeing reduced meal participation even with Grab 'n Go options being offered at several location within their districts. This is not restricted to New Mexico though as it has happened with districts throughout the country. Congress and USDA are aware of the issues and our hope is they will come to a resolution that will not only **make sure our children are fed** but benefit the district that are losing money every week. The U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and Labor sent a letter to Secretary Sonny Perdue on August 26th asking USDA to review program flexibilities. None of the New Mexico U.S. Representatives sit on this committee. However, it is urgent that we all reach out to them and request their support. Here are the contacts in each of their offices that oversee this type of legislation.

Please reach out to each of them right away with your concerns and stories on how your programs are being affected.

Senator Tom Udall

Lauren Arias

Lauren_Arias@tomudall.senate.gov

202-224-6621

Senator Martin Heinrich

Elizabeth Hill

Elizabeth.Hill@heinrich.senate.gov

202-224-5521

Rep. Ben Ray Lujan

Congressman Ben Ray Lujan

Matthew Hoeck

Matthew.Hoeck@mail.house.gov

904-673-5264

Rep. Xochitl Torres Small

Congresswoman Xochitl Torres Small

Rachelle Holdridge

Rahelle.Holdridge@mail.house.gov

202-225-2365

Rep. Debra Haaland

Congresswoman Debra Haaland

Heidi Todacheene

Heidi.Todacheene@mail.house.gov

202-225-6316



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Heartland



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For more information, please contact:
 Kip Guthrie | 210.347.7483 | kguthrie@tastybrandsk12.com
www.tastybrandsk12.com

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For More Information: Sheri Fernandez • Mobile: 505-554-5877 • Email: sfernandez@synergys.com

VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Sonya Moore, NMSNA Vice President

Membership in New Mexico SNA stands at 839 active members. During this strange and challenging time of the global pandemic known as Covid-19, it is understandable that membership numbers would decline. As Vice President of the New Mexico SNA chapter, it is my main responsibility is to recruit new members, keep current members active, and spread the word about the value of SNA membership.

Membership in the New Mexico School Nutrition Association has many benefits. The main one being free access to educational materials, and webinars that provide those much needed CEUs. As School Nutrition professionals, we are all required to maintain a certain level of continuing education hours per year by USDA standards. Membership is a great way to achieve those hours every year. Another benefit to membership is access to thousands of other SNA members from around the U.S. The opportunity to collaborate with likeminded professionals is invaluable. No matter the situation, there is likely another school that has already experienced the issue and has a solution to the problem.

Membership in SNA is valuable for the professional relationships that it inspires. The opportunities to attend conferences are endless, and the relationships that are built from the connections made with other states is crucial to our success. Every conference offers classes to enhance our knowledge and obtain CEUs.

The New Mexico SNA chapter offers regional trainings to meet those CEUs and a yearly conference. The conference is a lot of fun and very informative. The atmosphere is electric and highly energetic. Many schools come in large groups and it becomes a team building mission, as well. Directors could take advantage of district owned memberships and as employees leave, you can add new ones in their place. This is a valuable way to do it because it gives the employee a sense of belonging, and is more cost effective if the memberships are paid by the district. District owned membership can be paid for in the departments professional development budget.

Another value to SNA membership is the Awards and Recognition program. Each year state chapters seek nominations for Director of the Year, Manager of the Year, and Employee of the Year. These recognitions are publicized state wide and offer the opportunity of National Recognition at the SNA Annual National Conference. Plaques are awarded at the state conference and your peers get see how valuable you are to your district.

Membership in NMSNA has it perks! Please consider joining as an individual or as a district. Feel free to reach out to any member to find more information or visit our website at <https://www.nmsna.com/>.



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South Zone Regional Manager * Eve Leon * 972-948-9564 * eleon@alphafoodsco.com

THE LYMAN GRAHAM SCHOLARSHIP (LGS)

In May 2019 the world of child nutrition experienced a devastating loss; Mr. Lyman Graham departed this life after many years of dedicated service to Roswell School District Food Services & NM SNA and its members. Mr. Graham was a strong believer and advocate of "feeding our babies" and fought long and hard to encourage and educate our legislators that Universal Meals is the way to go to ensure no kid ever went hungry in this great country of ours. With this thought in mind he made it his humble duty to attend LAC – Legislative Action Conference (LAC) annually to fight towards Universal Meals becoming a reality. In his memory we have established the LYMAN GRAHAM SCHOLARSHIP that will afford a NM SNA member the opportunity to attend LAC to continue the work of Mr. Graham at his favorite leadership forum.

NMSNA has high hopes of being able to award this annually starting in 2021. A deserving child nutrition professional will receive the opportunity to attend this leadership forum (in person or virtual – to be determined) ; all expenses paid. (estimated value of \$3000.00)

CRITERIA TO BE A RECIPIENT OF SCHOLARSHIP

- 1) Must be a member in good standing with NM SNA.
- 2) Must be a first-timer to attend the Legislative Action Conference (LAC) in Washington DC.
- 3) Interested NM SNA members will submit a one-page essay on the following topics:
 - a. Whom they understand or know Lyman Graham to be.
 - b. Why Universal Meals are important for our youth, not only in NM but nationwide?
 - c. What do they hope to gain from this experience?
- 4) Upon receipt of the essays from eligible candidates by established deadline, the essays will be reviewed by the entire Board and the individual whom essay best conveys the requested topics will be awarded the scholarship. NM SNA Board will convene, select winner and notify them by February 1 of the award year.

CALENDAR FOR INTERESTED LGS APPLICANTS

10/15/2020 – 12/31/2020
Open Period for All Interested Applicants

JANUARY 2021
NM SNA Board Review of Application at Winter Board Meeting

2/1/2021
Announcing First Awardee of the Lyman Graham Scholarship

Schools of New Mexico,

The Food and Nutrition Services Bureau and the New Mexico Child Nutrition Programs Support Council would like to invite you to attend the 2021-2022 Virtual Processing Food Show and Virtual Training. The Virtual Training will be held November 6, 2020. The Virtual Food Show will begin November 6th and run through November 16th.

The Annual Processing Food Show and Training are only mandatory for those schools wishing to divert a portion of their USDA Foods for further processing in school 2021-2022. If you do not plan on of diverting for further processing, the Show and Training are not mandatory. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Below are the details and pertinent information that you will need to know.

Zoom Virtual Training

Date - November 6, 2020

10:00am-12:00pm

A Zoom link will be sent to all registered participants before the training.

Virtual Food Show

Date - November 6th through November 16th

All virtual booths can be viewed between November 6th-16th.

Additional information will be given during the virtual training. The virtual booth links will only be offered to directors or those staff responsible for diverting processed USDA Foods.

Registration - Registration Forms are due October 16th, 2020

Please email your registration to Noelle Sanchez: Email: Noellea.Sanchez@state.nm.us

Should you have any questions regarding the Virtual Processing Show or Virtual Training please feel free to call Noelle Sanchez at 505-841-2602 or email her at Noellea.Sanchez@state.nm.us

Noelle A. Sanchez
Program and Staff Manager
Food & Nutrition Services Bureau



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