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Greetings NMSNA!



Thanks to each of you and your school nutrition teams all across our great state for living and demonstrating daily; our association's vision & mission of - "Well-nourished students prepared for success - educating and empowering members to provide healthy meals to foster an environment where children achieve overall wellness and lifelong success". Thankyou.

Our school nutrition programs continue to proudly lead the charge in providing nutritious meals to not only our students but in some instances entire communities, so keep on keeping on; our efforts are not in vain. I am pleased to highlight that USDA is sending some financial relieve to our strained budgets by providing assistance via Supply Chain Assistance Funds that NMPED shared during our January 2022 monthly Townhall Zoom their strategy of allocation and distribution, so help is on the way. Members; as we continue to navigate the numerous pandemic driven issues let us not forget to advocate and partner with entities such as SNA, FRAC for another year of waivers and SSO feeding to support our programs though SY22/23. NMSNA members are the strongest advocates for school nutrition programs and we must continue to work hard towards our reaching our end goal of "Universal Free Meals for All" students.

I would like to highlight the outstanding advocacy efforts of Sonya Moore, SNS Hobbs Food Service Director and member of NMSNA Legislative committee in addressing the concerns many of us will be facing regarding the upcoming 7% mandated salary increases. Ms. Sonya 100% took the lead and drilled down the root cause of the disconnect regarding the funding of these raises which was shared with our Governor, Secretary of Education and NMPED leadership. We must all get facetime with our CFO's & Superintendents to ensure our salaries are reflected in our districts chart of accounts as FY23 budget discussions begin. FSD's please do this sooner rather than later. Thanks, Ms. Sonya, for championing this cause on behalf of all of us!!

Finally mark your calendars for our return to Isleta Resort Casino for our 65th Annual Conference & Food Show, and Yes it will be in person!! Our theme is "Boldly going Back to the Basics with NMSNA!" and as our theme implies, we will be providing refreshers in all things school nutrition! From meal patterns to conflict resolution lets refresh together! Save the dates of June 7 - June, 9, 2022 and be a part of a wonderful school nutrition professionals forum. Hope to see you all there!

Sincerely,
Marie Johnson,
NMSNA President 21-22

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Pauline Raia, NMSNA Executive Director

Hello to all NMSNA members. It has been a long time since I have seen many of you and I am looking forward to seeing some of you at the annual NMSNA **in-person** conference June 7-9, 2022 in Albuquerque at the Isleta Resort and Casino. NMSNA has provided a lot of virtual meetings and education classes during this pandemic, but I think we can all agree that there is nothing like being together in person. We miss seeing our friends and the networking we enjoy during our in-person events.

Although, we have not been able to travel, the NMSNA conference planning committee has been working hard to plan this in person conference for our members. As in the past we will have great keynote speakers and a schedule of classes that will provide something for everyone. Once again, we will be able to walk through the exhibit hall and meet with vendors on products that are available for your programs.

I hope you all plan to attend NMSNA's in person conference in June and bring back some kind of normalcy to the programs we all enjoy working in, which is feeding the future of our state and country, our children.

Please visit the NMSNA website at www.nmsna.com for info about the NMSNA conference. Registration for the conference will open up March 1, 2022.

It has been our pleasure to have been able to work with the school food service professionals in New Mexico over the years. You all have become more than customers, you have become friends, and we truly value that friendship.

It was a very emotionally difficult decision that we have to take a step back from the State of New Mexico at this time, hopefully not forever. We hope that sometime in the future we will be able to come back into your truly amazing state and work with you all again.

Sincerely,

*Linda Williams & Richard Wood
Integrated Food Service*

NOMINATING CHAIR

Janet Sanchez, NMSNA Past President

Welcome Spring 2022!

We need you! The NMSNA has elections coming up for 3 positions on our board. Have you been thinking about getting even more involved in our great Association? Now is the time to commit.

These important positions are - NMSNA Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. Qualifications to run for office are as follows:

- You must be a current NMSNA member in good standing and have served on the board, in any capacity, for at least one year. This could be serving on a committee for NMSNA & you must be at least Level 1 SNA Certified.
- The Vice President is a 4-year commitment and the Treasurer & Secretary roles are a 2-year commitment.

Please contact me at jansan175@yahoo.com or call Pauline Raia at -505-980-1570 for more information.

NMSNA PRESIDENT

Marie Johnson, SNS

In anticipation of our Governor's mandate to increase educator salaries by 7%; a wonderful act; (which we are hoping will also be applicable for support services such as: School Nutrition, Maintenance, Operations, Transportation, etc.) there are some important facts that need to be shared regarding school nutrition programs. School Nutrition Budgets are to operate sustainably without financial assistance from their Districts' General/Operational Funds but now with the continuation of supply chain issues in attaining food/supplies that have caused cost to increase; in addition to increased stated mandated minimum wage School Nutrition Programs need HELP. It is imperative that State Legislators and governing entities/agencies ensure School Nutrition Programs are also acknowledged and included in the SEG (STATE EQUALIZATION GUARANTEE) calculations and our salaries and benefits from 21000 accounts are part of the equation. It is a common fact that School Nutrition employees are often the lowest paid staff members and thus it is even more critical that this significant wage increase is implemented by all School Nutrition Departments and fully funded.

FACT: SEG (STATE EQUALIZATION GUARANTEE) funding for raises for educational employees MUST consider the employees in FEDERAL Programs. Currently only salaries in the 11000 accounts are considered. Every school district uses the 910 B5 Form to submit their payroll budgetary needs; THIS FORM DOES NOT INCLUDE SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM. All other federally funded programs are included in this form, this is where School Nutrition salaries MUST be added. Please reference attached examples from 5 New Mexico School Districts.

FACT: School Nutrition and other federally funded programs DO NOT get money from the SEG (STATE EQUALIZATION GUARANTEE) to cover state mandated raises.

FACT: All federal programs are expected to maintain salaries and benefits from their 21000 accounts.

FACT: Each School Nutrition program is expected to operate fully within their federal funding with increasing costs is impossible.

FACT: The mark of a "successful" School Nutrition program is that it can operate without any assistance from the local level.

FACT: Some of the districts that operate under a Food Service Management Company are not required to pass the state mandated raises along to School Nutrition employees. These employees are not District or School employees.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

When the calculation is compiled for the SEG (STATE EQUALIZATION GUARANTEE) to pay for the raises, our research shows that the only salaries counted are the ones in the 11000 accounts. Those individuals that are calculating the cost of the raises MUST count salaries in the 21000 accounts.

The budget comparison shows that salaries and benefits are paid from the 21000 accounts. The state budget office knows that the 21000 accounts for every school district are the federally funded accounts. The 11000 accounts are the state funded accounts. They MUST count salaries in both accounts in order to get an accurate cost of these raises and fund them accordingly.

Our collective ask is that School Nutrition Salaries from the 21000 accounts are added as a designated line item on the 910 - B5 annual forms immediately and in future years. We are open and available to discuss further at your earliest convenience but it is imperative that this information is considered and shared during the current legislative session.

Thanks so much for your consideration.

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

10/18/2021 – 12/31/2021

Open Period for All Interested Applicants

All Essays must be sent to Pauline Raia – NM SNA Executive Director at this email address

pauline.raia@q.com

1/2022

NM SNA Board Review of Application at Winter Board Meeting

2/1/2022

Announcing Awardee of the Lyman Graham Scholarship

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Virginia Schroeder, Legislative Chair

The members of the NMSNA; Sandy Kemp, Sonya Moore, Debbie Trujillo and Virginia Schroeder have been very busy the last few months. Here are the major issues we've been working on.

Locally . . .

We've been working with the NM state legislature to make sure that all foodservice employees are included in any state mandated pay increases. This has been an issue as our CNP are federally funded. Our President Marie Johnson sent a letter with financial back up from three local districts to both Secretary Steinhaus and Deputy Secretary Padilla asking for their support. Marie also asked that all NMSNA board members contact their local legislators asking for their support. In the response from Secretary Steinhaus' office Marie was asked to have the foodservice directors throughout the state work with their supervisors and/or superintendents to make sure they are aware of this issue. He also stated that the Governor is working on raises for all student nutrition employees.

We've also asked our legislature to continue funding of \$400,000.00 annually for Local Grown Produce to schools. This is looking very promising.


Edwanda Williams is working to get our State Superintendent organization to have one of their executive staff sit on the NMSNA Board. We have been working toward this relationship for some time. This way all those involved in our children's education know exactly what foodservice professionals are doing to make sure our children are fed nutritious meals every day so that they are healthy and ready to learn.

Seated mealtime (20 minutes minimum) is still being worked on. However, this may take more one on one time with our legislators.


Nationally . . .

The SNA 2022 Position Paper was posted in mid-December. You can review it [here](#). The major issues being brought before Congress are to

- ~ Extend pandemic-related Child Nutrition Waivers through the 22-23SY
- ~ Increase National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program (NSLP/SBP) reimbursements
- ~ Expand NSLP/SBP to offer healthy school meals for ALL students at no charge to support academic achievement
- ~ Ease Sodium, whole grain and milk requirements
- ~ Reduce regulatory and administrative burdens



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EDUCATION CHAIR

Shelley Montgomery

Spring Training will once again be virtual.

April 2nd starting at 9am – 11 am

Theme – Moving Forward in School Nutrition

If you have a class topic, you would like us to present please email me at montgomerys@dexterdemons.org

USDA has a new final rule for our breakfast and lunch programs. Quoted from USDA press release no. 0037.22

“The new final rule – [Child Nutrition Programs: Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium](#) – establishes the following requirements beginning SY 2022-2023:

- Milk: Schools and child care providers serving participants ages six and older may offer flavored low-fat (1%) milk in addition to nonfat flavored milk and nonfat or low-fat unflavored milk;
- Whole Grains: At least 80% of the grains served in school lunch and breakfast each week must be whole grain-rich; and
- Sodium: The weekly sodium limit for school lunch and breakfast will remain at the current level in SY 2022-2023. For school lunch only, there will be a 10% decrease in the limit in SY 2023-2024. This aligns with the U.S Food and Drug Administration's recently released [guidance](#) that establishes voluntary sodium reduction targets for processed, packaged, and prepared foods in the U.S.

All other nutrition standards, including fruit and vegetable requirements, will remain the same as the 2012 standards.”

We will all move forward together with this new final rule and we will find a way to make it work. I have faith in us!

ISLETA RESORT AND CASINO - NMSNA JUNE 7-9, 2022 CONFERENCE

Registration opens March 1, 2022. Just go to the NMSNA website at www.nmsna.com to register.

Rooms at Isleta will be available to book starting March 1, 2022. The Isleta Resort and Casino is located at 11000 Broadway Blvd. SE, Albuquerque, NM 87105. Phone number for reservations is 505-848-1999. Mention Group Code NMS0622 to receive special room rate. Room rate is \$111 single or double. Rooms must be booked by May 12, 2022 to get the group rate.





2022 Position Paper

Throughout the pandemic, nutritious school meals have [contributed to student achievement](#), supported America's families and provided a critical safety net during economic hardships. With the help of [federal child nutrition waivers](#), school nutrition professionals have ensured safe and consistent access to healthy meals for students. School meal programs now endure acute supply chain, labor, financial and regulatory [challenges](#) and require Congress and USDA's continued support. *To promote the health and success of students and ensure the sustainability of school meal programs, the non-profit School Nutrition Association (SNA) urges Congress to:*

Extend pandemic-related child nutrition waivers through School Year (SY) 2022/23

Persistent national supply chain disruptions and labor shortages have severely impacted the financial and operational sustainability of school meal programs. Widespread [issues](#) with discontinued menu items, shortages and higher prices are already wreaking havoc on the SY 2022/23 bid process. To plan for next school year, school nutrition programs and their suppliers urgently need the assurance of waiver extensions through SY 2022/23.

*Make the following **permanent** changes to Child Nutrition Programs:*

- **Increase National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program (NSLP/SBP) reimbursements.**
During the pandemic, free meals have been reimbursed at the higher Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) rate. However, in a November 2021 [SNA survey](#), only about half of school meal program directors indicated that the SFSP reimbursement rates sufficiently covered the costs of producing school breakfast and lunch, including food, labor, supplies and pandemic costs. Returning to NSLP/SBP reimbursement rates would increase meal program losses and cut into education budgets, impeding efforts to meet the needs of students and jeopardizing progress in school nutrition programs.
- **Expand NSLP/SBP to offer healthy school meals for all students at no charge to support academic achievement.**
Students, families and school meal programs alike have reaped the benefits of offering equal access to free school meals during the pandemic and through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). [Research](#) shows students receive their healthiest meals at school, and school meals are [proven](#) to support learning and improve attendance and classroom behavior. No child goes hungry during the school day or accrues [unpaid meal debt](#), a burden on families and school district budgets. School nutrition professionals can focus on nourishing students and spend less time on paperwork and reporting requirements.
- **Ease sodium, whole grain and milk requirements.**
Nutritious school meals already meet Target 1 [sodium reductions](#). Giving schools more time to meet Target 2 limits and eliminating unachievable Final Targets will preserve this progress and ensure students continue to consume school meals, which include fruits, vegetables and milk. Congress should also restore the rule that half of all grains be whole grain rich and permit schools to offer low-fat flavored milk.
- **Reduce regulatory and administrative burdens.**
Overly complex federal regulations divert resources from the mission of serving students and impede efforts to quickly and creatively adapt meal services during emergencies. Congress should direct USDA to implement the recommendations of the congressionally-mandated [Child Nutrition Reporting Burden Analysis Study](#) and the forthcoming Government Accountability Office (GAO) study of [USDA Foods in Schools](#).



| Rooms | Seminar | Rio Grande | Bosque | Manzano | Sunrise |
|-------------|--|--|---|---|--|
| 9:30-10:30 | Fruit Designs Class Debbie Trujillo and Bernallilo Staff | NSLP For New Directors PED | Navigating through the Jungle – The new normal. Jose and Travis | Yoga Stretching Gabriel Gaarden | Kitchen Civil Rights English POMS |
| 10:45-11:45 | | Dispelling the myths of CEP and Direct Certification PED Kate Ullrich | How to get a Food Truck Marie Johnson / Sandra Davis | USDA FOODS UPDATE Noelle Sanchez | Kitchen Civil Rights Spanish POMS |
| 11:45-2:15 | Food Show open for DIRECTORS | | | | |
| 11:45-12:45 | Fruit Designs Class Debbie Trujillo and Bernallilo Staff | Food Allergies PED | Kitchen Safety POMS | Yoga Stretching Gabriel Gaarden | Kitchen Inspections Elizabeth Marrufo Spanish |
| 1:00-2:00 | | FFVP and its Requirements PED | Security Considerations for Kitchen staff POMS | Farm to Table -Building a Community Approach and Statewide Movement Rita Condon Emily Green | Every Day is a New Day Elizabeth Marrufo Spanish |
| 2:15-3:30 | Food Show open for EVERYONE | | | | |
| 3:45-4:45 | Get the word out! Promoting your program through social media Chimene Quillen | CACFP For New Directors ECECD | Organizing in the Kitchen K12 by Elinor English | Yoga Stretching Gabriel Gaarden | Organizing in the Kitchen Katie Hills Spanish |