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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

New Mexico School Nutrition Association
2023 Annual State Conference

2023 NMSNA State Conference will be held IN-Person June 6-9, 2023 at the Isleta Resort & Conference Center.

This event will bring us together, in-person, for an informative, fun filled, inspiring conference where you will have unlimited networking opportunities with your peers from around the state.

Our theme this year is The Magical World of Feeding Children. We have two outstanding Keynote Speakers lined up. Pre-conference classes on Tuesday will have an extra fee, but you will not want to miss them. Cookie Decorating, Fruit & Veggie Art, Food Safety Basics (4hr certification course) and Food Handler's Class (giving you the opportunity to get or renew your certification). Starting Wednesday, So many classes to choose from that will be presented by the Institution of Child Nutrition, LEAD, POMS & Associates, Chefs, and Brokers or Exhibitors, PED, FANS, & ECECD who are excited to share their knowledge and great information to make your conference one to remember. Just to name a few:

Building Extraordinary Teams

Leadership Skills

Safety & Situational Awareness in Schools

Using Produce in Recipes

Communication & Team Building

Personal Wellness

Using Beef in Recipes

3 Magic Words in the Cafeteria

And don't forget the wonderful Exhibits. Our Vendors make our show one not to miss.

A room block has been set up. Book today by asking for NMSNA or NMS0623. Rooms are \$129.00 plus taxes for Single or Double. Block will be open until May 2, 2023. Free parking, free wifi, free shuttle to and from airport.

As usual, we will provide a goodie bag, light morning breakfast, lunch on Wednesday, Dinner on Thursday and our Big Breakfast Buffet on Friday at our Last General Session.

We've missed you. We're back and so excited to see you. Please join us for a conference you will not want to miss.

Janet Sanchez, Executive Director NMSNA

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Marie Johnson, SNS - President NMSNA

Greetings NMSNA!

As always 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". Thank you! I am excited to share in this edition a refresher about one of the other "hats" we wear – Chief Advocate for our nutrition programs that benefit the children we serve proudly! In March 2023 a small delegation of NMSNA members will be representatives at SNA's Legislative Action Council (LAC) and we will be joined by the third winner of the Lyman Graham Scholarship (LGS) – Rocio Mendez, veteran Cafeteria Manager from Belen Schools! Congratulations Rocio!

As Chief Advocates we all must be prepared at a moment's notice to share heartfelt stories about what we do and how the meals we provide are essential for all of our students. Our SNA website has a plethora of resources to help each of us fine tune and sharpen our advocacy chops, but here are some of the basics as a quick refresher!

How to be a Chief Advocate before, during and after visits with legislators

Know the issues and who will speak on them. Go in with a plan on who in the group is going to speak/advocate for each specific policy to be efficient and avoid talking over each other. Consider assigning a leader to call on certain individuals. Example: **SNA Resource #1 2023 Position Paper**

Develop an "elevator speech" 30 seconds to 1 minute to keep your audience attentive! Please practice with a timer so you can get it fine-tuned.

Personal sentiments/anecdotes are essential. Lawmakers share those stories with their constituents. Emotions and stories about direct impact of schools' meals are more powerful than statistics when communicating with legislators and school nutrition professionals have a unique up-close and personal lens that we can share with them. Anticipate questions from your representative/senator and prepare researched answers

Do your research, know what issues your representative/senator is active on, and where they stand on the issues. How have they voted in the past? Share some gratitude if the representative has previously acted on policy issues or supports the School Nutrition Association's legislative priorities. If this is a bill being reintroduced, was your representative or senator previously a co-signer?

Connect to your audience by finding shared values. You may disagree with a lawmaker's previous voting history, but you can spin a policy issue in a unique perspective.

Ask for feedback. At the end of a meeting, it is okay to ask whether this issue is something that the legislator/staffer can see themselves working on. Aides will generally be honest with you. Also, always ask if they have any unanswered questions.

Follow up after the meeting. Ask the aides you meet with for their contact information and send a thank you email after your meeting. Always share your gratitude and continue to apply social pressure. It takes time to get meaningful results in government.

Make sure to provide the member of Congress or their aides what the best way to deliver key information to them. **Be sure to have copies of the Position Paper and any other pertinent documents in hand to leave behind for legislators to reflect on.**

Lastly - Stay involved. After your legislative meeting, consider sharing your policy passions via social media or by submitting an article for publishing in an upcoming Road Runner article.

Finally mark your calendars for our return to Isleta Resort Casino for our 66th Annual Conference & Food Show!! Our theme is "The Magical World of Feeding Children!" and as our theme implies, we will be providing refreshers in how the "magic" happens in school nutrition! From meal patterns to conflict resolution let's all be reminded of how the magic happens! Save the dates of June 6 – June, 9, 2023 and be a part of our state associations' wonderful school nutrition professionals forum! Hope to see you all there, you won't be disappointed!

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Janet Sanchez- Executive Director NMSNA

Oh my how time flies. The NMSNA is excited to see the Healthy Meals for ALL bill going forward and by the time this newsletter is printed, we hope it has passed and you will be feeding all your students at no cost to our families.

We have been planning our second In-Person State conference and it has been so good to see faces in person again. We are excited as our conference will be one you will not want to miss. We have lots of great things planned. Please join us. Your district can pay your way. As part of their budget, they can use the line item of Professional Training and Travel. Ask your district or supervisor today.

Registration will open Monday, March 13, 2023. Registration will be done via the website portal on our state association's web page, nmsna.com. There will be prompts to direct you to the correct page.

We love to hear from you and your districts and school sites. We would love to share your successes on our media avenues, Website, Facebook page, and Twitter page. Send us anything you can. We'd love to feature our schools and districts and their many successes.

Thank you for being a member. We appreciate and want to help you as much as possible to reach your goals, give you opportunities to expand your knowledge and support you as best we can.

Hope I see you in June at our Annual State Conference.

NMSNA 2023 State Conference



THE MAGICAL WORLD of FEEDING CHILDREN



REGION 2 NEWS

Sue Eddy, Region 2 Chair

Indigenous Day

Columbus Day at Rehoboth Christian School is always celebrated as Indigenous Day!

The children love to dress traditionally to celebrate the wonderful first nations diversity at their school. For breakfast students were served Blue Corn Mush, an earthy smoky flavored hot corn cereal. At lunch, the students had a choice between Mutton (locally sourced) Stew with lots of vegetables and a New Mexican Classic, Green Chili Stew. They were also treated to homemade Frybread. (using 51% whole wheat flour) made by the loving hands of volunteer grandmas and mothers. They topped it off with veggies and every kids' favorite, watermelon!

It was a great day and as you can see they loved a special meal!



VICE PRESIDENT & MEMBER SERVICES' CORNER

Dean Gallegos, Vice President NMSNA

Calling all "Star" Lunch Ladies and School Food Dudes!!!

Each year, we look for outstanding individuals throughout the state, and we need your assistance. We are asking for nominations for Director of the Year, Manager of the Year, and Employee of the Year. Not only are these individuals recognized annually at our state conference, but they are also recognized at our National Conference, which will be held in Denver this coming July.

If you know of any of your coworkers who are deserving of an award like this, please nominate them. You can also nominate yourself. To be eligible you must need to be in good standing with the association. Please reach out for more information.

Thank you and I hope to see everyone in June at our annual conference.

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Virginia Schroeder, Legislative Chair

Members of NMSNA will be in Washington, DC in early March to meet with our Senators and Representatives discussing major issues facing the programs here in New Mexico. [Here is the link to SNA 2023 Position Paper](#) that indicates the topics we'll be discussing with each of our legislators. We will also discuss NM local issues with them.

NM Senate Bill SB4 "Healthy Universal School Meals Act" is working its way thru Senate committees. Will then go to the full Senate for vote. If passed it will then move to the NM House for debate and vote. You can view this bill and its adjustments at the following website <https://www.nmlegis.gov/Legislation/Legislation?Chamber=S&LegType=B&LegNo=4&year=23>

Enrollment in public schools is down nationally by over 1M students. In New Mexico from 2009 to 2020 enrollment was down 5% and is projected to decrease by 17% by 2030. <https://www.axios.com/2023/01/08/public-school-enrollment-decline> However, not all districts are facing this issue. **This is a topic we as an association need to address.** Are these students now enrolled in private or charter schools? Are these school entities part of NSLP & SBP programs?

Summer Food Service Program: 2023 Reimbursement Rates will increase for breakfast to \$2.825 and Lunch and Supper to \$4.95, snack to \$1.1675 for rural and Self-prep Sites. Full information on these 2023 reimbursements can be found here. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/01/06/2023-00002/summer-food-service-program-2023-reimbursement-rates>



"When you're curious,
you find lots of interesting
things to do."

-WALT DISNEY

Find plenty of interesting things to
do at this year's Annual State
Conference.

-Scan the QR code to
take you to our website
and learn more about the
upcoming 2023 NMSNA
conference!



SCAN ME



READY TO CHANGE THE WORLD?

We are fueling students to take on their
school day one meal at a time!

If you're looking for a career
that can truly change the world,

**SFE WANTS TO HEAR
FROM YOU!**

recruiting@sfallc.org



FOOD FIRST
CUSTOMIZED PROGRAMS
INNOVATION IN
OUR DNA
COMPASSIONATE
LEADERSHIP

REGION 1 NEWS

Ginger Lange, Region 1 Chair

The Region 1 training was held on Saturday, Nov 5 at Rio Rancho District Office. The training was a 4 hour training on Kitchen Hazards, Fire Safety, kitchen ergonomics, safe lifting and Environmental setup to prevent injuries. We had a good turnout. I want to Thank Poms and Associates-Karen Mestas-Harris and Andrew Trujillo for an informative and fun training.

REGION 6 NEWS

Mary Lou Nez Begay, Region 6 Chair

What is Commodity Processing? I have always wondered what that meant and what all goes into doing Commodity Processing.

I have attended training and food shows pertaining to Food Processing Shows and other food shows, but I felt like it was just more paperwork and recordkeeping that would add on to the many responsibilities as a Director of Food Service, and along with cooking.

In March 2022, Neil Harmeyer with Prime Sales and Marketing did a Kitchen site visit at Dzilth-Na-O-Dith-Hle School. Mr. Neil explained the process of converting the (brown box) commodities to Processing, along with He also explained the Application process to do Food Processing. For the School Year 2022-2023 we decided to try Commodity Processing using our Diced Chicken from Commodity. We were able to do Yang's Orange Chicken, General Tso and Teriyaki Chicken. The process was easier than I thought. And the students really enjoy the three variety of Asian Entrees that we served on our Menu. The students at Dzilth-Na-O-Dith-Hle also get to use chop sticks when we offer Chinese food and really enjoy it and have fun at the same time.

The students always ask when we will be offering Chinese Food and so they can use chop sticks. So, the Commodity Processing was not as difficult as I thought it would be, and I am glad I was able to do this for our students this school year.

We will be looking forward to the school year 2023-2024 to see what we can add on as additional to our Commodity Processing.



Spring
2023



Feeding Bodies. Fueling Minds.™



SCAN ME

NM SNA REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE COMPETITION!

EACH WINNING REGION DISTRICT GETS A PIZZA PARTY, PROVIDED BY



How to qualify for the Drawing: Any NM-based school district at 100% SNA membership is automatically enrolled in the Drawing for their Region. Additionally, any district that has 50% enrollment growth or more during the recruitment period of February 1st through Friday, April 14th will also be entered into the Drawing for their Region.

Region winners will be drawn Monday April 17, 2023, with each winning district awarded a pizza party for their staff with products to be provided by Wild Mike's Ultimate Pizza, and Prime Sales & Marketing.

Additionally, Patty Meeks and Neil Harmeyer, the Wild Mike's regional manager and local broker representative, will personally attend and participate in one of the winning districts' pizza parties to be held Friday, May 5th, 2023, to celebrate "School Lunch Hero Day"!

WHY SNA??

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & GROWTH! | NEW CONNECTIONS & MENTORING!

CONTINUING EDUCATION! | PRACTICAL IDEAS, RESOURCES & SOLUTIONS!

CAREER ADVANCEMENT & COLLEAGUE SUPPORT! | COMMUNITY & NETWORKING!

INNOVATION! | PASSION!



SCHOOL LUNCH
HERO DAY