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— WELCOME — BACK TO SCHOOL

Hello NMSNA Leaders,

Wow, it is hard to believe we have started another new year. Seems like just yesterday that we were in Albuquerque at the state conference and what a great conference it was. Kay Frances, Dr. Painter, and Joanne Robinette were wonderful, funny and knowledgeable general session speakers. The teachers and speakers during the breakout sessions were amazing and taught classes that will be useful to us at our jobs every day. I would like to thank all of you that helped with the conference as well as those that attended. It would not have been such a huge success without you.

I want to thank Norma Valenzuela our current past president for the outstanding leadership she provided for the 2016-2017 year. We have made some progress in relieving the difficult and hard to follow rules and regulations set forth by the previous administration. School districts can now ask for a waiver through the state for the whole grain requirement that will give districts more flexibility and insure offering items more readily accepted by the student body. Districts will also be considered compliant if they are meeting sodium target 1 regulation and are working to create low sodium menus that students will enjoy.

It is time to start thinking about the region trainings and I encourage you to attend the meeting in your area. Your region chairpersons are already hard at work planning for the fall training in your region. You are sure to find helpful information and meet your professional standards requirement. Remember to check the website for all information regarding NMSNA trainings.

Hope you have a great relaxing summer. If you have questions, comments, or concerns please email me at shelmontgomery@risd.k12.nm.us

Shelley Montgomery
NMSNA President

REGION 3 UPDATE

Michelle Roaque, NMSNA Region 3 Chair

I hope you all were able to at least get a few days off before school started up again. It is always exciting and sometimes chaotic when starting a new year. We have been very busy here in Taos as I am sure you all have been also.

Our Region 3 Fall Training is coming and would love for all of you who are in Region 3 to come join us! Our Fall Training will be held on October 7, 2017 at the Taos Middle School Cafeteria, 235 Paseo del Canon East, Taos, NM.

We are still developing the classes for the training so please call/email me at: [\(575\)758-5289](tel:5757585289)/michelle.roaque@taoschools.org for more information. I hope to see you here in October!

VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Rachel Martinez, NMSNA Vice President/Member Services

I would like to welcome you all to the School Year 2017-18!

I'm very excited and looking forward to this year as vice-president. I've learned so much during the time that I have served on the NMSNA Board and I'm looking forward to all that is yet to come. I'm grateful for the support from the board while I was Region Chair, Secretary and now Vice-President. This year is going to be busy since there is still so much more I have to learn in order to perform my duty as vice-president. I encourage all food service staff to become a member of the SNA and take advantage of all the benefits the Association has to offer.

I'm sure there are many of you like myself that look forward to attending the Annual State Conference. There are many classes and exciting events offered including the awards ceremony. There are four categories: Director, Manager, Employee of the year awards and the Friendship award. Any individual that is a member and certified may be nominated for these awards. Demonstrate your expertise and as a result you may get nominated for an award. You may visit the NMSNA web-site for more details.

Have a wonderful year!

REGION 5 UPDATE

Carmen Torres NMSNA Region 5 Chair

Hello Everyone!!! This is Carmen Torres region 5 I like to welcome everyone back from their summer break. I know many of us are busy right now setting up to welcome our kiddos back to school, this should be a fun and interesting week. Well we will soon be preparing for our Fall Region Training classes. I look forward to making them a fun and yet interesting learning experience for all. I will inform you as soon as the schedule and location is set, we look forward to seeing you all at the Fall Region Training.

Any questions or suggestions can be emailed to me at cartorres@lcps.net

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S CORNER

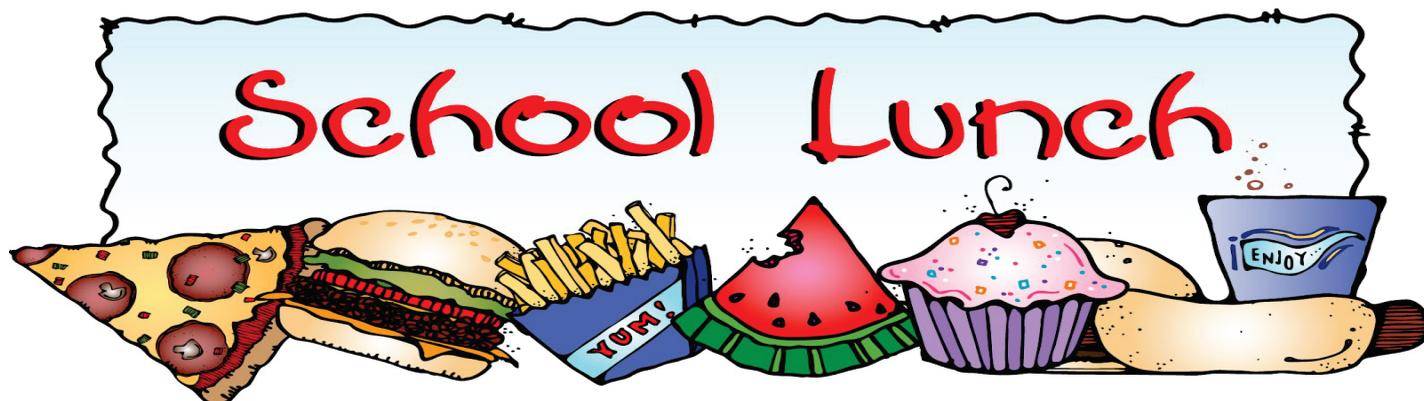
Pauline Raia, NMSNA Executive Secretary

Happy fall. Here's to another fun school year of doing the job you all love so much, which is feeding the school children of New Mexico. Hope all of you had a great summer and are ready to get back to work preparing and feeding New Mexico's children healthy and nutritious meals.

The June 2017 NMSNA conference at the Hyatt in Albuquerque was a great success this year. We had a record attendance. NMSNA is here for all its members and works very hard to ensure we are providing the professional standard classes all its members need to get a certificate or to ensure you are getting all the continuing education units members need to maintain their certificate levels. If there is a class or classes you would like to see NMSNA provide either at the regional trainings or at its annual conference, please email me or call me.

October 9-13, 2017 is National School Lunch week. Please take time this week to showcase your school and all the great things you do feeding our school children a healthy and nutritious lunch. Invite your state and national legislators to lunch that week. Invite parents and other local organizations. All of you do a fantastic job at your schools with the National School breakfast and lunch programs and you need to showcase the great things you are doing.

Again, always check the NMSNA website at www.nmsna.com to find out the latest news on what is going on with NMSNA and for any questions or suggestions regarding NMSNA, please contact me at 505-980-1570 or email me at pauline.raia@q.com



School Lunch

NUTRITION NEWS

Ginger Jones, NMSNA Nutrition Chair

Ready or not, another year in school nutrition is here! Nutrition professionals across our State have been diligently working through the summer feeding our youth, while trying to get ready for the 2017/2018 SY. Nutritional Standard changes are already being implemented with the new USDA, Secretary Sonny Perdue.

Some of the 2017/2018 SY Nutrition changes to be on the lookout for are;

SP 32-2017 School Meal Flexibilities: begins the process to amend the regulations for the school meal programs with respect to sodium, whole grains, and flavored milk.

SP 15-2017: Flexibility for the Target 2 Sodium Requirements: this guidance addresses the nutrition standard regarding the sodium content of meals served through the NSLP and the NSBP.

SP 37- 2017 Flexibility for Co-Mingled Preschool Meals: which provides guidance on meals served to preschoolers when they are in the same service area at the same time as K-5 students (co-mingling). "How Do They Compare? Child Nutrition Programs Meal Pattern Requirements" chart. The chart helps you compare the meal pattern requirements for the Child and Adult Care Food Program, School Meal Programs, and Summer Food Service Program.

PRESIDENT ELECT'S CORNER - 2018 CONFERENCE UPDATE

Dean Gallegos, NMSNA President Elect

Well here we are again, preparing for a new year of feeding our children. I have always enjoyed this time of year, energized by the conferences I've attended, wanting to change what didn't work from the previous year, and to build on what did. However; I cannot tackle these endeavors alone, 'It Takes a Team'. This year will be especially busy for my team and me here at Bernalillo Public Schools, as we will be planning and preparing for next year's state conference. On a side note, we will also be audited (woohoo!).

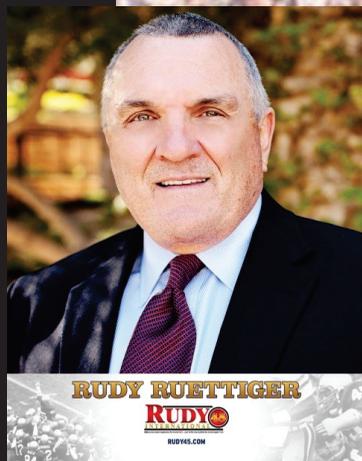
'It Takes a Team' is the theme for the 2018 New Mexico Student Nutrition Association's State Conference. As some of you know, I have coached baseball for 27 years at all levels and participated in other sports, not only baseball. That experience, along with others, has taught me the importance of being part of a team. This is true on the field as well as in the kitchen, office, and in practically every setting there is.

We have some dynamic speakers lined up who know what it is to go after their individual dreams while also being part of a team.

Vera Jo Bustos will be our speaker at our Opening General Session. Ms. Bustos attended both West Las Vegas High School and Adam State University where she excelled both in the classroom and on the court. She then went on to play professional basketball in Greece. She currently is an assistant woman's basketball coach for the University of New Mexico Lady Lobos.

Along with Ms. Bustos we have Rudy Ruettigar. Mr. Ruettigar will be our Keynote Speaker at the Closing General Session. You may have watched the very popular movie "Rudy" which made his story well known. Rudy had a dream to play football at Notre Dame. Rudy was small in stature, but had a big heart. Despite the odds, with his hard work, perseverance, and determination, he was able to overcome, and make his dream come true. Although Rudy played in only one play of one game, he accomplished his dream by running onto the football field as a member of the Notre Dame Fighting Irish.

Both of these remarkable speakers will give you their personal experiences on how "It takes a team" to be successful. So, save the date, and mark your calendars for the 2018 New Mexico Student Nutrition Association Conference to be held at Isleta Hotel in Albuquerque, NM from June 5th - June 8th 2018. More information will be coming out in the next few months. Have a great year!!!



Vera Jo Bustos

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Virginia Schroeder, NMSNA Legislative Chair

Welcome back to school year 17-18 . . . my this summer passed quickly. Well your Legislative committee consisting of Janet Sanchez, Sandy Kemp and Virginia Schroeder has been busy at work this summer. We have been meeting with our lobbyist Pam Roy attempting to find a way to get the state legislature to reestablish funding for our **New Mexico Grown Fruit & Vegetable program**. As you may know it did not get funded for the 17-18SY. We realize that we need to begin this process now and not wait until the legislature is in session come January. We've met and discussed this issue with Michael Chavez, NMPED, Secretary Jeff Witte, NMDA and his staff, the NM Food & Ag Policy Council and plan to meet with the governor's office in early September. We're still working on this but hope to have everything in place for the legislature before January.

We will set a date for **New Mexico School Nutrition Day in Santa Fe** during the Legislature as soon as the website opens. We'll do our best NOT to have it on a holiday this coming year. Once again we will share that day with NM Farm to School and NM Food & Ag Policy Council. As always we'll have NMSNA Officers sitting on the rostrum in both houses on this special day. We are also looking for nominations from NMSNA membership for awards that NM Food & Ag Policy Council will be presenting that day. If you have someone in mind please go to <https://goo.gl/forms/lvndpYxhL1dHGDVF2> or use the attached nomination word document. NOTE . . . all nomination must be submitted no later than October 6, 2017.

A visit to New Mexico by staff from the **USDA Farm to School Office of Community Food Systems** focused on farm to school programs in tribal and rural communities.

Dean Gallegos, **Bernalillo Public Schools** Food Service Director and Jeanette Garcia, Multicultural Education Coordinator and their team, shared their enthusiasm and the unique aspects of their programs in their district of 3,134 students. As a school district that serves **Santa Domingo Pueblo**, the USDA office had an opportunity to learn about how farm to school is a way of life and food is medicine. The new USDA Director, Erin Healy from Washington, DC, along with Rachel Spenser and Bill Ludwig from the Southwest region office, Michael Chavez of the NM Public Education Department and colleagues got a first-hand look at a top notch program that links classroom-based farm to school learning to experience in the garden, the community's garden and the school meal program. Dean Gallegos is proud of his meal program and also makes a point of buying from local farmers as often as he can.

On another leg of the tour, **Magdalena Public Schools** provided a look into a creative school environment dedicated to farm to school programs. Their leadership and commitment landed them a 2017 USDA Farm to School grant.

NMSNA "School Food Professional of the Year" Nomination Form

The 2rd Annual School Food Professional of the Year Award will recognize and celebrate an innovative School Food Professional in New Mexico that is connecting local, healthy food to their students, families, and school staff through purchasing and education. We are asking YOU, NMSNA members, to help us select the recipient of this award.

We are looking for individuals who believe in the importance of fresh, healthy food on the plates of their students, and walk their talk by purchasing local food (though state appropriated monies and/or out of own budget) as much as possible throughout the school year. We are also looking for nominees that go beyond purchasing New Mexico grown food and have found ways to integrate education about New Mexico agriculture and nutrition into their programs.

Once all nominations are received, a review committee from the New Mexico Food & Agriculture Policy Council will select the awardee. The awardee will be honored at the 2018 Food and Farms Day and School Nutrition Day by the NMSNA President, Shelley Montgomery.

Please mail nominations to 1841 Mann St, Santa Fe, NM 87505 or email to Kendal Chavez, Farm to Table Farm to School Director, at kendal@farmtotablenm.org.

All nominations need to be received by Friday, October 6th.

NOMINATIONS FOR ANNUAL SCHOOL FOOD PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD

Please **mail nominations** to 1841 Mann St, Santa Fe, NM 87505 or email to Kendal Chavez, Farm to Table Farm to School Director, at kendal@farmtotablenm.org.

All nominations need to be received by Friday, October 6th.

Nominator's Contact Information

Name: _____

Title: _____

Business/Organization/School District: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Nominee's Contact Information

Name: _____

Title: _____

Business/Organization/School District: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Nominee's Information

Please describe why this nominee deserves to receive an honorary award for their commitment to feeding and education their students about local, healthy food. How have they gone above and beyond to support New Mexico students in eating, and learning about, New Mexico grown food at school? (4-5 sentences minimum)



Future Leadership Program, Baltimore, MD

Left to Right: Carmen Torres, *NMSNA Region Chair - Las Cruces Schools*, Nancy Cathey, *Director Las Cruces Schools*; Shelley Montgomery, *NMSNA President- Roswell Schools*; Pauline Raia, *NMSNA Executive Secretary*; Sue Eddy, *Director Rehoboth Christian School*; Dean Gallegos, *NMSNA President Elect -Director Bernallilo Schools*.

GOT NEWS?

Send your information to: **ATTN: Chimene Quillen**, 8340 Washington St. NE, Suite B, Albuquerque, NM 87113 or email chimeneq@gmail.com.

Back To
School!
And We're So
Happy!

Winter 2017 Issue

Mail Date: November 10

Theme: Holiday

Artwork and Article Submission Deadline: October 20

Spring 2018 Issue

Mail Date: March 23

Theme: NMSNA Annual Conference

Artwork and Article Submission Deadline: March 2