



North Dakota SNA Newsletter



President's Message

With my term as President coming to an end, I want to thank each of you for your dedicated support to our state and your students. And to my fellow board members, it has been an honor to be a part of a team that so generously contributes their time and expertise to strengthen our association. A team that enthusiastically pioneers new initiatives and works passionately to enact them.

I am proud of the fact this year we were able to send two of our Future Leaders to a regional and national conference. Heather attended the Mountain Plains Leadership Conference in Omaha, NE. While Sam joined Allison for the SNA National Leadership Conference in Seattle, WA.



These conferences allow our state leaders the opportunity to network with experts while they immerse themselves in discussions and team building exercises. They experience firsthand coaching, consulting, creative thinking, and problem solving with their peers. The skills learned and relationships formed are an integral part in developing strong leaders. Leaders that will propel our association forward. Our organization thrives when our leaders thrive.

It is my hope that you will afford these same opportunities to yourself and your team. Our state conference is a time for us to lean on and learn from each other. A time to fill our bucket while filling those around us. A time to work with our Industry & State Representatives and discuss the why behind the regulations. We all know there is so much more than simply putting food on a plate.

As I write this last message, it is with a grateful heart that I look back at my time on the board. Thru these 5 years I have been able to experience our profession on a scale I had never dreamt possible when I started my career as a lone cook in an elementary kitchen.

I would encourage anyone willing to share their time to consider serving on the board. Whether a head cook, assistant cook, delivery crew, or director, we are all School Nutrition Professionals, and we all have a crucial role to play. We need your help in building a strong foundation for those that come after us.

Many Thanks & Much Appreciation,

Gina Giovannoni

Purchasing Coordinator
Bismarck Public Schools
ND SNA President, 2023-2024

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ND SNA Annual State Conference Invitation & Welcome!

I would like to invite each of you to the 2024 North Dakota School Nutrition Association State Conference. This year's event is being held in Fargo at the Hilton Garden Inn on June 5th and 6th. There will be Pre-Conference sessions on June 4th. Visit the ND SNA website for conference details and registration.

Here are some of the highlights of this year's conference.

- Pre-Conference will be held Tuesday, June 4th. You can register for 8hr ServSafe or 3hr Food Safety in Schools renewal.
- Come early and join us at Brewhalla from 4pm-8pm on Tuesday evening.
- We have a variety of Educational Sessions on Wednesday & Thursday you won't want to miss!
- Wednesday evenings banquet will include The Feud game show and Basket Raffle.
- The Food Show on Thursday is always popular. You'll have the chance to visit with vendors and try new school foods.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you in Fargo!



Ivy Thorson
Child Nutrition Director
Minot Public Schools
NDSNA President-Elect



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ND SNA Annual State Conference Schedule

June 4 - June 6, 2024
Hilton Garden Inn
4351 17th Ave S, Fargo

Tuesday, June 4th - Preconference

8:00am-4:00pm, ServSafe Training & Certification
1:00pm-4:00pm Food Safety in Schools Renewal
4:00pm-8:00pm Social at Brewhalla, 1702 1st Ave N, Fargo

Wednesday, June 5th

7:00am-8:00am Registration & Breakfast
8:00am-8:15am Welcome
8:15am-9:15am Joe Pettit, Seeds to Success
9:15am-9:30am Break
9:30am-10:30am Joe Pettit
10:30am-10:45am Break
10:45am-12:00pm
Tom Schwartz, Spec It and Check It (Group 1)
Emily Karel, Recipe Writing and Standardization (Group 2)
12:00pm-12:55pm Lunch
1:00pm-2:15pm
Tom Schwartz, Spec It and Check It (Group 2)
Emily Karel, Recipe Writing and Standardization (Group 1)
2:15pm-2:30pm Break
2:30pm-4:30pm Dr. Jim Painter
4:30pm-5:00pm Break
5:00pm-6:30pm Banquet
6:30pm-8:30pm Basket Raffle & The Feud Game Show

Thursday, June 6th

7:00am-8:00am Breakfast
7:20am-8:00am Business Meeting, Legislative & DPI Update
8:00am-10:30am Farm To School
10:30am-11:30am
Food Show (Group 1)
Table Talk & Evaluations (Group 2)
11:30am-12:30pm
Food Show (Group 2)
Table Talk & Evaluations (Group 1)
12:30pm-1:00pm Food Show (Everyone)

*Hilton Garden Inn
4351 17th Ave S, Fargo*



*Brewhalla
1702 1st Ave N, Fargo*



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ND SNA Conference - Basket Raffle

The always popular basket raffle will be part of the Wednesday evening banquet activities at The Hilton Garden Inn. Attendees will have the opportunity to purchase and enter tickets for a chance to win from an array of creative and uniquely themed gift baskets!

****Participants and vendors are invited to donate a themed basket for the 'Basket Raffle' activity. Donated baskets are not an approved expense for program funds. Baskets will be collected at conference registration events.***



If you have any questions feel free to reach out to any board member.



Please 'like' our new Facebook page! You can find it at:

<https://www.facebook.com/NorthDakotaSNA/>

You can share this info with your staff within your Child Nutrition program and also encourage them to share it with teachers and staff within their schools.

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DPI Update

Happy Spring! Winter has not given up its grip on the weather in some parts of the state yet, but we know spring showers and summer flowers are on their way. And this means School Year 2024 is about to wrap up.

Remember to get all those records together that need to be stored safely away for the next three years including production records for each meal served and supporting documentation like Child Nutrition labels and Product Formulations Statements. Each month's claim for reimbursement, along with its supporting documents like edit checks and free/reduced applications, also needs to be stored for those same three years before shredding. The completed professional development logs for each staff member showing civil rights training should also be in the storage box.

Finally, add a copy of the back-to-school letter/packet that is sent to households at the beginning of the school year. This proves that the free/reduced applications were sent out, that the household was updated on the progress of student wellness goals through the local wellness policy, and that they were made aware of the school's unpaid meal charge procedures.

Coming in 2025

USDA -Food and Nutrition Service has released several memos recently:

New Food Yields in the Food Buying Guide: USDA has finished food yield research on canned mixed fruit, canned beef, instant long grain, and quick medium grain brown rice AND cactus fruit (prickly pear). Check it out at: <https://foodbuyingguide.fns.usda.gov/>

The Child Nutrition Database, Release 27: This database is important for any menu planner who is using nutrition software. Find information on the update at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/child-nutrition-database>

Paid Lunch Equity: Guidance for School Year 2024-2025 in SP 14-2024: Schools with a zero or positive balance in the school food service account on June 30, 2024, do not need to raise student meal prices for the next school year based on the Paid Lunch Equity Tool. Conversely, if the school food service account ends in the negative, meal prices are expected to be raised.

Summer Food Service Program guidance on Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas: If any North Dakota school district is interested in providing Summer Food Service to its rural areas or in another eligible site, please contact NDDPI SFSP manager Melissa Anderson at mlanderson@nd.gov. Sign-up is open now!

At this printing, we have not heard about the new rules for the regular School Breakfast or National School Lunch program meal pattern. We do know that there will be no changes for the upcoming school year. The annual Back to School Workshops will cover changes for the following school year, 2025-2026. These have been scheduled and registration is open! Dates are either July 30th or July 31st in Fargo, August 6th or 7th in Bismarck, or August 8th in Minot. Please find the registration links on the NDDPI-CNFD website under the 'UPDATES' tab: <https://www.nd.gov/dpi/districtschools/child-nutrition-and-food-distribution/updates>

We look forward to greeting you at one of the workshops this fall. Until then, if any questions arise, please contact the office at dpicnfd@nd.gov or call 1-888-338-3663.

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Legislative Update - Spring 2024

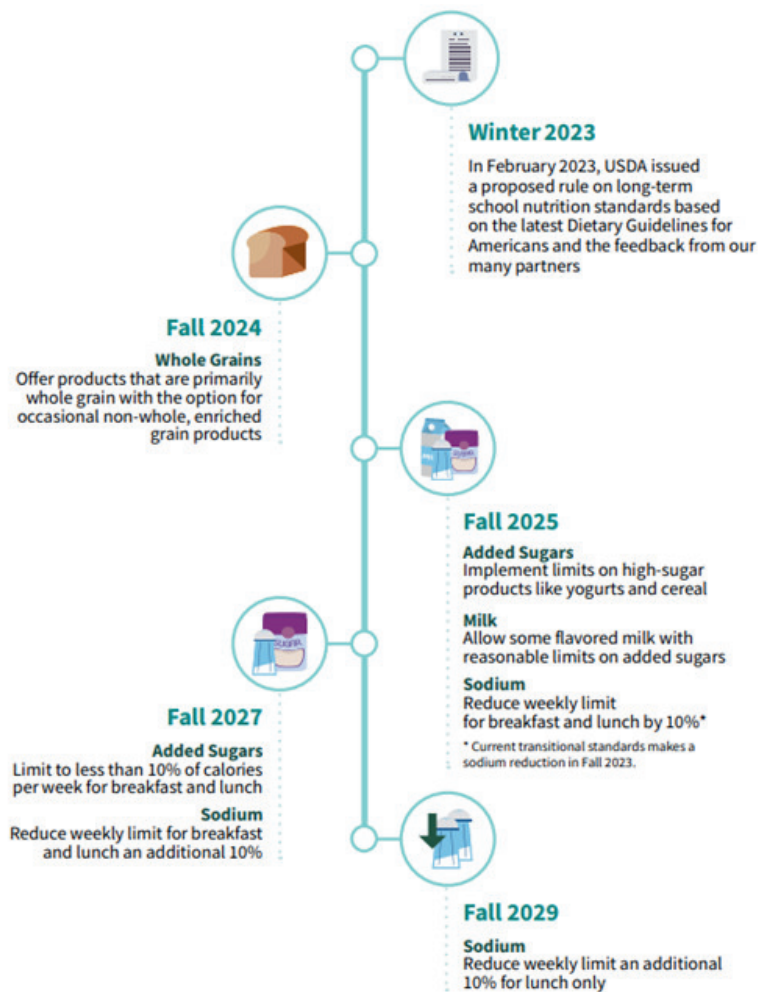


Lynelle Johnson, Cindy Hogenson, Gina Giovannoni, and I attended the 2024 Legislative Action Conference in Washington, DC. There was valuable input given from attendees to the USDA representatives regarding the proposed rule changes. While we were in DC we met with staffers from Senator Hoeven and Senator Cramer office. We were able to meet with Representative Armstrong in person. During these meetings, we focused on the SNA position paper which included maintaining current nutrition standards, permanently increasing federal reimbursement rates, and expanding NSLP/SBP to offer school meals for all students at no charge. Our legislators were most interested in learning more about potential challenges program operators would face if the proposed nutrition standards were put in place.

As of right now, USDA has not released the final ruling on the proposed nutrition standards. Some of these proposed changes include a reduction in sugar, flavored milk, more whole grains, and reduced sodium levels. USDA is proposing a gradual implementation of these nutrition standards between 2024-2029.



Michelle Wagner, RD, SNS
Child Nutrition Program Director
Bismarck Public Schools
NDSNA Legislative Chair



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Mandan Public Schools Celebrates National School Breakfast Week

Mandan Public Schools celebrated National School Breakfast “Surf’s Up” Week, in all their elementary schools this year. Wednesday was declared “Hawaiian Day” and the students had their choice between breakfast or Hawaiian pizza.

Lakewood Elementary hosted special guests from USDA Child Nutrition, Lynelle Johnson from our own ND DPI state office, Lyndsay Witt from Senator Hoeven’s office, Mandan’s Superintendents - Mike Bitz and Carly Retterath, Mandan School Board Member - Kama Hoovestol, along with Lakewood’s Principal - Pat Beckman.

Students that participated in breakfast each morning received a small prize and at the end of the week, two students in each school received an inflatable pool surfboard.

Lakewood Elementary kitchen staff went above and beyond this year with all their decorations! Students and staff across the district sported their “Surf’s Up” attire! Fun was had by all!



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Bottineau, Central Cass, & Bowbells Celebrate National School Breakfast Week



Central Cass Public Schools



Bottineau Public Schools



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Bowbells Public School celebrated National School Breakfast week with the Sheriff's Office serving students on Tuesday, North Dakota Dept of Transportation came in on Wednesday, and Friday featured a couple Grandparents serving breakfast to the students!



The Leeds Public School cafeteria is a small but mighty school where the cafeteria is a multi-purpose room. The cafeteria also serves as the artroom and greenhouse. Healthy nutrition served up with creativity!

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Ojibwa Indian School recently updated their cafeteria. It is absolutely magnificent with the warm light, open space, and many cultural features making it a nice spot for students to eat meals!

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Professional Standards



Anyone who is ready to demonstrate their commitment to the school nutrition profession, here you go! Getting certified through the School Nutrition Association (SNA) is possible. Just log onto schoolnutrition.org and begin your training today! It's easy to track the CEU's you have completed. Just download a PDF document of your certificates!



<https://schoolnutrition.org/careers-training/professional-development/>
<https://www.pathlms.com/sna>



There are many ways to earn your CEU's:

- Nutrition
- Operations
- Administration
- Communication and Marketing

All the courses must fall under one of the 4 key areas:

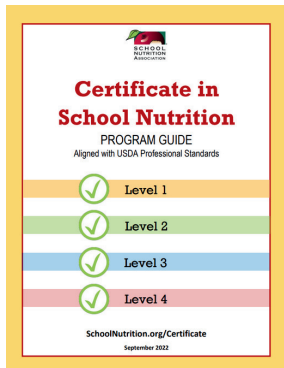
- Webinars
- Workshops
- Conferences
- On-line Courses
- Professional Development Articles

All the courses must fall under one of the 4 key areas:

- Nutrition
- Operations
- Administration
- Communication and Marketing

We currently have 49 certified members in levels 1 through 4

- Level 1 - **20** members
- Level 2 - **18** members
- Level 3 - **2** members
- Level 4 - **9** members



There are also many options available for CEU's through the Institute of Child Nutrition!

www.theicn.org



Any questions, please contact:

Cindy Wall

Jamestown School District
NDSNA Professional Development Chair
Cindy.Wall@k12.nd.us

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Become a ND Star Member

The School Nutrition Association (SNA) is the strong organization it is today because of members like you who recognize the value of SNA membership and the benefits it provides to your career, your school nutrition programs and the children you serve. You can help build the future of SNA by recruiting new members and retaining existing members. In recognition of your recruiting and retention efforts you will become part of SNA's exclusive Star Club!

How Does SNA's Star Club Work?

The Star Club is SNA's way of recognizing and thanking members who recruit and retain SNA members. Each time a new member writes your name in the referral section of the membership application form you receive one credit, plus you get an additional credit every year they renew. Credits don't expire, so once you have three credits you become a Star Club Member for as long as you are an active SNA national member.

How Star Club Credits Grow

You accumulate credits when you recruit new members and get them to renew each year. For example if you recruit 3 members this year, get all 3 to renew next year and recruit 4 more new members, you will have 10 credits in two years and become a Bronze Star.

Star Club Levels

Level Star Club Credits

Star Club Member 3
Bronze Star 10
Silver Star 50
Gold Star 100
Platinum Star 150
Diamond Star 250

Star Club Recognition

As a member of SNA's Star Club, you will be recognized for your hard work and recruiting efforts throughout the year and at SNA meetings, including special recognition at the Annual National Conference. In addition, you will also receive a gift of appreciation each time you reach the next Star Club level.

Current ND Star Members!



Joann Carik
Deb Egeland
Joanne Geinert
Gina Harder
Maureen Harmon
Becky Heinert
Cindy Hogenson
Lynelle Johnson
Dana Rieth
Linda Schloer
Lois Scott
Jana Ternes
Barb Uhrich
Michelle Wagner

Follow the link below for more info on how to recruit SNA members and become a Star Member!

<https://schoolnutrition.org/about-us/sna-membership/membership-recruitment/>
<https://schoolnutrition.org/about-us/sna-membership/membership-recruitment/star-club/>

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We are currently looking for several people to serve on our board! Here are the current openings:

Secretary - 2 year commitment

Membership Chair - 2 year commitment

Awards Chair - 2 year commitment

Reach out to any board member if you're interested!



Sam Jonckowski is running for the ND SNA Vice President position for next school year!

Sam works for the West Fargo Public Schools nutrition program as their Operations Supervisor.

Voting will take place at the state conference in June.

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PRESIDENT
Gina Giovannoni
Bismarck Public Schools
gina_giovannoni@bismarckschools.org



PRESIDENT ELECT
Ivy Thorson
Minot Public Schools
ivy.thorson@minot.k12.nd.us



VICE PRESIDENT
Allison Grabow
Bismarck Public Schools
allison_grabow@bismarckschools.org



PAST PRESIDENT
Cindy Hogenson
Fargo Public Schools
hogensc@fargo.k12.nd.us



EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Katie Sieverding
Lancaster Management Group
katie@lancastermanagementgroup.com



SECRETARY
Vacant



TREASURER
Joleen Hagen
Valley City Public Schools
joleen.hagen@k12.nd.us



LEGISLATIVE CHAIR
Michelle Wagner
Bismarck Public Schools
michelle_wagner@bismarckschools.org



NUTRITION STANDARDS CHAIR
Kyla Zach
Fargo Public Schools
zachk@fargo.k12.nd.us



MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
Sam Jonckowski
West Fargo Public Schools
sjonckowski@west-fargo.k12.nd.us



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CHAIR
Cindy Wall
Jamestown Public Schools
Cindy.Wall@k12.nd.us



COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR
Sheena Lee
West Fargo Public Schools
slee@west-fargo.k12.nd.us



ND DPI REPRESENTATIVE
Rhonda Amundson
ND Dept of Public Instruction
rhondaamundson@nd.gov



AWARDS CHAIR
Wendy Mankie
Grand Forks Public Schools
wmankie260@mygfschools.org



INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVE
Sarah Herland
General Mills
sarah.herland@genmills.com



INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVE
Rick Herland
Baker Sales
rickh@bakersalescompany.com

*Interested in Serving
On the Board?*

ND SNA is always on the lookout for those who would like to serve on the board, help on committees, or just help at our annual conference!
If you are interested, please contact any board member.

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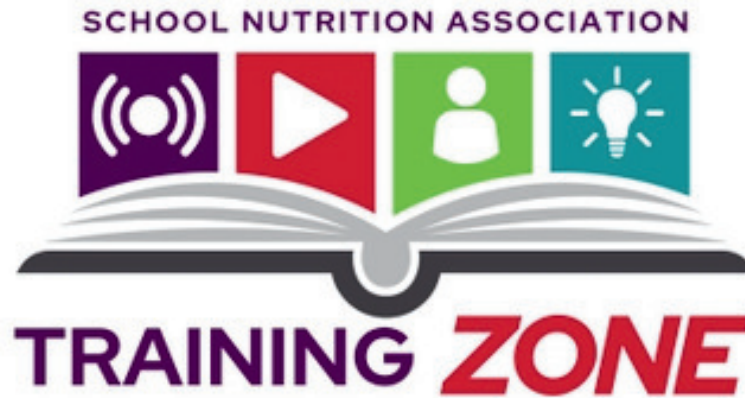
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Current Industry Members



Gold Level:

- Baker Boy
- Conagra
- J & J Snack Foods
- McCain
- National Food Group
- Pepsi
- Peterson Farms
- Schwan's



Silver Level:

- General Mills
- Great Northern Baking Co
- PrimeroEdge



Bronze Level:

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- Daly and Deroma
- Nardone's
- Tyson
- Vander & Landgraf, Inc

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Save the Date!

ND SNA State Conference

June 4-6, 2024

Hilton Garden Inn, Fargo



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Service Assn
2002 Lancaster Pl
Pierre, SD 57501-4901

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