



SNAC Bites

February 2017 Edition

Welcome to the February 2017 issue of SNA Communication (SNAC) Bites! SNAC Bites highlights new SNA programs and provides content for your state association publications, chapter meetings, & social media.

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1. Mark Your Calendar: ANC 2017 Registration Opens February 8th!

Mark your calendar! Registration and housing for SNA's [Annual National Conference \(ANC\)](#) in Atlanta, Georgia on July 9-12 will open on February 8th. Just like last year, all attendees will be required to register for the conference before they are provided access to book their hotel room. This requirement was designed to help SNA better control the number of available rooms, ensuring more attendees will be able to have access to their first-choice hotels and preferred travel dates.

This year's General Session speakers include Captains Mark and Scott Kelly, twin brothers and NASA astronauts. [Click here](#) to learn more about the General Session speakers. In addition to hot topics offered in over 120 education sessions and an exciting Exhibit Hall, the Barenaked Ladies (BNL) will be the entertainment at our Closing Event. BNL has been performing for nearly three decades, producing 14 studio albums which have collectively sold more than 14 million copies and earned multiple Grammy nominations, a U.S. chart-topping single ("One Week") and the theme song to one of TV's most popular shows, *The Big Bang Theory*. You'll be front and center for one of the most amazing – and FUN – concerts on the current rock circuit.

2. New! SNA's First Virtual Expo is Now Open

SNA's first virtual expo is now open! This FREE expo will be accessible from January 31 through April 30, 2017. Not only will attendees have the chance to visit 36 virtual exhibitors from the comfort of their own computer 24/7, they can also access education sessions to earn CEU's and network with colleagues and industry reps. Visiting the Expo also gives you a chance to win an ANC 2017 registration (full details and sweeps rules are posted online). Learn more and register for the expo at: www.schoolnutrition.org/virtualexpo



3. Nominate Someone You Admire for an SNA Award

Are you inspired by your school nutrition colleagues, friends, and mentors? Nominate someone you admire for an SNA Award for the 2016-17 school year. Nominations for the Employee of the Year, Manager of the Year and Director of the Year awards are now being accepted online by SNA. Being nominated for an SNA Award is a great honor. All state, regional and national winners will be recognized at the Red Carpet Awards Ceremony at SNA's Annual National Conference 2017 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Who do you know who should be honored with a SNA award? To learn more and to submit your nomination online today, please visit www.schoolnutrition.org/SNAawards.

4. Legislative Action Conference 2017 Registration is Open!

Now is the time to make plans to attend SNA's 2017 [Legislative Action Conference](#) (LAC)! Following an unprecedented election year, the conference will provide you with tools to steer your program and advocacy efforts in the new Congress and Administration. The program opens with the can't-miss Pre-Conference, [Advocacy in the New Congress](#), scheduled for Saturday, April 1. Presidential historian, Pulitzer Prize-winner and contributing editor at TIME, [Jon Meacham](#), will join attendees on Sunday, April 2 as keynote speaker! Be sure to visit [the conference webpage](#) for more details and to [register](#) for the conference.

5. Don't Miss This Month's Webinar Wednesday's

Did you miss this year's SNIC in Orlando? Good news: SNA's Webinar Wednesday's provide three highly rated sessions from the conference starting next week, sponsored by Kellogg's. Join us on **Wednesday, February 8th at 2pm EST** for "[Best of #SNIC17 1 of 3: Fats in Vogue, Wheat Woes, Uh-oh GMOs](#)" the first of three webinars to be featured in the series. Dr. Jim Painter, Adjunct Professor at The University of Texas' School of Public Health in Houston, will deliver a fresh take on some of the biggest trends in the food industry. This webinar will broaden your perspectives on the latest information and research on fats, the gluten-free movement, and the use of GMOs in our foods. If you couldn't make it to SNIC last month, register for the webinar series to gain valuable information and CEUs.

On **Wednesday, February 22nd at 2pm EST**, SNA presents, "[5 Ways to Capture the Minds & Taste Buds of Your Students](#)." In this webinar District Chef, Kevin Frank from Detroit Public Schools and Dayle Hayes from School Meals that Rock team-up to help you understand your students and their taste preferences to improve your social savvy and ensure your district is making the most of your USDA Foods dollars. Sponsored by the U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council.

Click [here](#) to register and take advantage of these e-learning events! All webinars are held at 2pm Eastern Time (1pmCT/Noon MT/11am PT). Visit [SNA Webinars](#) for more information. Missed a recent webinar? Check out the [Webinars On-Demand](#) library and catch up on the hottest topics in school nutrition; available to SNA members 24/7.



6. Your Vote Counts! Meet the Candidates in the 2017 SNA Election

It's time to vote and elect the new members of the SNA Board of Directors and the Leadership Development Committee. Elect the leadership talent the Association needs to advance school nutrition programs in the future!

The SNA Election will take place over a two-week period in February 2017 (February 15-28) through a secure online voting website. In order to vote, you must have your SNA username and password available. You are eligible to vote if you are currently an active member and were a member in good standing on November 30, 2016. To meet the candidates and learn how to cast your vote, visit www.schoolnutrition.org/snaelection.

7. Take the School Breakfast Challenge during NSBW 2017

National School Breakfast Week (NSBW) 2017 will take place March 6-10, 2017. Use the NSBW theme "Take the School Breakfast Challenge" to spread the message to administrators, parents, and students about the importance of starting the morning with a healthy breakfast. Visit www.schoolnutrition.org/nsbw to download SNA's resources and celebration tools to get started today.

8. Achieve Your Educational Dreams with an SNF Scholarship!

The School Nutrition Foundation (SNF) is now accepting applications for the professional development scholarships! Professional Development scholarships help you achieve your educational dreams by offsetting the costs of books and tuition for SNA members pursuing a degree in a school nutrition-related program of study. To learn more and apply today, please visit: <https://schoolnutrition.org/EducationScholarships/>.

9. STEPS February Challenge: Say Yes to Veggies

This February, the STEPS Challenge is all about giving those veggies some love. Bring fresh veggies for that mid-day snack, add extra veggies into winter stews or add spinach into the lasagna. At the end of the month, be sure to add up your points and enter them online at www.schoolnutrition.org/STEPS – you could win a prize!

10. USDA Releases Memo Outlining Flexibility for Target 2 Sodium Requirements for 2017-18

On January 6, 2017, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released a memo, [SP 15-2017](#), to regional and state directors regarding flexibility for the Target 2 sodium requirements for School Year 2017-18. As you may know, Target 2 sodium requirements are scheduled to take effect on July 1, 2017. To help address some challenges with meeting Target 2 reduction, USDA is offering some flexibility. School food authorities (SFAs) are expected to comply, however if SFAs that are working toward compliance, but not fully in compliance will NOT incur fiscal action during administrative reviews.

During the period of flexibility, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) plans to continue to gather ongoing challenges in order to develop technical assistance. Review the memo [SP 15-2017](#) for further guidance.



11. SNA Leaders Meet with Agriculture Committee Ranking Member Stabenow

On January 18, 2017, SNA representatives met with U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) to discuss the future of child nutrition programs. Senator Stabenow kicked off the meeting by thanking SNA, noting that “what you do for kids is really important.” The group discussed how the Association could work together with the new Trump Administration and new 115th Congress to address issues related to Child Nutrition Reauthorization and to avoid the Block Grant threat that resurfaced as a major issue during the last Congress. Stabenow noted her opposition to block granting child nutrition programs and added that “to the extent I have any tools to stop it, I will.” Read more about the meeting [here](#).

12. Spring Membership Drive Starts March 1st

We have the opportunity to [win big this spring](#) and boost our membership to strengthen our association! Our mission is to recruit as many new members and retain as many current members as possible to meet or exceed our 3% membership growth goal. Our state association could be the Membership Division Champion! Plus, if YOU recruit members, you can win, too! If you bring in 5 or more new members to SNA this year through the Annual Membership Campaign, you will be entered in a raffle to win 1 of 5 VIP registrations to ANC 2018 in Las Vegas! For more information about the Annual Membership Campaign and how you can win big by recruiting, visit: <https://schoolnutrition.org/vegas/>.

13. Celebrating School Nutrition Heroes

Are you attending SNA’s Legislative Action Conference (LAC)? If so, join us on Monday, April 3, 2017 to celebrate school nutrition heroes and to support the School Nutrition Foundation (SNF) as it provides education, research, and scholarships to help SNA members as they nourish America’s school children. The five heroes for 2017 are:

- **David Schwake, MS, RD, SNS**, Food Service Director, Litchfield Elementary School District #79, Litchfield Park, AZ
- **Timikel Blakey Sharpe, MS**, Deputy Director of Food Service, Los Angeles Unified School District, Los Angeles, CA
- **Doreen Simonds**, Food Service Director, Waterford School District, Waterford, MI
- **Elizabeth Whidden**, Child Nutrition Program Manager, Hoover City Schools, Hoover, AL
- **Betti Wiggins**, Executive Director of Office of School Nutrition, Detroit Public Schools Community District, Detroit, MI

Consider getting a table of ten together to support one or more of the heroes being recognized. For information on tickets and tables, [click here](#). If you have any questions about the SNF or the celebration, contact Janet Hedrick at jhedrick@schoolnutrition.org.

14. Join the Fight to Reduce Food Waste

Would you be interested in participating in a waste measurement study, if the work involved is minimal? Check out [this tool on reporting food waste](#)! Developed by the Environmental Research & Education Foundation (EREF), and in collaboration with the [School Nutrition Foundation](#) (SNF), the School Cafeteria Discards Assessment Project (SCrAP), aims to gather information regarding the quantity of waste generated in school cafeterias and obtain an understanding of how this waste is managed both at the school and after it is hauled away. Learn more about [how to sign up schools in SCrAP](#).