



Food for Thought

Volume 2, Issue 2

August 2005

Put the Pieces Together at the Fall 2005 Conference!

October 17 and 18, 2005

Today's school nutrition professionals are facing many challenges such as helping to implement wellness policies, meeting HACCP regulations and new dietary guidelines, managing the frontline, and building high morale in the workplace. Now is the perfect opportunity to learn how to put all the pieces together and this year's conference is designed to do just that!

We have listened to our members and expanded the exhibit hours to two days. This will enable managers and other staff to attend on either day and allow you more time to talk with the vendors and see their new products. We will provide materials to help make the show floor easier for you to cover and to help make it easier to evaluate the products.

Join us at the Four Points by Sheraton Hyannis Resort, Tuesday and Wednesday, October 18-19, 2005. Look for the complete conference

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From the President

Greetings: This is an exciting time for the association. I am very pleased with the progress we have been making as we work toward building a stronger foundation that will ensure the association provides timely, effective, and enjoyable resources to our members.

This past year was one of great change. I moved up to the presidency eight months early and we started the year with a new executive director whose first job was to oversee the association's name change to better reflect our mission. The year was filled with quality programming including various area meetings, the summer annual meeting at Mt. Wachusett, the fall conference and food show in Hyannis and the commodity show in January. Followed by these was the spring conference in Newport that introduced the well-received healthy vending exhibits. We brought back our newsletter, Food for Thought, and have greatly enhanced our website. If you haven't visited it recently, I encourage you to take a look –

www.schoolnutrition.info.

Our industry council has been working with us to develop new opportunities for us to work effectively with our corporate members. They are currently hard at work enhancing this year's fall food show. We hosted the credentialing exam at the spring conference. Congratulations to Joanne Morrissey, Jackie Fiorentino, Jane McLucas, Jeannie Johnson, Julie Dougal, Andrew Stratton, Carla Tuttle, Lisa Burnett and myself for attaining the prestigious credentialing of School Foodservice and Nutrition Specialist. We also had two districts attain District of Excellence status. Congratulations to John Donohue and Catherine Donovan. Our legislative and nutrition committees helped to guide the Koutoujian bill, House No. 4619 and will continue to monitor this bill as it moves through congress.

This next year, we will focus on reaching every member in some way. We are bringing back the scholarship program to help assist those of you interested in furthering your education. To provide guidance and resources for all members, we are establishing a

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SNA of Mass., 258 Harvard St. PMB 283, Brookline, MA 02446
Telephone 617-734-8822 or 800-351-3139 Fax 617-734-7772
Email info@schoolnutrition.info www.schoolnutrition.info



Join the SNA of Mass. Mentor Network

SHARING INFORMATION, IDEAS, AND RESOURCE

Cynthia Kazanjian

We are in the process of developing a Mentor Network. The Mentor Network is a group of experienced School Foodservice professionals who are available to share their expertise with other members. We're looking for "seasoned pros" that are happy to talk with others about careers in School Foodservice and Child Nutrition Programs and the specific skills needed to succeed, and the best ways to acquire those skills. If you enjoy helping others grow, we'd like you to join the Network.

When you join, your name will be added to the Mentor List. This list will be available on the Website and the newsletter. Should members have questions they can contact you directly by telephone. On average, each of our mentors might receive about 6 calls a year from members.

To become a SNA-MA Mentor, please fill out the following information and mail or FAX to Cynthia Kazanjian, tel. 781-270-1899, fax 781-272-1648, email kazanjian@burlington.mec.edu

Name _____

Current Position _____

District _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

Best time(s) to be contacted _____

Your Area of Expertise (check all that apply)

____ Culinary Arts/Recipe Development

____ Vending

____ Food Service Management

____ Marketing

____ Satellite Meals operation

____ Menu Design

____ Public Speaking

____ Budget Development

____ Nutrition/Menu Analysis

____ POS Systems

____ Other: (please specify) _____

brochure in the mail in September and on our website www.schoolnutrition.info , and here's a sneak preview of this year's conference.

Day One

- SNA of Mass. Annual Meeting
- Motivating and Retaining Superstar Employees
- Building High Morale in the Workplace
- Connecting Kids to Healthy Foods and Exercise
- Food Safe School Action Team
- Exhibits
- New Members Reception
- Yoga
- Reception, Auction and Raffle
- Dinner, Dance and Dessert

Day Two

- Exhibit Hall
- HACCP for Managers and Staff
- Resource Room
- Walk
- HACCP for Directors
- Dietary Guidelines and MyPyramid
- Time Management
- Communicating with Your Customers
- DOE Update

2005/2006 Slate Board of Directors

Elected Positions

Vice President	John Donohue
Area 2 Delegate	Melody Gustafson, Monson
Area 2 Delegate Elect	Wendy McCaul, Huntington
Area 3 Delegate Elect	Diane Mikulski, Worcester
Area 5 Delegate Elect	Susan Murray, Lowell
Area 6 Delegate Elect	Judy White, Wrentham
Area 8 Delegate Elect	Megan Aardema, Pembroke

Appointed Positions

Member Services Chair	Julie Dougal
Professional Development Chair	Jackie Morgan
Legislative Chair	Debra Korzec-Ramirez
Parliamentarian	Janice Buxton

Congratulations to the new board members! As a volunteer-based association, SNA of Massachusetts relies on our members who volunteer to work with various committees and projects as well as serving as a member of our board.

We wish to encourage all members to get involved with SNA of Massachusetts. We look forward to working, learning and growing with all of you. Watch for volunteer opportunities in future newsletters and on our website www.schoolnutrition.info. Feel free to contact us at info@schoolnutrition.info.

mentoring network. This is very exciting because of the challenges we face each day. Currently we are working on developing a members only section on our website. Feel free to use it to gain knowledge on specific topics such as the beloved wellness policy implementation. We are looking to increase our participation at industry tradeshows. To develop effective programs for your area meetings, we are working with various entities that will bring you educational programming. Increasing certified and credentialed members is going to remain a top priority as raising our professionalism is so crucial right now. We are expanding our volunteer opportunities for all members. The association belongs to its members, so we want to inspire you all to become active in some way. You will be hearing more about this at the fall conference. While on the topic of volunteers, I would like to thank this year's board of directors. You all made this year the success that it was. It was truly inspiring working with each of you, THANK YOU!

Our conferences are well underway and this year's fall conference includes a two-day exhibit and fantastic programming to help us with the many issues now facing child nutrition professionals. Our spring show will combine healthy vending exhibits and commodity exhibits – so these two-day conferences are a must. Mark your calendars now: Fall Conference, Hyannis – October 18-19, 2005, Spring Conference, Seekonk – March 7-8, 2006.

Please remember that our number one priority remains recruiting new members. We have something that all child nutrition professionals need - the tools to run effective foodservice programs that will enhance the lives of children. If everybody would reach out and recruit just one, we will have all helped the children. Enjoy the rest of the summer...and I look forward to seeing you this fall. ■

Sincerely,
Sheila Parisien, SFNS, President

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FALL CONFERENCE

SHERATON HYANNIS, HYANNIS, MA
OCTOBER 18 AND 19, 2005

SPRING CONFERENCE

JOHNSON AND WALES, SEEKONK, MA
MARCH 7 AND 8, 2006

LAC

RENAISSANCE HOTEL, WASHINGTON DC
MARCH 12-15, 2006

Did You Know?

- ❑ Massachusetts won a Team Nutrition Grant to promote wellness by assisting school districts establish and implement district wellness policies. Regional wellness policy trainings will be held statewide.
- ❑ KidsFirst RI is sponsoring a Northeast Regional Healthy School Foods Marketplace Friday, August 19, 2005 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick, RI.
- ❑ You can make address changes and check your CEUs on the national SNA website. Click on www.schoolnutrition.org and then go to My SNA and handle your membership online!
- ❑ There is a Wellness Policy Tool on the Action for Healthy Kids website www.actionforhealthykids.org/resources.php.
- ❑ Tuesday, November 1, 2005 the Coalition for Health Education in Schools will be hosting its 21st Annual COHES Conference at the Mass. Medical Society in Waltham. Cynthia Kazanjian will conduct the session Benchmarking School Foodservice.
- ❑ SNA of Mass. will be exhibiting at the Thurston Food Show August 24, 2005 at the Sturbridge Host, and the Association of School Business Officials International Conference (ASBO) at the Hynes Auditorium in Boston October 22-24, 2005.
- ❑ SNA of Mass has 2 members presently serving on national committees: Ann Pitzen - Nutrition Committee and Sheila Parisien - Member Services. In addition, Sheila Parisien has been nominated to run for the office of Northeast Regional Director. Remember to vote when the ballots come out in early October.
- ❑ A free interactive online version of the School Health Index: A self-assessment and planning guide (SHI) is on the DASH Healthy youth Web site www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/SHI.
- ❑ SNA of Mass. is looking for volunteers to help man our booth at various industry tradeshow. If you are interested contact Julie Dougal, Member Services Chair 413-596-9011 x286 or email jdougal@hwrdsd.org.



258 Harvard Street, PMB 283
Brookline, MA 02446

