



SNAC Bites
February 2020 Edition

Welcome to the February 2020 issue of SNA Communication (SNAC) Bites! SNAC Bites highlights new SNA programs and news, and provides content for your state association publications, chapter meetings and social media channels. In some cases, the content will need to be customized for your state association's needs, should you decide to use the below stories.

Here are this month's headlines:

1. [LAC 2020: Making Connections With Your Senator or U.S. Representative](#)
2. [+1 Membership Challenge: SNA is My Community!](#)
3. [Voting for the 2020 SNA Election Opens on February 15!](#)
4. [March 1 is Your Last Chance to Nominate a Colleague!](#)
5. [Be Prepared for Your Mission With the #NSBW Toolkit!](#)
6. [#VirtualExpo2020 is Open!](#)
7. [Let's Get Cooking with Webinar Wednesdays!](#)
8. [Get in the Zone...the Training Zone](#)
9. [More ANC Scholarships Available Than Ever Before!](#)
10. [Support the Annual Fund Year-Round—Become an SNF “Monthly Maverick” and Get Your Maverick’s Hat at the SNF Booth In Nashville!](#)
11. [TEAM JOSE Wins SNF Fundraising Competition at SNIC](#)
12. [FNS Requests Comments Concerning CACFP](#)
13. [SNA’s Unpaid Meals Working Group Meets in Arlington](#)
14. [New School Meal Bills Introduced](#)
15. [Child Nutrition Program Operations Study II, School Year 2015-16](#)
16. [Federal Register: Comment Request on Revised Proposed Information Collection](#)
17. [USDA Releases Proposed Rules on School and Summer Meal Flexibilities](#)

1. LAC 2020: Making Connections With Your Senator or U.S. Representative

Bring your expertise, your passion and your stories to Washington, D.C., and take advantage of this annual opportunity to get your message across to your state's Congressional delegation. This year's [Day on Capitol Hill](#) during SNA's [Legislative Action Conference](#) (LAC) will take place on Tuesday, March 10. Haven't registered yet for LAC? The last day SNA will accept registrations at the regular rate is Friday, February 7. [Register now](#).

2. +1 Membership Challenge: SNA is My Community!

As SNA members, you are part of a nationwide network of more than 55,000 dedicated school nutrition professionals. The [+1 Membership Challenge](#) is an all-new recruitment campaign to help ensure that this great community of members continues to grow. SNA members have already begun taking the Challenge and we encourage you to join in on the +1 fun! Simply share your reason for being an SNA member using the [social media tools](#) and recruit at least 1 new member—your +1. By participating in the Challenge, you will also have a chance to earn great incentives for recruiting new members. Visit the [SNA Website](#) for more details on the +1 Membership Challenge.

Contact us at membership@schoolnutrition.org if you have any questions.



3. Voting for the 2020 SNA Election Opens on February 15!

Your voice matters! Remember to cast your vote for the 2020 SNA Election from February 15 to 29. While voting doesn't begin until February 15, now is a great time to [get to know the candidates](#). When voting opens on February 15, you should look for an email sent from SNA's election vendor, Election Services Corp. (ESC) on the Association's behalf. This email will provide steps for you to authenticate your identity and provide access to your ballot through a unique voting validation number. This number will be required to cast your vote. After voting, you will receive a "Thank You for Voting" email from ESC as confirmation. Visit the SNA website to [learn more about how to vote](#).

4. March 1 is Your Last Chance to Nominate a Colleague!

Do you know a stellar kitchen manager, outstanding cook, or inspiring school nutrition director? Nominate them today for a national [SNA Member Award](#) and show them how much you appreciate their hard work! Nominations for the Employee, Manager and Director of the Year awards are now being accepted online by SNA through **March 1, 2020**. All state, regional and national winners will be recognized at the Red Carpet Awards Ceremony at SNA's 2020 Annual National Conference in Nashville, Tennessee! The deadline is approaching quickly, so don't miss your chance to honor a colleague! For more information, including how to nominate and qualifications, please visit the [SNA Member Awards webpage](#).

5. Be Prepared for Your Mission With the #NSBW Toolkit!

This 16-page resource will give you tips on social media marketing and other cafeteria branding ideas that will take your campaign to the outer limits during #NSBW2020 (March 2-6)! For example, students tend to like Instagram and Snapchat whereas parents prefer Facebook and Twitter so be sure to determine which platform to post as you execute your social media launch. Also, remember to use sharp/in-focus photos when you post. More do's and don'ts along with fun social media and video tips for your Out of This World campaign are also included in the [#NSBW2020 Toolkit](#).

Build excitement for your mission and download the new presentations for stakeholders and foodservice staff located on the [Marketing and PR Resources](#) section of the #NSBW2020 site! These customizable slides can help garner support for your school breakfast celebrations among the staff and get school and local officials on board with your #NSBW2020 launch! Don't forget that you can enter the [#NSBW2020 Contest](#) until February 12, to win a prize (\$50 gift card to the [SNA Emporium](#)) that will help with your breakfast program promotions!

6. #VirtualExpo2020 is Open!

The Virtual Expo is now open—no travel or expense required! Inside the two exhibit halls, you'll be able to connect with several industry exhibitors ready to share their latest and greatest product solutions and innovations with you. Dive deeper with industry representatives by chatting live with them on February 6 from 11:00 am-3:00 pm (EST) and February 7 from 1:00 pm-3:00pm (EST). View the [current exhibitors](#). Plus, stay tuned for details on the attendee guide to learn how to navigate the virtual platform.

Be sure to also check out the SNA booth, a one-stop shop for some great school nutrition resources, and the School Nutrition Foundation booth for information on ANC scholarships and other programs.

Inside the Expo Learning Center, you will be able to choose from 16 new pre-recorded education sessions featuring the best of #ANC19, plus archived sessions from the previous year's Expo—offering plenty of opportunities to earn your CEUs.



[View the full descriptions for all 16 education sessions](#) and [sign up](#) today!

7. Let's Get Cooking with Webinar Wednesdays!

Food and Research Action Center (FRAC) joins us the first Wednesday of February to concentrate on *CEP: Title I* funding and review upcoming deadlines. Representatives from the Department of Education and USDA for Child Nutrition Program will be there to answer your pressing questions. Then, join us on February 12 for “*Powering School Meals with U.S.-Grown Pulses*” to consider new ways to cook with beans, legumes, and lentils. We will also share nutritional information on pulses and beans, so you can be prepared for parents’ impending questions!

We often hear in the news how other countries have lower carbon footprints and lower obesity rates. Now is the time to learn and benefit from what they’re doing differently. On February 19 for “*School Meals in Japan, Sweden and the US: Real-World Commonalities, Challenges and Successes,*” where Dayle Hayes returns with a panel of international school nutrition experts who will share how their countries meet the challenge of food waste, sustainability, and nutrition.

In the last week of February, the National Peanut Board will bring together a nationally recognized panel of experts, including past Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics president Donna Martin, to talk allergies and encroaching allergy developments in “*Adopting Top Food Trends & Managing Allergies at School Breakfast.*” For more information and to register, sign in to the [Training Zone](#).

8. Get in the Zone...the Training Zone

Did you know that the [Training Zone](#) is one of SNA’s most popular member benefits? Stop by the Training Zone and register for a [Webinar Wednesday](#) or two. Or participate in one of the over 70 webinars in the [On-Demand](#) library. Reinforce [culinary skills](#) or understand why everyone is talking about [ethics](#) with our online training modules. And coming soon, the #ANC19 Video Series with 17 recorded ANC education sessions!

9. More ANC Scholarships Available Than Ever Before!

In its continuing efforts to provide SNA members with opportunities to advance their education and SNA participation, the School Nutrition Foundation (SNF) along with three generous industry partners will provide 50 scholarships to attend ANC 2020 in Nashville. Applications are now being accepted. Be sure to visit www.schoolnutritionfoundation.org for eligibility requirements and a link to each application.

Jack Thomas Maas (JTM) ANC Scholarship: New this year, is the “Jack Thomas Maas” ANC Scholarship named in honor of the son of **JTM Food Group’s** founder, Jack Thomas, Sr. The company was founded on his principles of dedication, faith, hard work, family and commitment to excellence. Each \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to four (4) SNA members.

AccuTemp Products First-Timers Scholarships: For the fourth year in a row, **AccuTemp Products** is offering twenty (20) \$500 scholarships that will pay for ANC registration of members who are attending ANC for the first time.

Asian Food Solutions First-Timers Scholarships: **Asian Food Solutions** also wants to offer SNA members the wonderful opportunity to attend a national conference—and are also offering twenty (20) \$500 ANC First-Timer Scholarships this year.



School Nutrition Association: In an ongoing effort to help its members develop professionally, **SNA** donates funds to SNF to award scholarships to help members attend its national conferences. This year, six (6) SNA members will be awarded \$1,000 each to help offset the cost of attending a conference.



10. Support the Annual Fund Year-Round—Become an SNF “Monthly Maverick” and Get Your Maverick Hat at the SNF Booth In Nashville!

Did you know you can support the [School Nutrition Foundation](http://SchoolNutritionFoundation.org) (SNF) all year long by signing up to make an automatic monthly donation to the Annual Fund and becoming a Monthly Maverick? Click the [Donate Now!](#) button on our website, select your donation amount and click “monthly,” then enter your payment information and voila—welcome to the Monthly Mavericks! Be sure to stop by the SNF Booth at ANC in Nashville to receive your complimentary Maverick hat! What a fun way to show your SNF support and encourage others to become Monthly Mavericks.

Giving Monthly

Your monthly donation to the Foundation helps support scholarships for fellow School Nutrition Association (SNA) members like Mark Bordeau, Senior Director of Food Services of [Broome-Tioga BOCES](#), president-elect of [New York School Nutrition Association](#) and an enthusiastic Monthly Maverick.

“Our job is education, and it’s always evolving,” said Mark. “We always need to be learning and keeping up with the latest trends. There are so many great education programs out there to help us do that. Whether it’s attending a conference or taking a certificate course online, there are many ways to grow yourself as a person and to do a better job—for yourself, your students, and your employer. Scholarships are a great way to do that in a formal way. Donating to the Foundation makes it all possible.”

11. TEAM JOSE Wins SNF Fundraising Competition at SNIC

The School Nutrition Foundation (SNF) had a friendly competition between two of its board members at the recent School Nutrition Industry Conference (SNIC) in Indian Wells, Calif. In doing so, it raised more than \$2,100 for the scholarship fund for SNA members. Michael Craig, Vice-Chair of the SNF Executive Board and Jose Quinones, also an SNF Board Member, supported the new TEXT2GIVE fundraising activity by establishing TEAM MIKE and TEAM JOSE. Each one recruited SNIC attendees to text and donate to SNF. They did a tremendous job of raising awareness about SNF and securing more than \$1,600 in donations. At the end of the conference, TEAM JOSE edged out TEAM MIKE in the final tally. An additional \$500 was raised at the Welcome Party With A Purpose. It’s so easy to **TEXT2GIVE** and the competition remains open until ANC when the Foundation will host another fun way to support its scholarship programs. See details how to give below.



Text to: 44-321
Type Message:

TEAMJOSE

TEAMMIKE



or



Click on **SEND** & you will be sent a link where you can securely donate to SNF.



12. FNS Requests Comments Concerning CACFP

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) published a [Federal Register notice](#) requesting comment on the information collection for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Comments are specifically requested on whether this collection is necessary for the agency to perform its functions and practical ways to enhance the quality and clarity of the information that is collected. Written and electronic comments must be submitted by February 24, 2020.

13. SNA's Unpaid Meals Working Group Meets in Arlington

On January 23-24, SNA hosted a two-day Unpaid Meal Charges Working Group discussion attended by stakeholders from across the country. Participants worked together to define the source of and seek solutions for the growing national issue of unpaid school meal debt. Attendees included SNA members, USDA, state agency directors and representatives of the Association of School Business Officials and AASA, the School Superintendents Association. SNA recognizes that unpaid meal debt is a complex issue that must be addressed through cross-collaboration between all impacted parties. Hear updates on the unpaid meal debt effort at [#LAC2020](#) and stay tuned for more resources, including a White Paper and advocacy strategies.

14. New School Meal Bills Introduced

All school nutrition-related bills and legislation can be found on SNA's [Action Network](#). Two new Federal bills impacting school nutrition programs were introduced in January 2020:

- Rep. Kim Schrier, M.D. (WA-08), and Suzanne Bonamici (OR-01) introduced [H.R. 5463](#), the Healthy Meal Time Act. This bill would provide schools with best practices for scheduling lunch and recess to ensure that all students have enough time to eat and to reduce food waste.
- Rep. Chellie Pingree (ME-01) introduced [H.R. 5607](#), the School Food Recovery Act. This bill establishes a grant program for schools to cut cafeteria food waste and to simultaneously reduce environmental impacts and improve student nutrition.

15. Child Nutrition Program Operations Study II, School Year 2015-16

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has released the [Child Nutrition Program Operations Study II](#) (CN-OPS II). This report is part of a multi-year study that provides the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) with data and information on current State Agency (SA) and School Food Authority (SFA) policies and practices. This study also includes issues related to school nutrition service operations, financial management, meal counting, training, and professional standards, food service equipment, and technology. This operations study is used to inform the development of Child Nutrition program management and policy.

16. Federal Register: Comment Request on Revised Proposed Information Collection

USDA has published "[Proposed Collection--Comment Request-Determining Eligibility for Free and Reduced Price Meals and Free Milk](#)," requesting comments on the revision of currently approved information collection for determining eligibility for free and reduced-price meals and free milk. The proposed collection reports the eligibility burden of the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, and Special Milk Program. Written and electronic comments must be submitted by March 23, 2020.



17. USDA Releases Proposed Rules on School and Summer Meal Flexibilities

On Friday, January 17, 2020, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced two proposed rules, "[Simplifying Meal Service and Monitoring Requirements in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs](#)" and "[Streamlining Program Requirements and Improving Integrity in the Summer Food Service Program](#)." SNA has released [summaries](#) for both proposed rules and is collecting SNA [member feedback](#) as the Public Policy and Legislation Committee prepares to discuss and draft the Association's official comments in response to the rule. SNA also released a [statement](#) addressing key issues and clarifying misconceptions about the proposed changes to school meal patterns.

Once SNA has submitted comments to USDA on the proposed rules, we will notify members, so you will have an opportunity to share the Association's perspective as part of your own individual comments to USDA. SNA members are encouraged to review the [summaries](#), [share your input](#) with SNA and stay tuned to [SchoolNutrition.org](#) for SNA's official comments and the opportunity to have your voice heard as part of the rulemaking process.