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The mission of WSNA is to engage, educate and empower School Nutrition professionals to advance accessibility, quality and integrity of school nutrition programs.

WASHINGTON APPLE PRESS

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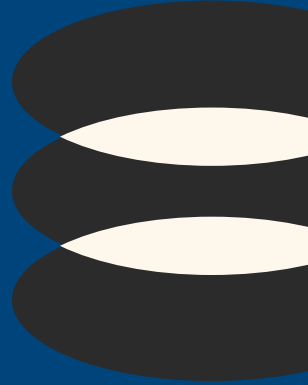
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SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION 2024 ANNUAL ELECTION

The SNA Election will take place from February 15-29, 2024. The elected candidates for the positions on the Board will be installed in July 2024 at ANC. The elected candidates for positions on the Leadership Development Committee (LDC) begin their terms on March 1, 2024 to coincide with the annual nomination and election calendar.

Current board positions open:

Vice President
Secretary/Treasurer
Director

Leadership Development Committee open positions:

Mid Atlantic Regional Representative
Midwest Regional Representative
Southeast Regional Representative
Western Regional Representative



Learn more about the candidates by visiting [SNA Election - School Nutrition Association Election Information](#)

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!



I hope that you all found time during our recent winter break to recharge while spending quality time with family and friends. The unseasonably warm weather at the end of December allowed me to get a few more things done around my house before the cold of winter sets in. For me (as I am sure is the case with most of you), the transition to winter typically means a bit more monitoring of the local weather stations or apps before heading to bed and my phone is never too far away in the event an early morning call comes that schools are delayed or cancelled. Fingers crossed that this will be an uneventful winter for all our schools (and meal programs) across the state!

We received several positive comments about the electronic version of the Apple Press that was sent out in the Fall and therefore have plans to continue with this method of distribution for the immediate future. We appreciate our members flexibility as we navigate a few changes in how the association has done things in the past.

The WSNA Executive Board has been busy this Fall. An Ad Hoc Committee was formed which worked to update the job description for our Executive Director position. The posting for this job opened in mid-December and it is our hope that we will be screening applications and scheduling interviews by the end of January. At the end of January, we also say farewell to our Association Bookkeeper Donna Parsons. Donna has decided that it is time to move full time into retirement!

Please join me in welcoming Melissa Miller from the Oak Harbor School District to the WSNA Executive Board in the position of Education Chair. Melissa joins the Board at the perfect time as we jump into planning for Spring Workshop and the Annual State Conference. Speaking of annual conference, I would like to recognize Kim Elkins (Meads SD) and Jennifer Witting (East Valley SD) for volunteering to co-chair this year's conference committee.

A thank you also goes to our past conference chair Mark Oswalt who played a role in encouraging many in the Spokane area to join the conference committee. If you haven't done so already, mark your calendar and make plans to attend this year's conference which will be held in Spokane from July 29th to 31st!

The start of the New Year brings a new Legislative session in our state. This year's session runs 60 days from January 8th to March 7th. Reps. Riccelli and Rude have sponsored HB 2058 which has the goal of increasing student access to free meals served at public schools. Fingers crossed that we can continue to make progress in our state on this very important piece of legislation!

Winter is the time of year where we start gathering names of individuals interested in running for a position on the WSNA Board. Please consider reviewing the positions that we are recruiting for and either nominate yourself, a friend or co-worker. More information on the WSNA elections can be found in this edition of the Apple Press. Don't forget to vote in the national SNA elections. SNA elections will take place from February 15-29, 2024.

That's all for now. Happy New Year!

Wendy Weyer, RD, SNS
WSNA President





Food Distribution Program

Dates to Remember

Complete Your Interest Survey by January 19

The School Year (SY) 2024–25 USDA Foods Interest Survey allows you to express interest in which USDA direct products to add to our Washington State product list.

Complete the SY 2024–25 USDA Foods Interest Survey by January 19.

Responses received after this date may not be considered.

Items with the highest interest will be included in the 2024–25 Pre-Order survey. Please note: the Interest Survey does not include all available items for school year 2024–25.

Interest Survey vs Pre-Order Survey

Interest Survey: Lets OSPI Child Nutrition Services know which USDA Direct products you are interested in and if we should add items to our product list. If enough interest is expressed and we can order in the proper quantities, products will become available on the Pre-Order Survey.

Pre-Order Survey: After you let us know the items you are interested in, you must commit to ordering. The Pre-Order Survey is your commitment to how much and which items you plan on ordering in the upcoming school year.

Questions about the survey? Please [email the Food Distribution Inbox](#)

FDP Corner: Register for Pre-Order Process Webinar on 1/23!

Each year, sponsors are asked to complete a Pre-Order Survey as part of their Food Distribution Program requirements. This survey informs OSPI Food Distribution of the volume and types of foods we need to order for the entire upcoming year.

Join Us for a Webinar!

Join OSPI CNS as we discuss the importance of the Pre-Order Survey, how to plan for it, placing your FDP Orders, and share tools and resources for completing this process!

Register for the SY 24–25 Pre-Order Survey Webinar

Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024

Time: 2–3 pm PT

Open Office Hours to Support You

In the weeks following the webinar, the FDP team will be hosting open office hours! Join in during these times to ask questions and receive additional support.

Register for the SY 23–24 Pre-Order Survey Office Hours

Dates: Every Tuesday starting January 30–February 27

Time: 2–3 pm PT

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A PIZZA
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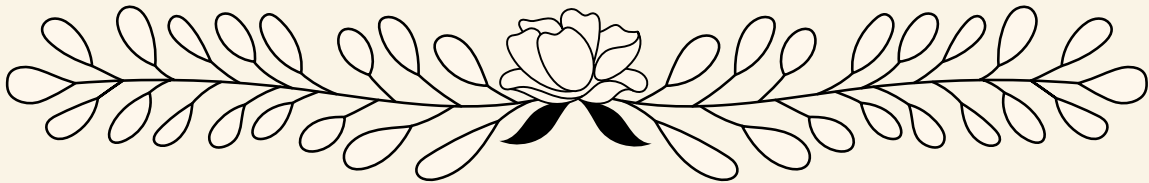
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IN MEMORY OF

Greg Garman and Craig Toops



We lost two great friends and WSNA partners over the holidays. Both of these men were great partners in our meal programs and supporters of WSNA. Over the years we relied on both of them to provide not only food that our kids liked, but also excellent customer service. They certainly came through for all of us and our customers. We will miss them. Rest in Peace.



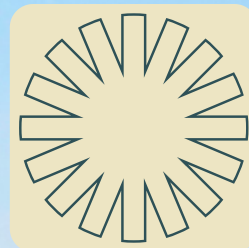
Greg Garman (12-22-23)

Greg was hired by Northwest Distribution (Tools for Schools in K12) for his internship which began his professional career in sales. He stayed with the company his entire career continuing to sell food products to schools and institutional buyers throughout the western U.S. for over 31 years. He established an impeccable reputation for taking care of his customers. As a result, he was the company's highest producing seller for most of his tenure and was still working on his customers' behalf until the end.

Craig started his own company which he subsequently sold. He devoted many years of his career working in K12. His last job, as a broker, was with Superior Foods but even after he retired, you would find him at food shows helping others. He had a welcoming personality, a jovial spirit and creative ideas. Craig never met a person he didn't call a friend. It's ironic that we lost him on Christmas since he loved playing Santa Claus for family and friends and spending time with less fortunate people who needed some Christmas spirit



Craig Toops (12-25-23)



DATES TO REMEMBER

JANUARY 29

**WEST SIDE USDA FOOD SHOW - CURTIS
HIGH SCHOOL - UNIVERSITY PLACE**

FEBRUARY 2

**EAST SIDE USDA FOOD SHOW -- ROGERS
HIGH SCHOOL -- SPOKANE**

JANUARY 31

VERIFICATION SUMMARY REPORT DUE

FEBRUARY 15-29

SNA ELECTIONS

MARCH 4-8

NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST WEEK

MARCH 10-16

NATIONAL CACFP WEEK

APRIL 12TH & 13TH

**SPRING WORKSHOP
LEAVENWORTH, WA**

MAY 3

SCHOOL LUNCH HERO DAY



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-Jennifer McNeil, Co-Founder of LunchAssist



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2024 WSNA ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE JULY 29 - 31, 2024

Mark your calendar and make plans to attend the 2024 WSNA Annual State Conference from July 29th to 31st. We will be returning to the DoubleTree by Hilton Spokane City Center & Convention Center as our conference hotel. *"Imagine the Possibilities"* has been selected as the conference theme.



The Beautiful Spokane Riverwalk.

WSNA is currently recruiting individuals with an interest in being part of the conference planning committee. The conference committee typically meets once a month. Remote participation options available.

Please email wsnaboard@gmail.com if you are interested or to learn more.



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From the **DIRECTOR'S DESK**

By: Leanne Eko, Chief Nutrition Officer
OSPI Child Nutrition Services

Greetings! I hope this message finds you, your family, and colleagues well. As another busy year wraps up, I have been reflecting on the past year and where Child Nutrition Programs are going next.

Access to School Meals:

Efforts to get more Washington students access to school meals free of charge continues. Hats off to all of you that have become the masterminds of “grouping” schools to get as many schools as possible participating in the Community Eligibility Program (CEP). Thanks to your work, we have 1,287 sites operating CEP, serving over 575,00 students! SY23-24 also represent the first year of House Bill 1238 (2023-24) that provides meals free of charge in high needs elementary schools. We have ninety-nine schools operating under HB1238, serving over 34,000 students. And we are not stopping... Superintendent Reykdal included meal access expansion in his budget request to the Governor. We also continue to work with state legislators to provide data and information to support meal access expansion and ensure adequate funding to continue support of state CEP funding.

Financial Supports of School Meal Operations:

January marks the fourth round of Supply Chain Assistance Funds (SCA). The state of Washington has received a total of \$66 million in SCA funds to help support the ongoing supply chain challenges. We hope you have found these additional funds helpful. Besides supporting your typical purchases, we encourage you to explore opportunities to purchase products from local farms or ranchers in your community. Our Farm to School and Procurement Program Specialists are available to answer questions and support you in these efforts.

Speaking of local purchasing, I am so excited about our Local Foods for Schools project. Foods are now available to order. I love seeing your social media posts with meals featuring these products. We are working with the OSPI communications team to do a feature on this project. Please continue to post, tagging OSPI, and let us know if you would like to be included in the feature.

We are also happy to continue to provide funding to support Child Nutrition Program operations with the following grant programs:

- o United States Department of Agriculture National School Lunch Program Equipment Grant: To support equipment purchases to serve healthier meals.
- o Washington State Department of Agriculture Farm to School Purchasing Grant: This program continues this year, funding districts to buy local foods.
- o Breakfast Meals for Kids Grant: This grant helps with expanding your programs, increasing meal participation, improving meal quality, or can even be utilized to purchase or renew a license for nutrient analysis software!
- o Plant Based School Meals: Continued funding from the WA state legislature to fund districts seeking to implement more plant-based meals.

From the Director's Desk Cont.



Best Wishes for the New Year!

Members of our Child Nutrition leadership team recently attended a conference with USDA and other State Agencies. It was a great opportunity to hear from USDA and a chance to reflect and be reminded of how proud I am to work in Child Nutrition Programs. Thank you for your incredible work that makes these program possible. Our programs make a difference, and you make a difference!

Training and Resources

We continue to look for opportunities to provide additional training and resources and we are excited to start work on our 2023 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Team Nutrition Grant. This grant will include training opportunities, technical assistance, and resource development. We are currently hiring staff to lead this work – stay tuned for more details!

The work involved with our 2022 USDA Team Nutrition Grant also continues. This grant provides one on one mentorship and assistance in meeting meal pattern requirements and diet specifications, menu planning assistance, culinary training, and small equipment through partnerships with Educational Service Districts in Washington. We have been getting great feedback from schools participating and are exploring strategies to expand and continue this work beyond the grant.



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REGISTER NOW FOR THE USDA Foods Show!

JANUARY 29TH -- WEST

FEBRUARY 2ND -- EAST

OPSI Child Nutrition Services (CNS), the Puget Sound Joint Purchasing Cooperative (PSJPC), and the Spokane Cooperative are hosting a USDA Foods Show for Washington state sponsors of school meal programs. The Food show will include education sessions on a variety of topics relevant to anyone who orders USDA Foods and a vendor floor where you can sample foods available for order.

Register for the West Side

Location: University Place, WA

Date: January 29, 2024

Time: 8:00am–3:00pm PT

Register for the East Side

Location: Spokane, WA

Date: February 2, 2024

Time: 8:00am–3:00pm PT



Registration closes January 19th. Please limit attendees to 2 per district.



Save the Date
WSNA SPRING WORKSHOP
LEAVENWORTH, WA
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Schools Can Lead on New Compost Laws Fighting Climate Change

By Jay Blazey
Cedar Grove Composting, Inc.

2024 arrived along with unseasonably high temperatures during the holiday season. A warming planet remains as one of the most pressing issues our society faces. While not everyone can purchase an electric vehicle or install solar panels, new laws going into effect this year are prioritizing one of the most impactful practices for combating climate change: diverting organic materials, such as food and yard waste, from landfills. Schools and students can be future leaders for this important environmental work—simply by sorting their food waste out of the garbage.

Landfills are a significant source of emissions of methane, a potent greenhouse gas. The diversion of valuable organic materials into compost prevents these GHG from ever being created in the first place. For this reason, legislators and stakeholders from across the state have been busy at work on recent legislation to improve organics management in our state.

The Organics Management Law offers a tiered approach to requiring collection for organic material dependent on volume generated and service availability. Starting January 1, 2024, if your school or school district is within the [Business Organics Management Area](#) and generates at least eight cubic yards of organic material waste per week, you need to arrange for organic materials management service. Looking around the corner to January 1, 2025, schools generating four cubic yards of organics per week will need to arrange for service. According to current estimates from participating schools and school districts, most generate these amounts, with small schools falling under the January 1, 2026 requirement of four yards of overall solid waste per week.



Schools are the perfect setting to teach children and young adults the benefits of organics recycling. Rather than have kids toss their leftover lunches and snacks in the trash, now they can help the environment by turning that food waste into nutrient-rich compost. School kitchens can also play their role by diverting, as opposed to landfill disposing, their leftover food waste and food scraps from meal preparation. When introducing organics recycling into dining operations, schools can create a successful foundation by focusing on the size of the bin and where its placed, the usage of compostable bags, clear communication indicating what's accepted in each stream for staff and students, along with establishing a chain of command within operations. There are a variety of resources and grant opportunities available to support schools in implementing an organics recycling service, and would encourage you to explore these avenues.

TURNING SCRAPS INTO SOIL CONT.

Utilizing finished compost makes for a wonderful education opportunity as well because it can be used in school gardens and landscaping to show the first-hand benefit of a truly closed loop system. Local farms also provide hands-on educational experiences focused on planting, harvesting and gleaning programs that consistently prove to be transformative. There are multiple reputable options to explore to see compost in action. For example, Sounds Sustainable Farms in Redmond closes the sustainability loop on farm-to-table by using the compost created from these diversion programs as their primary nutrient input used to grow healthy organic vegetables.



CEDAR GROVE COMPOST RECEIVING



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If your school or school district is in King, Pierce or Snohomish County and subject to this law consider contacting Cedar Grove or another hauler for organics recycling collection service for best practices for setting up a successful program. Certified compostable products can also be used as a tool to capture additional food waste and limit single-use plastics filling up landfills. Now is the time to start this critically important work to make sure Washington remains at the forefront in protecting our environment and Washington students can play a foundational role in these critical efforts.

Additional resources can be found on the Washington Department of Ecology website via search or [HERE](#).

- For additional information on resources, best practices and service inquiries, contact:
Cedar Grove Organics Team via cgor@cgrcompost.com

- Link: [Cedar Grove \(cedar-grove.com\)](http://cedar-grove.com).

- Identifying outlets for Farm to School programs? Reach out to Sound Sustainable Farms in Redmond or reference WSDA for reputable options.

Contact: info@soundsfarms.com

- Link to [Sound Sustainable Farms](http://soundsfarms.com) [Sound Sustainable Farms](http://soundsfarms.com) | [organic farm](http://soundsfarms.com) | [Sound Sustainable Farms & Farm Stand](http://soundsfarms.com), Northeast 124th Street, Redmond, WA, USA (soundsfarms.com).



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THANKFUL FOR OUR CHAMPIONS



From Left to Right:
Mitch Denning, Patricia Barret, Christine Rolfes

During the legislative session, WSNA members meet with lawmakers from each of the four caucuses (House D's; House R's; Senate D's; and Senate R's) who support feeding hungry kids. They are known as "Meals For Kids Champions." When one of these champions retires from the legislature, the WSNA board recognizes them with a glass apple or another appropriate acknowledgment of their support.

Last summer, Sen. Christine Rolfes (D-Kitsap County) resigned her Senate position to become a Kitsap County Commissioner. On December 4, 2023, Patricia Barret, Director of Food Nutrition Services, South Kitsap SD, and Mitch Denning, presented former Sen. Rolfes with a glass apple from WSNA at the Kitsap County Commissioners office. Kitsap Commissioner Rolfes served 16 years in the Legislature as a member of the House and the Senate. During that time, she strongly supported CN initiatives, such as elimination of the reduced price copay, breakfast after the bell, expansion of Community Eligibility Provision, and universal free meals.

WSNA appreciated her support very much!

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Jonelle Whitehouse | Portland/Spokane | 503-980-2802

ACCOUNT MANAGERS

Liz Guerrero | Everett | 425-407-6046
Carmen Steele | Portland/Spokane | 509-217-1163
Amanda Kjellesvik | Fife | 253-620-3880

MANAGERIAL SUPPORT

Pam Olsen | 206-218-6848

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

WSNA is pleased to announce that we have rejoined the Alliance of Educational Associations (AEA), which includes WA. Assoc. of Maintenance & Operations Administrators (WAMOA) and WSNA with Consultant, Mitch Denning leading us. As part of AEA, Mitch represents us in the School Funding Coalition, WASA Legislative meetings, meets throughout the year with other Associations to share our priorities, arranges for testimony on bills, bill tracking, and meetings with legislative staff. This is a small reflection of the work he does making sure our voice is heard at the state level. Your WSNA Public Policy & Legislative (PP&L) Co-Chairs are Leeda Beha (Bethel SD) and Kim Elkins (Mead SD).

The Legislative Session began January 8, 2024 and is scheduled to close on March 7, 2024. This is a short session which means we must actively be engaged to move our priorities forward.

This year's AEA priorities are as follows:

- Update Staff Allocation Formulas
- Provide equitable Education Resources
 - Implement Universal Free Meals
 - Fully Fund Special Education
- Revise and Fund Pupil Transportation
- Ensure Adequate School Facilities

For more information, please see the 2024 Legislative Priorities brochure on the WSNA website.

The WSNA PP&L Committee meets monthly with other child nutrition stakeholders during the Meals for Kids zoom meetings. The other stakeholders are Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition, NW Harvest, OPSI Child Nutrition, and United Way King County. These meetings allow us to discuss current legislation, support bills that align with all our groups and discuss strategies during the legislative session.

OSPI's budget request for 2024 included funding free meals for all elementary schools, as well as increasing funding for CEP & HB 1238. The Governor's budget request only included funding for CEP & HB 1238.

Rep. Riccelli is introducing a bill for Universal Free Meals in the House with Sen. Nobles introducing a companion bill in the Senate. We will support with testimony coordinated with other groups. Watch for alerts when action is needed!

Federal Permanent Summer EBT operational funding was included in the Governor's budget. The requirement is a 1:1 match of Federal Funds for operations. If funding is approved, Summer EBT benefits will be implemented this summer. This greatly reduces food insecurity during summer months.

Rulemaking on Seated Lunch Time led by OSPI Child Nutrition will happen this spring with public regional meetings and other formalized steps. Implementation timeline will be to allow school districts to figure out staffing and schedules.

Important Upcoming Dates: **AEA Day on the Hill is February 6, 2024.** This is a day when as many WAMOA and WSNA members as possible meet in Olympia and go over our priorities with our individual legislators and caucus leaders. This is a great opportunity to team up with a WSNA member and share in a simple conversation what is happening in your schools and why Universal Free Meals is so important. Please mark your calendar and look for information coming from WSNA on this important day.

Prior to that is **WSNA Legislative Day on January 25, 2024.** We call it the "Tennis Shoe" day, meeting with as many as 25 legislative offices and champions of Meals for Kids. If you are interested in being part of this day, please reach out to Kim Elkins at kim.elkins@mead354.org.

SNA's Legislative Action Conference (LAC) is March 3-5, 2024 in Washington, D.C. This amazing conference is highly informative with the opportunity to advocate directly with our legislators in Congress. Sign up by 2/2/24 for early bird rate. For more information check out SNA's website, under Conferences & Events. Contact Leeda Beha at lbeha@bethelsd.org if you plan on attending.

To receive notifications on bill activities, join WSNA PP&L Committee, take part in the Meals for Kids Call or join WSNA's grassroots network please contact Kim Elkins at kim.elkins@mead354.org. It takes all of us volunteering to make things happen for our kids!



WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH WSNA?

Looking to get involved with WSNA next year? We've got a position for you! Start thinking about running for an upcoming position on the WSNA Board for school year 2024 - 2025.

If you're interested, or know someone who would be great for a position, contact

Kristina.marsh@highlineschools.org

OR

Denice Kwate at dKwate@cvsd.org.

The following positions will be up for election at the 2024 Annual State Conference.

Vice President: This position is in training to assume the office of President-elect and then President in sequential years. Primary duties include planning and facilitating the Spring and Fall workshops.

Secretary/Treasurer: A member of the Executive Board. This position is the recorder for the Association and keeps accurate records of the Board meetings and financial transactions in coordination with the Executive Director.

Region 2 Lead: Region 2 covers the Western Region of the state. Including Clallam, Jefferson, Grays Harbor, Mason, Kitsap, Thurston, Pierce, Pacific, Lewis, Cowlitz, Clark, Skamania, and Wahkiakum Counties. The primary duty of the regional lead is to act as a direct communication link between the membership of the region and the WSNA Board.

Region 4 Lead: Region 4 covers the Eastern Region of the state. Including Okanogan, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Lincoln, Spokane, Adams, Whitman counties. The primary duty of the regional lead is to act as a direct communication link between the membership of the region and the WSNA Board.



**WASHINGTON
SCHOOL
NUTRITION
ASSOCIATION**

SNA Leadership Development Committee Nomination - Western Region



Hello WSNA members! My name is Debbie Calhoun, and I am asking for your vote to represent the Western Region on the School Nutrition Association (SNA) Leadership Development Committee.

For the last 23 years, I have worked as an Administrative Program Specialist with the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), providing support to schools and their Child Nutrition programs.

The Leadership Development Committee is responsible for recruiting the future leaders of SNA by identifying potential candidates for nationally elected positions. They talk with potential candidates at meetings, events, and by phone about their leadership journey and the path to national leadership opportunities.

I feel that I am well qualified to serve on the Leadership Development Committee because I am experienced in working with a diverse group of Child Nutrition Program sponsors, allowing me to identify and recruit volunteer leaders. I have developed strong working relationships with our sponsors, providing me with a deep understanding of their different operational needs.

In my years working with Child Nutrition sponsors, I've had the opportunity to meet so many outstanding professionals working at all levels to feed kids. I have a keen eye for recognizing leadership potential in the people who work tirelessly to feed students. As your representative on the Leadership Development Committee, I will draw upon this experience to recruit the future leaders of SNA. I am especially passionate about building up leaders from underrepresented communities. I am committed to positively shaping the future leadership of SNA and the future direction of the Child Nutrition Programs.

SNA is the voice of the school nutrition industry. Like our Washington School Nutrition Association (WSNA), SNA provides rich educational opportunities for its members, supports, and represents our interests in state and national legislation, and develops working relationships with affiliated groups to help ensure all students in our country have access to healthy meals.

It would be an honor to have a hand in tapping the next generation of leaders to serve the future of SNA. That is why I am asking you to vote for me, Debbie Calhoun, to represent you on the SNA Leadership Development Committee in the Western Region.

Thank you!

Scan this QR Code to view Debbie's Video and Profile on SNA's candidate page:



Participating in the SNA Election is vital for the future of the organization. Remember to vote in the upcoming 2024 SNA Election. Your voice matters! Check out my bio at www.schoolnutrition.org/election. 🍏



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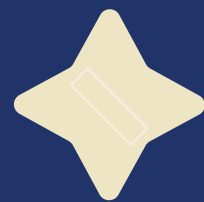
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Mid-Year Check-In: Are We Achieving Our Goals?

By Alexandra Epstein-Solfield
WSNA Vice President

As a Child Nutrition Director, I believe it is my responsibility to establish and prioritize goals for my department. Goals act as a guidepost, providing direction, motivation, and a clear path to achieving our overall vision. They ensure everyone on our team is working towards the same objectives and they foster collaboration and accountability. By measuring progress and evaluating success, department goals help us allocate resources effectively and make informed decisions, ultimately driving success and paving the way for a successful future.

Some 2023-2024 goals we had for our department include:

- Increase scratch-made menu offerings
- Expand farm to school menu offerings
- Connect with students through regular nutrition education
- Improve sustainability measures by reducing waste in our cafeterias

As we approach the half-way point of the school year, it is time for us to assess our progress. This mid-year evaluation allows us to analyze our successes, identify areas requiring improvement, and outline strategies for moving forward. Using one of the examples listed above, I will show you what this process might look like.

Progress and Achievements:

Progress and Achievements:

Increase scratch-made menu items:
Our goal was to swap out one “heat and serve” item with a scratch-made item on both the breakfast and lunch menu cycles and introduce homemade salad dressings and BBQ sauce each day district-wide. At the start of the year, we began making scratch-made chicken and cheese quesadillas, replacing a “heat and serve” version.



Mid-Year Check-In Cont.



Challenges and Gaps:

Despite progress, several challenges hinder our efforts toward achieving this goal, including:

Staffing shortages: High rates of staff absenteeism have made it difficult to establish systems and processes for cooking the scratch-made chicken and cheese quesadillas.

Budget concerns: We have tried bringing part-time staff in for additional hours to help with scratch cooking related tasks but this is costly.

Lack of storage space: Staff make the quesadillas when they have extra time on easier prep days. We then store them in the freezer for later use, however, our freezer is not big so storage space is limited.

Moving Forward: Key Strategies for Success:

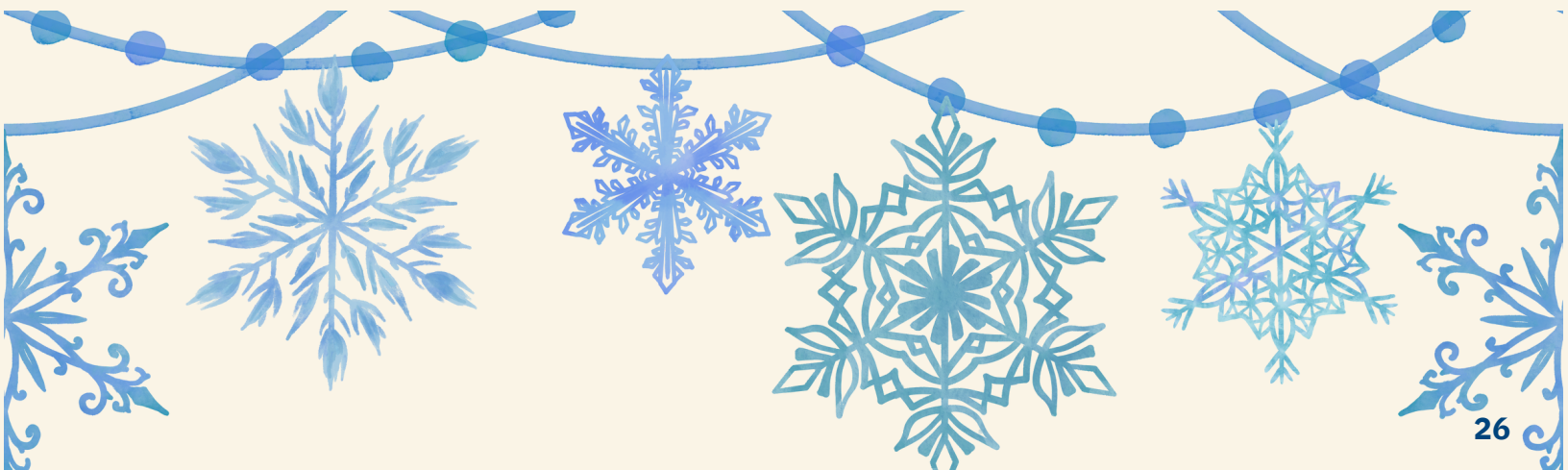
To accelerate progress towards our goals, the following strategies will prove crucial:

Streamline a production schedule: By helping staff establish production schedules they will be able to work more efficiently and accomplish more in the same amount of time.

Utilize creative funding sources: We will continue to search for grants and funding opportunities that help us pay for staffing, local food products, and equipment that aids in scratch-cooking.

Create a plan for using inventory: If we can regularly use and rotate our inventory we can create more space for storing homemade food items.

While the mid-year assessment reveals encouraging progress in some areas for our department, significant challenges remain. By implementing the proposed strategies above, our hope is to continue to improve and evolve our systems so that our students benefit from our achievements. There is still time for this year's goals, so good luck! And remember we are all in this together.



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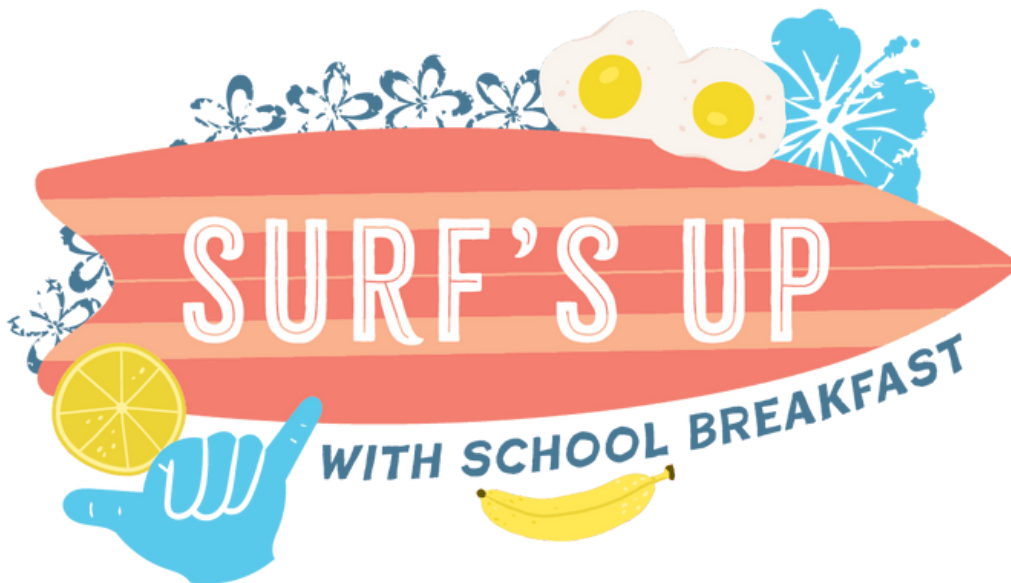
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March 4-8, 2024

National School Breakfast Week (NSBW) celebrates the importance of a nutritious school breakfast in fueling students for success. This special observance during the first week of March celebrates the national School Breakfast Program and the many ways it gives kids a great start every day.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES



Welcome New Members that joined us from September-December 2023

Joanna Livingston - Kimberly Yarrington - Tina Wright - Aimee Rose - Heather Robb - Xuan Pham - Jennifer Pawig - Armani Pangelinar - Elaine Mitzel - Mi Luc - Patricia Love - Natalya Kukhar - Jae Hee Ko - Lenore Kinard - Deanna Jacobsen - Sandra Heaphy - Nicole Greer - Joy Gomes - Lien Dao - Lara Cowles - Amy Camus - Jehma Ann Aquino - Ashlet AhChan - Madina Abassi - Candice Stanhope - Trinity McLean - Samantha Hrisco - Justine Wadlow - Emi Yokosuka - Kimberly Workman - Tristan Verdoom - Kristin Thomas - Sadia Sheikh - Morgan Sanford - Caitlin SanJose - Anthony Russo - Robert Pietzke - Josefina Piedra Sos - Sonja Nelson - Beverly Martinez - Orfelina Marinez Avila - Rosalba Lozano - Phoebe Lee - Sarah Kummert - Eva Hernandez - Lyndsey Hart - Susanna Galarza - Barb Fink - Stephanie Bry - Robin Benson Williams - Tomoko Bennett - Mahder Bedasso - Annie Sage - Laura Neal - Brenda Merritt - Arianne McConchle - Nancy Mains - Megan Harlan - Adrianna Gutierrez - Jeannette Green - Samantha Evans - Sarah Davis - Jessica Condron - Ben Brown - Tina Bischoff - Chaundi Barboza - Karen Wright - Teresa Turcinec - Mayra Rios Mendez - Sandra Nicholas - Yuk Lee - Po Yi Ada Ip - Amber Harrison - Amy Crandall - Van Chau - Shu-Fang Chang - Carol Bus - Amanda Brazzell - Raychelle Thomas - Luz Ramirez - Joshua Potter - Nhi Luu - Rita Golden - Teresa Denman - Susan Burke - Ana Arias Chavez - Emily White - Iris Sorto - Shyna Singla - Ayat selim - Starry Liu - Crystal Kent - Elizabeth Jamison - Debra Irvine-Collins - Juliana Gunawan - Genevieve Genivieve - Andrea Corcoran - Deborah Christensen - Rita Armond

Joining has never been easier, apply online or fill out the paper application and fax or mail it into SNA.

Click [here](#) for the WA application to see the new dues information or print a copy to submit via fax or mail.

Happy New Year Everyone!!

Submitted by Melissa Erwin (melissa.erwin@kent.k12.wa.us)– Membership Chair

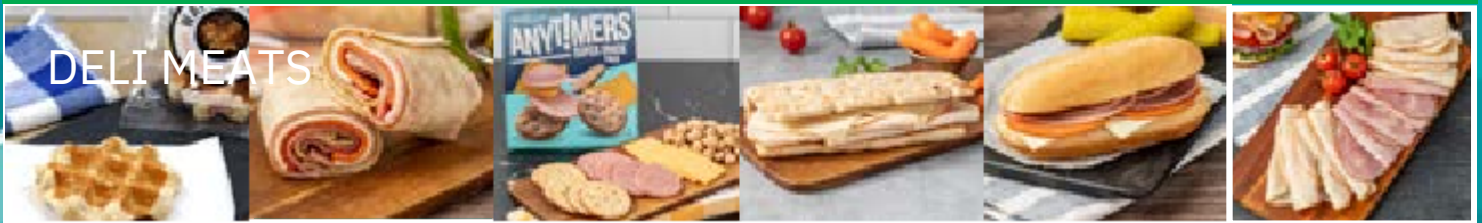
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MINUTES

WSNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MTG

NOVEMBER 4, 2023, VIRTUAL

The meeting was called to order by President Wendy Weyer at 9:05am.
A quorum was present.

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE CORRECTED MINUTES OF THE WSNA BOARD MEETING ON 7/26/2023 and was accepted.

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR 11/4/2023 MOTION PASSED.

REPORTS:

Reports were given by PPL Co-Chair Kim Elkins and Teresa Fields, Secretary/Treasurer.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Public Schools of WA (PSE) 2024 Legislative Conference Speaker Request
Apple Press (Fall, Winter, Spring)
2024 WSNA Elections
WSNA Bylaws
2024 Education Events/Opportunities
2024 WSNA Conference Planning Committee
WSNA Plan of Action
2023-24 WSNA Budget
Ad Hoc Committees: Executive Director/Bookkeeper Search and Website/Marketing/Membership
Future WSNA Board Meeting Planning

ACTION ITEMS

2026 Murano Hotel Contract-approved
Golden Apple Award Recognition (former State Senator Rolfes)-approved

OTHER BUSINESS

There being no other business, at 11:41am the meeting was moved to adjourn. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Fields, Secretary/Treasurer





WASHINGTON SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION 2023-2024 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

<i>OFFICER POSITION</i>	<i>NAME & ADDRESS</i>	<i>PHONE & E-MAIL</i>
President	Wendy Weyer Bellevue School District	E-Mail: weyerw@bsd405.org 425-205-9445 cell 425-456-4578 office
President Elect	Karen Brown Franklin Pierce School District	E-Mail: kbrown@fpschools.org 253-677-3931
Vice President	Alexandra Epstein-Solfield Ellensburg School District	E-Mail: alexandra.epsteinsolfield@esd401.org 206-697-2442
Secretary/Treasurer	Teresa Fields (Appointed 1 year) Kent School District	E-Mail: teresa.fields@kent.k12.wa.us 206-898-8759
Leadership Co-Chairs	Kristina Marsh (West) Highline Public Schools Denise Kwante (East) Central Valley School District	E-Mail: kristina.marsh@highlineschools.org 206-631-3224 E-Mail: dkwate@cvsd.org 509-315-7503
Member at Large	Lisa Johnson Highline School District	E-Mail: lisa.johnson@highlineschools.org 253-279-6681
Executive Director (Non-Voting)	TBD	E-Mail: wsnaboard@gmail.com
Northwest Region 1 Lead	Erika Santana Highline Public Schools	E-Mail: erika.santana@highlineschools.org
Western Region 2 Lead	Nichol Haw University Place School District	E-Mail: nhaw@upsd83.org 586-255-0519
Southeast Region 3 Lead	Stephine Burkett East Valley (Yakima) School District	E-Mail: burkett.stephine@evsd90.org 509-823-7694
Eastern Region 4 Lead	Kara Carlson (Appointed 1 year) West Valley (Spokane) School District	E-Mail: kara.carlson@wvwd.org 509-232-6092

<i>OFFICER POSITION</i>	<i>NAME & ADDRESS</i>	<i>PHONE & E-MAIL</i>
Public Policy & Legislative Co-Chairs	Leeda Beha Bethel School District Kim Elkins Mead School District	E-Mail: lbeha@bethelsd.org 253-219-9212 Email: Kim.Elkins@mead354.org 509-951-7462
Membership / Certification Chair	Melissa Erwin Kent School District	Email: melissa.erwin@kent.k12.wa.us 206-293-2419
Education Chair	Melissa Miller Oak Harbor School District	E-Mail: mmiller@ohsd.net 541-233-9064
Marketing Chair	Patricia Barret South Kitsap School District	E-Mail: barret@skschools.org 360-528-1856 text 360-443-3667 office* *preferred # during workday
Industry Chair	Janel Rupp Performance Reps NW	E-Mail: Janelr@prnw.com 360-624-7097
NON-VOTING BOARD POSITIONS:		
Parliamentarian	Kameron Lott Bethel School District	E-Mail: klott@bethelsd.org 253-228-0631
State Liaison	Liz Beechter Director of School Meal Programs Child Nutrition Services, OSPI	E-Mail: elizabeth.beechler@k12.wa.us 360-522-2103
NON-BOARD POSITIONS:		
Bookkeeper	Donna Parsons Olympia, WA	E-Mail: wsnabookkeeper@comcast.net 360-791-1270



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Contact

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steve@voeller.com (425) 644-7432



Get to know your Regional Lead -- Region 4

Counties: Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Ferry, Grant, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, and Whitman

Kara Carlson

Kara.carlson@wvsd.org

Region 4 Lead

Favorite School Meal: As a kid, it was always the Teriyaki Dippers! It amazes me that they are still around, although it seems the recipe has changed a bit. Now

a days, homemade chili day is my favorite because it is so comforting and flavorful (and it comes with a delicious cinnamon roll)!

Get to know your Regional Lead -- Region 1

Counties: Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, San Juan Island, and King

Erika Santana

erika.santana@highlineschools.org

Region 1 Lead

Favorite School Meal: Pizza
Loves to read and do word searches.
Check out this fun food word search I made for all of you!

[Fun Food Word Search](#)



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UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

Legislative Action Conference (LAC)

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Washington, D.C. | March 3 – 5, 2024

American Commodities Distribution Association (ACDA)

Coming together to Nourish the Nation

St. Louis, Missouri | April 21 – 24, 2024