

SNAC Bites – December 2009

Welcome to the December 2009 issue of SNAC Bites or SNA Communication Bites. The aim of this monthly email is to help highlight new SNA programs and provide topics and content for your state association newsletters and chapter meetings.

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1. SNA Announces 2009 Election Results

Members of the School Nutrition Association have spoken, casting their ballots in the annual election for the Association's top leadership positions. Sandy Ford, from Florida was elected Vice President and will serve as the SNA President for the year 2012-13. Overall, ten new members to the Board of Directors will be installed in July 2010 and four members, representing different SNA regions, will join the Nominating Committee. Full election results can be found at <http://www.schoolnutrition.org/Blog.aspx?id=13275&blogid=622>

2. SNA Open Committee Positions

Are you interested in serving on a SNA Committee? Do you have public policy and legislation experience, do you have nutrition expertise, are you representative of a membership section, or have an interest in bylaws? SNA leadership is searching for members to be a part of a SNA Committee. There are openings for both school nutrition professionals and industry members.

2010-11 Open Committee Positions:

- Education: **2 Positions -SN Employee/Manager, State Agency and/or Nutrition Educator members, 1 Industry member**
- Member Services Committee: **2 Positions - Southeast, Northwest members and 1 Industry member**
- Nominating: **Representatives are elected, not appointed**
- **Nutrition:** 2 Positions, Nutrition expertise required by members, 1 Industry member
- **Public Policy & Legislation:** 2 Positions, Legislative experience required by members
- **Resolutions & Bylaws:** 3 Positions, Mideast, Southeast, Southwest members
- **Research:** 2 Positions, SN Practitioners

If you or you know someone that may be interested in serving on a committee, please email Deborah Van Balen at dvanbalen@schoolnutrition.org for a Committee Interest Form.

3. The School Nutrition Association's 2009 Fall Membership Drive

The membership drive was a success- welcoming close to 1,800 new members this fall. The membership campaign ran from August 1 to October 31, 2009.

Every year, the top recruiting states in each region are awarded with a complimentary one-year membership to School Nutrition Association. The states receiving this award are as follows:

- **West Region:** California with 38 new members. Hawaii with an 11% increase in new members.
- **Mideast Region:** Michigan with 77 new members. Maryland with a 4% increase in new members
- **Southeast Region:** Georgia with 299 new members. Mississippi with a 19% increase in new members
- **Northwest Region:** Washington with 50 new members. Wyoming with a 12% increase in new members
- **Southwest Region:** Oklahoma with 53 new members. Arkansas with a 4% increase in new members.
- **Northeast Region:** Massachusetts with 35 new members. Pennsylvania with a 2% increase in new members.
- **Midwest Region:** Minnesota with 76 new members. Missouri with a 4% increase in new members.

These states will be recognized in the *School Nutrition* magazine and in July at the Annual National Conference in Dallas, Texas.

For questions regarding the Fall Membership Drive, contact Ellen Wilson, Director of Membership and Affiliate Services, at 800-877-8822 x119 or ewilson@schoolnutrition.org.

4. Secretary of Agriculture Testifies at Senate Hearing on Child Nutrition Programs

Child Nutrition Reauthorization was the focus of a Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry hearing held November 17, 2009. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack was among those testifying before the Committee.

In her opening statement, Chairwoman Blanche Lincoln (D-Ark.) reiterated the Committee's commitment to addressing the high rate of children that suffer from hunger. She also noted the high rates of childhood obesity and discussed her guiding principals for Child Nutrition Reauthorization: increasing access and participation, improving the nutritional quality of meals, and improving the integrity and modernization of the school nutrition programs. Ranking Member Saxby Chambliss (R-Ga.) also spoke about the importance of the child nutrition programs.

In his testimony, Secretary Vilsack reaffirmed that child nutrition is a top priority for the USDA and the Obama Administration. He noted the top Administration priorities for child nutrition reauthorization include goals such as; increasing the nutritional value of meals, reducing barriers, expanding food safety requirements, and strengthening school wellness policy implementation.

To read more about the Hearing:

<http://www.schoolnutrition.org/Blog.aspx?id=13278&blogid=622>

5. Enter to Win a Free ANC 2010 Dallas Registration by Submitting Your Big Idea for School Nutrition

SNA's 2010 Annual National Conference in Dallas, Texas is all about big ideas for school nutrition. So what would help school nutrition programs thrive? How can SNA help? Submit your big idea for school nutrition and be entered into a sweepstakes to win one of three (3) free ANC 2010 Dallas registrations*.

Big idea topics could include:

- Customer Service
- School lunch
- School breakfast
- Nutrition
- Increasing participation
- Food safety
- Training and more...

Remember, all ideas count as BIG ideas so enter to win at www.schoolnutrition.org/ancsweeps

ANC in the Big D. Big Ideas, Big Value, Big Opportunities

*VOID WHERE PROHIBITED OR RESTRICTED BY LAW

6. Disposables vs. Permanent Ware

The School Nutrition Foundation conducted a study to develop environmental and cost profiles for the production, use, and end-of-life management of disposable and reusable ware used in school cafeterias. Factors that influence purchases, along with the burdens and costs associated with the use of disposable and reusable ware in schools were studied. Data analysis was conducted using a life cycle inventory examining a sequence of steps from raw materials to final disposition.

To download and print a full copy of the study, go to

http://www.schoolnutrition.org/uploadedFiles/School_Nutrition/110_SNFoundation/Warewash_Study-Summary.pdf

7. 2010 CNIC Innovation Station Sessions

You don't want to miss this opportunity to attend these exciting sessions that are sure to provide solutions and alternatives to your school lunch program. Thirty corporations will share information regarding innovations in products or services currently in development or introduced in the school market within the past year. Your expertise is needed! Register for CNIC today and make a difference. www.schoolnutrition.org/cnic

8. USDA Report on Food Insecurity Highlights Importance of School Meals Programs

The US Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service (ERS) has released a report showing an increase in the number of families struggling to put food on the table.

The report, available at www.ers.usda.gov/features/householdfoodsecurity/, states that last year 17 million households, or 14.6 percent, experienced food insecurity, an increase from 13 million homes, or 11.1 percent, in 2007. USDA highlighted the importance of federal nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, in meeting this growing need, and pointed to the findings as evidence for the importance of strengthening the programs during Child Nutrition Reauthorization.

[Click here to read USDA's news release on the report.](#)

9. 2010 ANC Exhibits

There is only one place where you can find over 700 booths with 300+ companies showcasing, demonstrating and launching new products and services...ANC in the Big D! Save time & money by networking with hundreds of vendors that can assist you in reaching your goals and maximizing your budget. Spice-up your school menus by attending one of the six culinary demonstrations offered during the three day exposition; one of those recipes could add a spark to your school lunch. Come to Dallas next July and discover more! www.schoolnutrition.org/anc

ANC in the Big D. Big Ideas, Big Value, Big Opportunities

10. USA Today Reports on School Food Safety

[“Trouble on the Tray,”](#) an investigative series by *USA Today*, has put a spotlight on food safety in school meals. The most recent story, [“Why a recall of tainted beef didn't include school lunches,”](#) reports on the US Department of Agriculture's policies for recalling potentially tainted foods supplied to school meals programs.

Please visit the link below for talking points on how school nutrition programs maintain superior food safety records, and how SNA has called on the federal government to improve its procedures to provide timely and accurate notifications to schools when they identify a food safety threat.

[Talking Points on Food Safety in the School Nutrition Programs](#) (login required)

11. Holiday Close Out Sale at the Emporium!

The SNA Emporium is the perfect place to find gifts for all your school nutrition co-workers. And as a little holiday extra, the Emporium will be having a closeout sale on select items including newly added Fuel Your Imagination merchandise until **December 31, 2009**. Stop by <http://emporium.schoolnutrition.org> today and stock up on discounted T-shirts, aprons and posters much, much more!

T-shirts – were \$12.00 now \$6.00

Aprons - were \$14.00 now \$7.00

Posters – were \$3.25 now \$1.00

Drinkware – were \$6.00 now \$2.00 and under

Call 1 800 728 0728 or visit <http://emporium.schoolnutrition.org> to find out more.

We hope you find SNAC Bites a useful tool. If you have any questions or feedback about SNAC Bites, please contact Laura Maynard at lmaynard@schoolnutrition.org or 703 739 3900 x120.