

## **SNAC Bites – February 2012**

Welcome to the February 2012 issue of SNAC Bites, or SNA Communication Bites. The aim of this monthly e-mail 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. Your Best Guide to the New Meal Pattern Regulation**

SNA is your best guide to the new USDA Meal Pattern Regulation and our members will be the first to get access to the USDA updates through the SNA website. To access this information, once you login, click under the Highlights section. Housed on the Final Meal Pattern Regulation page of the SNA site will be SNA's roll-out Plan of Action, SNA's Press Release, the Final Regulation and archived webinars regarding the regulation.

Content will be updated as it becomes available. You must be an SNA member to access this information. For more, please visit: <http://www.schoolnutrition.org/mealpattern>.

### **2. Legislative Action Conference 2012 – Register Today!**

The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Legislative Action Conference is quickly approaching so make plans to attend today! LAC will be held in Washington, DC on March 4-7, 2012 at the J.W. Marriott Hotel. The Opening General Session and keynote address will include an insider's look at Washington from Charlie Cook, one of the nation's top political analysts. Following the Charge to the Hill on Tuesday, the LAC Annual Reception and Banquet will be held with a special performance by the Capitol Steps. Wednesday's Closing General Session is one you do not want to miss. A panel discussion featuring Former Secretaries of Agriculture, John Block, and Dan Glickman and Former Deputy Secretary Charles Conner, will focus on the increasing role that agriculture and nutrition have in decisions and policy development.

To register or learn more, visit: [www.schoolnutrition.org/LAC](http://www.schoolnutrition.org/LAC).

### **3. Enter to Win a Free Registration to ANC 2012**

What exciting change(s) are you going to make to your school nutrition program in the coming year?  
What do you think the impact is going to be on your students, staff or program?

Tell us what you think is on “the horizon” for school nutrition and be entered into a sweepstakes to win one of three (3) free ANC 2012 Denver registrations!\*

*Examples of what could be on the horizon include:*

- Meeting criteria for the new meal pattern regulations or HealthierUS School Challenge
- Expanding school breakfast
- Introducing new menu items/ Taste tests
- Promoting locally grown/ sourced foods
- Working with chefs or other partners in the community
- Try new marketing strategies to build participation or community support
- Introducing new wellness initiatives including meeting personal wellness goals

Enter to win today at [www.schoolnutrition.org/ancsweeps](http://www.schoolnutrition.org/ancsweeps).

(\*Prize includes one (1) annual conference registration fee only and does not include land transportation, airfare, meals, hotel accommodation or any other expenses. No purchase necessary. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED OR RESTRICTED BY LAW. Visit [www.schoolnutrition.org/ancsweeps](http://www.schoolnutrition.org/ancsweeps) for complete rules and regulations.)

### **4. Does SNA have your correct email?**

Connect with SNA and Enter to Win!

Stay connected by email for timely updates on school nutrition-related news, trends, legislative updates, upcoming meetings, webinars and other essential resources from SNA.

Stay connected by simply submitting or verifying your email address on “My SNA”, and you will be entered into the “Connect with SNA” sweepstakes to win one of five (5) SNA Emporium Gift Certificates worth \$25.00.

Enter to win today at [www.schoolnutrition.org/connect](http://www.schoolnutrition.org/connect).

(\*Prize includes one (1) \$25.00 SNA Emporium Gift Certificate. No purchase necessary. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED OR RESTRICTED BY LAW. Visit [www.schoolnutrition.org/connect](http://www.schoolnutrition.org/connect) for complete rules and regulations.)

### **5. National School Breakfast Week 2012 Resources**

National School Breakfast Week (**March 5-9, 2012**) is a couple of months away, and “School Breakfast – Go for Gold” is the perfect campaign to help your breakfast program succeed. SNA has many tools and other resources available to help you get started including menus, activity sheets and “School Breakfast T-shirt” contest forms. Also available are logos, banner ads, press releases and much more. Visit the resource website [www.schoolnutrition.org/nsbw](http://www.schoolnutrition.org/nsbw) today.

*National School Breakfast Week – March 5-9, 2012*

## **6. School Nutrition Foundation's Upcoming Webinar Wednesday & Peer2Peer Schedule**

Join the School Nutrition Foundation (SNF) for its Webinar Wednesday and Peer2Peer programs in February and March. Over the next few weeks, SNF has convened a great line up of topics and speakers including:

- produce purchasing
- food allergy management in schools
- evaluating your CN program's online presence

To see full program descriptions and register, please visit

<http://www.schoolnutrition.org/webinarwednesdays>.

## **7. Mark Your Calendars for National Leadership Conference and the Future Leaders Program**

SNA's National Leadership Conference will be April 26-28 at The Galt Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky. The Future Leaders Program will be conducted during NLC. Registration materials will be sent to state leadership this month. All members of your 2012-13 state leadership team, as well as your state membership chair, and a future leader, are encouraged to attend, so that together you can learn and enhance your skills and knowledge to help lead your state association in the coming years. For further information, contact Ellen Wilson at [ewilson@schoolnutrition.org](mailto:ewilson@schoolnutrition.org)

## **8. Make your Program Shine at ANC with the Child Nutrition Showcase Poster Session**

Is there something you think your program does well? Show it off at SNA's Child Nutrition Showcase Poster Session during the Annual National Conference in Denver, July 16-17.

The Child Nutrition Showcase is a display of posters highlighting successful practices and research in school nutrition. This is a great opportunity to draw attention to some of the things happening in your program. Posters can address topics such as:

- menu changes
- food safety practices
- marketing and customer service innovations
- nutrition education initiatives
- environmentally friendly practices, and more!

Visit [www.schoolnutrition.org/cnshowcase](http://www.schoolnutrition.org/cnshowcase) to learn more and to submit a poster idea. The deadline to submit a poster idea is **March 16, 2012**.

## **9. SNA Election 2012: Call for Candidates!**

The SNA Nominating Committee needs your help! Can you recommend potential candidates to run for the national Board of Directors and Nominating Committee regional representative positions, to be elected in fall 2012? Open Board of Directors positions in this upcoming election include Vice President, Mideast Regional Director, Midwest Regional Director, Southeast Regional Director, West Regional Director, Education Committee Chair, Public Policy & Legislation Committee Chair, Research Committee Chair and Industry Representative. Representatives also are needed for the Nominating Committee from the Northeast, Northwest and Southwest Regions.

If you would like to recommend well-qualified state and regional leaders, simply fill out the Potential Candidates Recommendation Form on the SNA website. You can also recommend candidates by e-mailing the individual's name and contact information to SNA Executive Assistant Deborah Van Balen at [dballa@schoolnutrition.org](mailto:dballa@schoolnutrition.org). Submissions must be received no later than **March 31, 2012**. The Nominating Committee will meet in July prior to the Annual National Conference in Denver to select the candidate slate for the 2012 Election.

<http://docs.schoolnutrition.org/files/NomineeRecommendationForm.pdf>

#### **10. March 1 Deadline for SNA Award Nominations!**

Be sure your state participates in the awards program by having a state winner for each award. The deadline for submitting a nomination for the Louise Sublette Award of Excellence, the Heart of the Program and the Outstanding Director of the Year awards is March 1, 2012. The awards presentation ceremony is going to be bigger and better than ever this year at ANC. Award information can be found on SNA's website under Membership, then Awards. For any questions, call Ellen Wilson at 800-877-8822 x 119.

#### **11. SNF Scholarships**

SNF Scholarships are now open. To find out more or apply for a scholarship, please visit [www.schoolnutrition.org/scholarships](http://www.schoolnutrition.org/scholarships). Questions, please email: [scholarships@schoolnutrition.org](mailto:scholarships@schoolnutrition.org).

#### **12. School Nutrition Adds Digital Format**

Have you checked out the new digital edition of *School Nutrition* magazine yet? It's available each month at [www.schoolnutrition.org/snmagazinecurrent](http://www.schoolnutrition.org/snmagazinecurrent). This additional service—you will still receive your print magazine each month—is being made available to SNA members at no charge. The digital edition is a complete replica of the print issue—cover to cover.

SNA wants to ensure that the magazine is available to you in multiple formats to best meet your needs and preferences. And the new digital edition offers a variety of features to enhance your reading experience. Try out the search function, test the live links and share an article or advertisement with a colleague or your boss.

The digital edition is accessible on any device with a web browser; a mobile app is under consideration for the future. Each issue will be available to all visitors to SchoolNutrition.org for two months; after that time, SNA members will have exclusive access to the archives.

*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](mailto:lmaynard@schoolnutrition.org) or (301) 686-3120.*