President’s Message

Debbie Heuscher

“Wow, what a week of learning”

I learned so many new things at our State Conference this summer and am so thankful for our OPI and Team Nutrition staff. They all do an amazing job keeping us Montana School Nutrition Associates on top of our ever-changing career! I have always appreciated their dedication and support at our conference and now since I was able to experience the SNA National Conference, I realize that our MTSNA Conference is very comparable in the classes that are offered to us each summer because of them. We had many of the same topics here as were offered in Kansas City!

Our MTSNA Board is busy gearing up for Conference 2014 in Great Falls. It is going to be a challenge since we were honored with having Adam Brumberg and Drew Hanks from Cornell University, Chef Jason Morse, Dayle Hayes and Bruce Colton for speakers this past June for conference. However, our MTSNA Board is an amazing group of hard-working ladies and are up for the challenge!!!

I want to thank all of you amazing MTSNA members who supported the shoe drive we had for the Billings Women and Family Shelter. The 95 pairs of shoes collected really will provide hope and change the lives of the 95 people who will receive the generous gifts. Gary Drake and Perry Roberts, representatives from the shelter were overwhelmed by your generosity and thoughtfulness.

It was nice to see you all wearing your MTSNA T-shirts or sweatshirts and carrying your MTSNA totes. Thank you for supporting and being proud of your profession of School Nutrition.

We had 11 conference attendees become SNA members and 19 members apply for SNA Certification. That is very encouraging to see the dedication of continuing education in your career of feeding Montana kids.

Carol Simanton, Salley Young and I were honored to represent MTSNA at the SNA Annual National Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. Carol received the Thelma Flanagan award at a Red Carpet Event in a historic theater. It was so grand and elegant!

Wow, what a week of learning and FUN! It was a “bucket list” experience for me, I was on the same flight as Shannon Solomon. Shannon was a contestant on Lunch Ladies “Chopped” which aired on the Food Network this past spring. Also, she was one of the four lunch ladies recognized by ANC Conference speaker, Jarrett Krosoczka, author and illustrator of ten “Lunch Lady, Super Hero” books; Al Roker signed my book after his general session presentation; ANC attendees were treated to a Craig Morgan concert at a Tyson food event one evening; then after the final event for ANC 2013, was a Darius Rucker concert, I was able to have my CD signed by Darius. Finally, I had never been on a city bus … oh my!!!

I hope you are all looking forward to this school year helping to provide nutritious, healthy meals for our children and teaching them to make healthy choices at meal and snack times. It was wonderful to see where so many of you feed Montana kids by putting your colored dot on our “I Feed Montana Kids In…” map at conference. Thank you for taking the time to share.

The new breakfast requirements seem to be easy to understand and follow after all the changes we had for lunch last year. I guess time will tell, but you know us lunch ladies and lunch dudes, we are always up to a challenge in this ever-changing profession we are in!!

Take care of yourself and have a great fall. If you have any questions or need anything please don’t hesitate to contact me.

MTSNA Board Minutes
State & National Conference News
Scholarship Award Applications
STEPS Challenge
Awards and Award Winners
Dates to Remember
New Executive Board Members
Plus - check out all the Photos!
June 17, 2013 Minutes - Carol led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was taken.
President/Legislative Chair - Carol Simanton
President Elect/Certification Chair - Debbie Heuscher
Vice President/Conf. Chair - Salley Young
Treasurer - Becky Green
Secretary /Membership /WOW - Julie Leister
Membership Co Chair - Fawn Venzor
Newsletter/Scholarship - Sue Hesse
Heart of the Program/Silver Spoon Single Unit/Heart of the Program - Ellen Mills
Vendor Chair - Cherry Arthur
Munch MT /Chpt. Devlp/Librarian/Historian - Linda Schwarzbach

A quorum was present. Jayne Elwess was a guest. Minutes from the previous board meeting were read. Jennifer made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Cherry seconded. All voted. Motion passed. Reports were given.

TREASURER
Becky presented a profit and loss report. We have 250 registered for this conference.

MEMBERSHIP
There are currently 189 members. We continue to send missing link letters to delinquent members and are participating in the membership drives each year.

CERTIFICATION
There are 47 certified members at this time. We discussed how to credit those who attend only part of our conference. The conference credit form was revised by Debbie to give to all attendees. There is lots of interest in certification. Debbie discussed that each board member needs to be or working toward certification to be on the MTSNA board. Board members need to review their status and continue keeping track of certification credits.

NEWSLETTER / SCHOLARSHIP
Discussion was held on Sue stepping down as the newsletter chair. This is tabled until our next MTSNA board meeting. There were no applications for the membership scholarship this year. The money that was not used for the scholarship was used for the certification application fee for our certification drive.
We had 12 high school applications sent to us this year and we chose three winners at $500.00 each. These were Haley Denison from Kevin, MT, Olivia Cretella from Gardiner, MT, Kacee Griffis from McAllister.

LEGISLATIVE
Cherry, Carol and Jennifer attended the LAC Conference this year. They had great ideas, listened to good speakers and discussed nutrition issues with our MT representative’s aides. The main issue this year is to repeal the grain and bread limits permanently. We are all encouraged to write letters to our state representatives and keep abreast on the issues concerning child nutrition.

EAT RIGHT/ACTION FOR HEALTHY KIDS
We have started a new award “Health Hero’s” which will be available for all to nominate persons that meet a certain criteria. This is meant to recognize those who get nutrition and activities going in the community and go above and beyond.

LIBRARIAN / HISTORIAN / MUNCH MT
Linda has been busy organizing the history of MTSNA. Also she is working with Jennifer to put items and pictures on the website. Linda may go to the Ag in Montana meeting to discuss getting placemats in the schools.

VENDOR
We have 50 vendors for the show this year. Cherry had some trouble with the online registration but is working to fix this problem for the future. There have been many turnovers in brokers but they are all very willing to work with Cherry.

HEART OF THE PROGRAM
There were no applications this year. Cindy Geise is the Silver Spoon award recipient. Ellen will present this to her.

WEB PAGE
There are many people looking at the web page now with nice comments. We have lots of good information and resources here.

WOW AWARD
We had nine applications and the committee of Cherry, Debbie and Fawn chose Ruth Walter, who received a handmade knife by GMW Knife Co.

OTHER BUSINESS
Conference duties, giveaways and schedule were discussed. Cherry made a motion to purchase an LCD for this conference if it is needed. Ellen seconded. All voted in favor except one, motion carried. Debbie, Salley and Carol are all ready to go to ANC in Kansas City.
Cherry made a motion that all business conducted and transacted at this meeting has been done in the form of a corporation and resolved that this association approves same and enter them into the corporation’s minutes books.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY JULIE LEISTER

June 20, 2013 Minutes - Billings Conference
Debbie called the meeting to order and led us in the pledge of allegiance. Salley had a thought for the day. Roll was taken.
President/ Certification Chair - Debbie Heuscher
President Elect - Salley Young; Treasurer - Becky Green
Secretary /W.O.W /Bylaws & Resol./ AFHK - Julie Leister
Legislation/Scholarship / Area Rep. Chair/Past Pres. - Carol Simanton
Membership/Scholarship Chair - Sue Hesse
Membership Co Chair - Fawn Venzor
Single Unit/Silver Spoon/Heart of the Program - Ellen Mills
Vendor Chair - Cherry Arthur
Chapter Devlp/Historian/Librarian/Munch MT - Linda Schwarzbach

Newsletter Chair - Betsy Rykowsky
Web page/Marketing Chair - Jennifer Spellman

Guest present was Jayne Elwess.
A quorum was present.

continued on pg. 3
The minutes from June 17, 2013 were tabled until the fall board meeting. Officer’s reports were given.

**TREASURER**
Becky has all the funds secure and will have a complete report at the fall board meeting.

**SECRETARY**
Julie gave a report of the winners and will have it posted in the newsletter.

**MEMBERSHIP**
Sue is both excited and nervous about working on the membership duties but will have help from Fawn and Julie. We had 11 new members join at conference. Fawn reported that there was $116.00 total taken in on the Bingo games held each day.

**CERTIFICATION**
Debbie reported that 19 attendees applied for certification at this conference. We are excited that there are many school food service employees taking pride in their profession.

**CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT**
Linda reported that the Live Auction brought in $1,026.00 which is a great response from the attendees.

**NEWSLETTER**
Newsletter deadlines were discussed and set. Our first article are due to Betsy on 8/10/2013. Also discussed were the articles important to each issue and the importance of getting it in on time!

**SCHOLARSHIP**
Sue reported that there were no member applications this year. Sue will place an article in the newsletters on the benefits of this scholarship. *High School Scholarships*: We gave three this year and the money will be given during the second semester of school. Recipients were Haley Denison, Olivia Cretella and Kacee Griffis.

**LEGISLATIVE**
We are working hard on the issues of child nutrition on the state and federal level. We discussed the milk issues with the additive of aspartame, Carol will follow up on the progress and decisions at the fall board meeting.

**LIBRARIAN**
Linda took many pictures at the conference and will put them in the library, and newsletter, as well as working with Jennifer to put them on the web page.

**VENDOR**
Cherry put together a great show this year with 51 booths. We discussed better communication between the hotel staff and the vendor about the needs of both parties. Cherry spoke with some vendors about cooking demos and some were interested. Cherry will explore this for next year.

**HEART OF THE PROGRAM / SINGLE UNIT**
Cindy Geise was the recipient of the Silver Spoon Award this year. Cindy worked at Lewistown Public Schools and will continue on to work for OPI on the cooperative bid. No one applied for the Heart of the Program Award. Ellen will continue to advertise this award in the newsletters.

**MUNCH MONTANA**
Linda will work with Farm to School to promote local foods, menus and fun games for this event.

**WEB PAGE**
Jennifer updates this site frequently. She asks that any articles, recipes, pictures and fun facts be sent to her to enter onto the site. Jennifer offered for Linda to come to Great Falls to work with her on getting pictures onto the site.

**W.O.W. AWARD**
Ruth Walter received this award this year after being chosen from nine applicants.

**ANC** - Carol, Salley and Debbie will attend this in Kansas City. These girls will bring home many new ideas, much knowledge and fun memories.

**SECRETARY**
Carol, Salley and Debbie will attend this in Kansas City. These girls will bring home many new ideas, much knowledge and fun memories.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**
We collected approximately 95 pairs of shoes for the needy population in Billings, MT. Dayle Hayes received the Professional of the Year award that she well deserved! Becky made a motion that all business conducted and transacted at this meeting has been done in the form of a corporation and resolved that this association approves same and enter them into the corporation’s minutes books.
Hello! My name is Jayne Elwess. As the saying goes, “everything old is new again,” so here I am an ‘old’ past school food service director, becoming a ‘new’ school food service director! This spring the school food service director position opened up in Montana City and I was fortunate enough to get the job. Some of you might remember me from past school nutrition conferences where I served as the president of the association in 1998 and 2003. I was also the food service director at Conrad Public Schools for 18 years. In 2005 my family and I moved to Helena, where for eight years I was the dietary manager at two different nursing homes. Though my husband and I are ‘empty nesters’, our children, Tamrah and Adam, and their families (one granddaughter and two grandsons) live just a few miles away, which makes the house not always empty, right Grandmas?

This summer I attended the conference in Billings and was elected Vice President for the Montana School Nutrition Association. I am pleased to once again serve our members in any way I can. We received great information on what you would like to have for classes, and the MTSNA board and I will do our best to bring them to the conference for you.

Please feel free to contact me on classes you are interested in. We need your input! We will do our best to try to provide the classes you suggest, if at all possible. Have a great school year!

Wow where has the summer gone, fair season is over, harvest is here, and SCHOOL STARTS. Hope all of you had a great summer. Now it’s time to review our training we received during summer training conference. We all hope that we found something at the vendor show that will help us improve our participation in our breakfast and lunch programs.

We would like to congratulate Debbie Otto of Havre, she was the big winner of the Kindle that was given by the Montana School Equipment Co. located in Great Falls.

Thanks to all the exhibitors that participated in our show and we look forward to seeing you again next year.

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Notes from your Vice President

Carol Simanton, Dayle Haynes and the OPI and Team Nutrition Team.

SNA Heart of the Program Award

The School Nutrition Association created the Heart of the Program Award as a tribute for non-managerial personnel. The person nominated for this award must be a certified SNA member who influences the quality of their school nutrition program by demonstrating outstanding customer service, constructive interaction with students, positive work environment, and a willingness to go beyond. This individual is one who gives 110% to making a difference for the students and the program.

You can nominate a foodservice/nutrition staff member who works in the daily operations preparing and/or serving meals to children by submitting a form to our state president. The deadline to submit a nomination form to Debbie Heuscher, our state president, is March 1, 2014.

Mail to: Debbie Heuscher
1390 McCaffrey Rd
Big Fork, MT 59911
Cell 406-270-1271
Work 406-837-7409

For information and award application requirements visit the SNA website at: http://www.schoolnutrition.org/uploadedFiles/School_Nutrition/107_Membership/Awards/HOPEntryForms%20online.pdf
SNA’s 67th Annual National Conference (ANC) was held in Kansas City, MO in July, with nearly 6,500 members attending. Carol, Debbie and I represented Montana. More than 90 education breakout sessions were available and the networking opportunities were outstanding.

ANC also boasted its largest exhibit hall (vendor show) ever, featuring booths packed with nutritious foods and beverages, services, equipment and technology. I am not going to lie to you, the entertainment was pretty great too!! Craig Morgan and Darius Rucker - pretty cool!

Again I want to thank you for the education and professional growth attending ANC provides. I have learned more than I ever thought possible. Thank you for the opportunity to represent Montana on the national level.

In an effort to keep you all up to date with the Healthy Hungry Free Kid Act, this is one of the announcements made at ANC. By the end of this year the limits on grains and proteins will become permanent!! “By permanently eliminating weekly grain and protein limits while maintaining calorie limits and whole grain requirements, USDA can protect the nutritional integrity of the school meal standards while giving cafeterias more flexibility to design healthy menus that meet both the standards and student tastes.” Source: SNA Smart Briefs.

Our voice does matter Montana! We contributed to this decision making, SNA members made a difference in this policy. Keep it up! Let’s not forget to thank Carol Simanton, our Legislative Chair for being our voice at LAC in Washington, DC and really standing up for our kids on these issues.

Thank you Carol!

Back to School Membership Drive for State Affiliates
August 1 - October 31, 2013

Win a Day of Support and Assistance from SNA National or a Free NLC Registration!

New this year a change to the Fall Membership Drive!

The SNA State Affiliate from each of the three Membership Divisions that recruits the most new members during the Back to School Membership Drive will win a day (8 hours) of assistance and support from SNA’s experienced Staff or one free National Leadership Conference 2014 registration.

Membership Drive Support Materials: Request copies of the following materials from membership@schoolnutrition.org

- Go Places with SNA Membership! (Annual Membership Campaign Brochure)
- New Membership Video
- Director Membership Brochure
- Employee/Manager Membership Brochure
- Membership Applications

For more information about the Back to School Membership Drive contact: SNA at 800-877-8822 or email: membership@schoolnutrition.org

Prize Package Support Areas Include:
1) Marketing and Communications
   - Conference Promotion, Membership Drive Messaging and Copy Development
   - Help writing state newsletter articles
   - Website copy and messaging review

The 8 hours of support can be broken up between different staff members and does not have to be one continuous time period.

2) State Conference Speakers and Presentations

Depending on availability, SNA can provide a SNA staff member to attend a conference* for a day and speak on one of the following content areas:
- Certification & Credentialing
- STEPS Challenge
- NSLW/NSBW – how to plan and implement a promotion
- School District Owned Membership
- Public Relations and Social Media

*SNA national will cover up to $500. for travel to state conference.

3) State and Federal Policy Support OR One free National Leadership Conference registration to St. Louis April 2014*

*NLC registration fee only. Does not include airfare, land transportation, meals, hotel accommodations or any other expenses.

Hi Everyone!!! I would like to take this time to introduce myself to you. My name is Betsy Rykowsky. In the winter of 2005, I started as a substitute cook at Hellgate Elementary in Missoula and the following school year I was hired as the baker. I baked for one year when the position of food service secretary opened up and I was hired for that position. Since then I have been assisting Julie Leister and the kitchen staff, managing meal accounts, meeting parents who are ALWAYS happy to pay their children’s meal fees and tying shoes of kindergarteners.

Summer Conference 2013 was awesome, as usual!!! While there, Julie asked me if I knew of anyone who would be interested in editing the MTSNA newsletter. I assumed the board needed someone to do some proof-reading so said, “I can do that!” The next thing I know I’m being sworn in as a member of the board! WOW… one should never assume! However, I am honored to join the board and be entrusted with co-ordinating the newsletter. Best wishes to all for a happy and successful 2013-2014 school year!!

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From the Editor

BETSY RYKOWSKY

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NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Kansas City, MO

Nationals were a wonderful experience from start to finish. Well, not really from start. As I left Great Falls, we were told due to severe weather we would be taking the scenic route down through Texas, and this weather was staying high enough we could not fly above it, so we may have to stop and refuel. “Oh forever more I only had 30 minutes between flights as is” but as luck would have it, no refueling and I ran from one plane to the next and made connections, what joy. I landed in Kansas City and no bus service that I already paid for, as they shut down at eight and it was now 10, so I jumped on the shuttle and I’m off. Bless Debbie and Salley’s hearts as they waited in the restaurant and the restaurant served me a great salad.

So we were off and running to a wonderful conference. Salley and I went to the House of Delegates on Saturday and Debbie went to a preconference class that she said was excellent. On Sunday we started off with the Red Carpet Awards Ceremony. This is when all the state presidents are given their Thelma Flanagan Award for all their hard work during the past year. It is a real honor and you are definitely made to feel very special. We attended some great breakout classes and finished the day with the opening general session where Al Roker spoke about his battle with weight. He has learned to fight a good fight with a commitment to a lifestyle change and a forever battle with food. Al was a very inspiring speaker. Monday was the grand opening of the Exhibit Hall which is mind boggling as there are so many booths and so much information to try and keep straight. More great education breakouts and then we were treated to a great concert by Craig Morgan that evening. At the second general session we were honored to be able to listen to Lisa Ling, she had wonderful information to share with us.

Then more wonderful classes and visiting the Exhibit Hall finishing our last general session with Jarrett J. Krossocka, who is the author of the “Lunch Lady” books for children. They’re a wonderful series for our children in the 4th, 5th and 6th grades. Be sure to look into them. Bonnie Britt from Schwan’s took the northwest people out to dinner at a wonderful historic restaurant. It was fabulous and we can’t thank you enough Bonnie. We finished off the conference with a wonderful evening concert by Darius Rucker. It was a wonderful concert. Then as we are standing around visiting in the hotel lobby, he and his band come in and spent a couple of hours at the bar visiting and taking pictures with people. It was great end to a very good conference where we met some wonderful people and attended some great classes. Thank you for letting me be your president for two years and have this great opportunity.

CAROL SIMANTON

Above: Carol Simanton and Debbie Heuscher with the “CHOPPED” ladies.

At left: Montana Girls’ Final Night at National Conference: Carol Simanton, Salley Young, Debbie Heuscher and Lynne Keanan.

Montana was represented by (back row) Chris Emerson, (OPI); Carol Simanton, (Whitewater) and Debbie Heuscher, (Big Fork). Seated: Lynne Keanan, (Browning), Salley Young, (Power). Not pictured: Star Fulmer and her team from St. Labre, Michelle Three Fingers, Rhonda Singer and Bev Rowland.

PUT THIS on YOUR CALENDAR!

OCTOBER 4 & 5, 2013
MTSNA Board Meeting, Great Falls
O’Haire Motor Inn.

JANUARY 24 & 25, 2014
MTSNA Board Meeting, Great Falls
O’Haire Motor Inn.

MARCH 2 - 5, 2014
SNA Legislative Conference
Washington, DC at JW Marriott.

APRIL 10 - 12, 2014
SNA Leadership Conference
St. Louis, MO - Hilton at Ballpark.

JUNE 16, 2014
MTSNA Board Meeting, Great Falls
Heritage Inn.

JUNE 17, 2014
MTSNA Preconference
Great Falls at Heritage Inn.

JUNE 18 & 19, 2014
MTSNA Conference, Heritage Inn.

JULY 13 - 16, 2014
SNA Annual National Conference
Boston, MA.
Legislative Report

Being the first of August our National House of Representatives and Senate our heading into their summer recess. We are very thankful there has been an amendment to the new guidelines lifting the limits on meats and grains for our children, for at least a year. We are very hopeful and confident this will become permanent with the approval of the bill when the legislature returns to Capitol Hill.

It is a very difficult time and it seems like very little is getting done on the Hill except a lot of disagreeing. We must stay vigilant and continue to email our congressmen letting them know how we feel about our issues. This ranges from the new nutritional standards to whether you want teachers to carry guns. You are a part of the school system and you do have a right to speak up about all the issues.

I am looking forward to staying in contact with our congressmen and going to LAC again next March to continue to work on the issues that are most important to all of us. Please feel free to contact me if you have anything you wish to discuss or would like me to take to our congressmen.

I hope the year ahead is a great one; we have come a long way from how things were last year at this time. We know we can continue to make things better for all if we continue to work together. Have a GREAT Fall.

CAROL SIMANTON, LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN

Research from the Food Research and Action Center found that classroom breakfast programs greatly increase breakfast program participation. Schools across the country are finding that serving pre-packaged meals in the classroom is a win-win for all.

• Kids start the day well-nourished and prepared to learn.
• Foodservice programs receive significant funding through federal reimbursements.
• Teachers spend less time disciplining students and more time teaching; eating breakfast in a classroom also strengthens student-teacher relationships.
• Principals notice improved grades and test scores.
• Superintendents supplement their overall budget with revenue generated by the breakfast program.
• Parents are grateful to administration and staff for providing their children with nutritious breakfasts.

Administrators and other stakeholders may lend more support to your school breakfast program expansion plan if it reduces the financial burden on a district’s general funds. Go to the website below to access a resource that may help you calculate and maximize the cost effectiveness of operating the School Breakfast Program.

USDA Excel Tool: Simple Breakfast Profit/Loss Worksheet
http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/breakfast/expansion/calculatingcosts.xls

Two nationwide grants are listed below for starting or expanding your School Breakfast Program:

Fuel up to Play 60 Grants: Up to $4,000 per year is available to any qualifying k-12 school enrolled in Fuel Up to Play 60. Funds may be used to start up or expand a School Breakfast Program.

Share our Strength Grants: Average grant size is $5,000 - $10,000. Eligible organizations are involved in increasing School Breakfast Programs through alternative models such as breakfast in the classroom or grab-and-go breakfasts.

For products to use in the breakfast in the classroom program or grab-and-go breakfasts contact your local food broker or distributor sales representative.

Breakfast Program.
http://school.fueluptop lay60.com/funds/ funds_for_futp60.php

Share our Strength Grants:
http://www.nokidhungry.org/solution/community-investments
RHUBARB DUMP CAKE

1 pound rhubarb, cut into 1/4" pieces (between 3-4 cups)
1 cup white sugar
1 (3 ounce package) strawberry Jell-O
1 package yellow cake mix
1 cup water
1/4 cup melted butter

Directions
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9x13 inch baking dish. Spread the rhubarb evenly in the bottom of the baking dish. Sprinkle the sugar over the rhubarb, followed by the Jell-O, and finally the cake mix. Pour the water and melted butter over the top. Do not stir. Bake for 45 minutes or until the rhubarb is tender.

You may add whipped topping on top or serve hot with vanilla ice cream. This is a hit at picnics and potlucks!

Source: Pinterest

2013 SNA Leadership Conference Was.....

Fabulous

In April, Salley Young and Linda Schwarzbach attended SNA Leadership Conference in Savannah, Georgia. That was a trip of a lifetime. Members we thank you so much for the opportunity to have participated in this great hands-on training. Leadership conference is about learning to be better officers and board members for your state association. It is taught by our industry leaders themselves.

SNA President, Sandra Ford; President elect, Leah Schmidt; Vice President, Julia Bauscher; & SNA’s new CEO, Patty Montague all taught classes and shared their years of experience in our industry. We brought home resources and training that will help lead our Montana School Nutrition Association into next year and beyond. And last but definitely not least ... we got to see some alligators!! So cool for these two Montana gals!

Thanks again members of MTSNA, we established good professional partnerships and skills to help lead our state association into an exciting 2013-2014 year.

Pictured at top: SNA President, Sandra Ford and Salley Young.
At bottom: Linda Schwarzbach, Salley Young, SNA Northwest Regional Director, Linda Aljets.

Thank you!

The Ed Pottratz Benefit
If you said a Prayer for us - Thank You. If you made a donation - Thank You. If you bought a raffle ticket - Thank You. Whatever you may have done for us - Thank You! You are all a Blessing in our lives and we cannot Thank You enough or ever forget all that you have done! The “Benefit” was a huge success and is a Blessing for Ed and his family.

The winners of the raffle tickets were: GUN - Wanda Sand, Fairfield; AFGHAN - Lori Chounard, Great Falls; KINDLE FIRE HD - Amber Erickson, Great Falls.

GOD BLESS EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU, FOR ALL THAT YOU HAVE DONE TO HELP MY SON-IN-LAW AND HIS FAMILY!
Sue Hesse

Steps Challenge
Set Your Goals
Track Your Progress
Embrace New Habits
Promote Healthy Eating
Share Your Success

SNA has developed a personal wellness program as another great benefit of SNA membership. The School Nutrition Association website has a toolkit that can be downloaded that is full of tips and recipes to help you.

Challenge yourself to improve your health with the monthly tracking chart that SNA developed that targets a healthy lifestyle choice each month, when you earn 50+ points you send your tracking sheet into SNA and you are entered into a monthly prize drawing!

Go online to School Nutrition Association to find out more details.
ANC 2013 SNA Welcome Sign

Lisa Ling - ANC General Speaker, “Our America” journalist

Tyson Foods treated ANC attendees to a Craig Morgan Concert

Al Roker book signing

Jarret Krosoczka - ANC General Speaker; Author of “Lunch Lady Super Hero” book series

ANC 2013 Vendor Show: Debbie Heuscher, Big Fork, Star Fulmer, St. Labre

Final Event of ANC 2013: Darius Rucker Concert. Lucky ladies who got a photo with Darius: Jill DeYoung, Wyoming and Lynne Keanan, Browning
Outstanding Director of the Year Award

- Is your director committed to managing the best school nutrition program for the students and staff?
- Does he or she ensure that the program is healthy, appetizing and nutritious?
- Is your director devoted to program enhancement, staff development and school involvement?
- Has he or she been a director for at least ten years?
- Has your director been a member of our state and national SNA for the past five years?

If so, then show them you appreciate all of their hard work and dedication by nominating him or her for the Outstanding Director of the Year Award.

You can recognize your school nutrition director for managing the outstanding school nutrition program in your district by submitting the nomination forms to our state president by March 1, 2014.

Mail to: Debbie Heuscher
1390 McCaffrey Road
Big Fork, MT 59911
Cell 406-270-1271
Work 406-837-7409

Visit the SNA website at: http://www.schoolnutrition.org/Content.aspx?id=19113 to see all of the nomination criteria and obtain the required forms.

The Louise Sublette Award of Leadership Excellence is named in honor of a woman who devoted her 43 year career to improving nutrition programs. Louise Sublette was a pioneering leader in the Tennessee School Nutrition Programs and SNA. Louise worked in public educational institutions, hospitals and elderly feeding programs and was committed to creating ways to enhance the programs.

The Louise Sublette Award was established to recognize school nutrition managers for being innovative with their child nutrition program. The recipient of this Award of Excellence developed an inventive idea and created a success story that improved their school’s program. Like Louise Sublette, the manager shares these good ideas with others to enhance nutrition programs across the country. The award recipient must be a SNA certified, foodservice/nutrition and child care manager section member who is working in one school or in a central kitchen that serves more than one school.

The deadline to submit forms to the regional director is March 15, 2014. For information and award application requirements visit the SNA website at: http://www.schoolnutrition.org/uploadedFiles/School_Nutrition_107_Membership/Awards/2013%20Louise%20Sublette%20Award%20Nomination%20Form.pdf

Montana School Nutrition Conference

I hope all of you enjoyed the conference in Billings this summer. There was a great variety of information and wonderful people to learn from. Team Nutrition and OPI outdid themselves helping us with wonderful classes and bringing us up to speed on all we need to know for the coming year. Don’t forget OPI and Team Nutrition is there to help us. Don’t hesitate to give them a call if you have any questions.

We already have our heads together planning the conference for next June in Great Falls so please mark your calendars now for this wonderful event. We are looking forward to seeing all of you.

2013 SNA Summer Conference Live Auction

The live auction at 2013 MTSNA Summer Conference was a huge success. I would like to thank our wonderful members for the items they donated to be auctioned off. We had more than 25 items this year and the bids were fast and furious.

Cherry Arthur did a great job as auctioneer, and kept the evening lively and fun. I would also like to thank all of you bidders. You were all very generous and we are very excited about the $1,026.50 added to the fund.

Thanks Cherry for all your help.
SILVER SPOON AWARD 2013

Congratulations to this year’s Silver Spoon Award recipient .. Cindy Giese
School Nutrition Director for Lewistown School District

MTSNA received four letters of nomination for Mrs. Giese. The following are excerpts from a couple of the nomination letters:

“For the last 15 years, she has held the Director of School Food position and is SNA Certified. Her knowledge in the field, incredible work ethic and ability to stay on top of the constantly changing regulations make her one of the best school food professionals in the state.” ~ Rebekah Rhoades, LPS Business Manager/Clerk

“Under her leadership, nutrition became a focal point and in spite of a lack of funding they scraped and clawed their way into a position of pride for the whole District. She is willing to experiment with different offerings, have special events and spend many hands on hours in our buildings to insure our students come first. Under her leadership our School Food Service is strong and continues to get better.” – Scott Dubbs, LPS Curriculum Director

Cindy is an amazing lady and definitely well-deserving of this award. This coming year, Cindy decided to switch things up a bit. She will leave behind her school nutrition directorship and take her talents to the OPI School Nutrition Office. Her new adventure will have her working part-time as the Coordinator for Cooperative Purchase program.

**MTSNA Silver Spoon Award, sponsored by Food Services of America (FSA), is bestowed upon a SNA Certified Manager/Director that has been nominated by a team member(s). The letters of nomination from the school administration and one or more team members must indicate how this SNA Certified Manager/Director has enhanced their School Nutrition program and supported and encouraged their team and students.

Connie Dove is the winner of the 2013 Certification Drive. Connie won a three night stay in the deluxe suite at the Great Falls Heritage Inn for Conference 2014. Congratulations Connie!! Thank you for your dedication to School Nutrition and realizing the importance of continued education while feeding Montana children.

MTSNA Conference provides classes to gain SNA Certification through Food Services of America’s sponsored ServSafe class and National Food Service Management Institute’s (NFSMI) sponsored Nutrition 101 class.

If you have taken either of these classes in the last five years (and still have your class certificates) you could become SNA Certified, too!! Contact me if you would like more info, email: ddheuscher@juno.com or find the information on our website: mtsna.org or visit, schoolnutritionassociation.org

Nineteen MTSNA Conference attendees applied for SNA Certification through MTSNA Certification Scholarship Drive. The following have been SNA Certified as of Aug. 7, 2013:

Lynn Cook - Fort Benton
Tonya Lawson - Harlowton
Tamara Mager - Harlowton
Mary Ellen Ryan - Melstone
Lynette Sweeney - Belgrade
Michelle Wayman - Billings
Brenda Fitchett - Noxon
Louise Chandler - Noxon
Sandy Bettiste - Billings
Gordi Pippin - Helena

I am sure MTSNA will continue to encourage SNA Certification through scholarships and am so proud of these ladies for taking the time to continue their education in school nutrition. Congratulations!!!!

DEBBIE HEUSCHER - CERTIFICATION CHAIR

Each year SNA honors state leaders who support high professional standards for all members throughout their year as State President. This includes incorporating high standards of achievement in areas of leadership, dedication and commitment to the professional development of their members and child nutrition programs.

Carol Simanton was presented with the Thelma Flanagan Award at ANC in Kansas City. She was honored on the national stage during the Red Carpet Awards Ceremony. Congratulations Carol and thank you so much for your years of unselfish devotion to our association.
Here is a list of the various lucky winners from our summer food service conference...

Jamie Popelka - $50.00
Carley Piper - Camera
Diane Agiular - Flags
Ivy Herzog - Kindle Fire
Kathy Workman - $50.00 for most steps
Clara Taylor - 50/50 = $351.00
Sandy Bettice - New Member Basket
Connie Dove - 2015 conference suite
Ruth Walter - W.O.W.
Deanna Thurston - Member gumball guess
Ruth Walter - Early Bird
Dayle Hayles - Professional of the Year

We also collected approximately 95 pairs of shoes for the needy women and children in Billings. A Big thank you to all who participated!!

We also collected approximately 95 pairs of shoes for the needy women and children in Billings. A Big thank you to all who participated!!

Take time to ponder delivery options. Breakfast in the cafeteria is the traditional service method for most schools. Schools that deliver food to the classroom, serve food mid-morning or provide grab n’ go selections sometimes have better student participation than traditional breakfast service in the cafeteria before the bell. It just depends on what works best at your school.

If your school has never tried offering breakfast or hasn't tried serving breakfast for a number of years, test student interest March 3-7, 2014 by offering breakfast during National School Breakfast week. Resources are available at: www.schoolnutrition.org. Learn more about school breakfast and all of its benefits on OPI School Nutrition Program website: http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/SchoolPrograms/School_Nutrition/Breakfast.html or call us at (406) 444-2501 with your questions. We would love to hear from you!

Here it is back to school already. Where did the summer go?! I have taken on a new position on the board this year and needless to say I am a little nervous! I am your new Membership Chair and Fawn Venzor will continue on as your Co-Membership Chair! I really hope that you will all give some serious thought to becoming a member of MTSNA and SNA.

I have been a member for many years and have grown so much because of all that I have learned and been able to do! If you have any questions or would just like to visit about becoming a member, please do not hesitate to get ahold of me. I will do my best to answer any questions you may have, and if I can’t answer, I will find the answer for you!

Also, please feel free to check out the National School Nutrition Association website: www.schoolnutrition.org

I want to welcome all the new members that joined at conference and look forward to seeing you again.

Sue Hesse, Membership Chair
Montana Schools Continue to Shine in the **SUCCESS!** The 2012-2013 school year ended with 11 Montana School Districts receiving prestigious national HealthierUS School Challenge Awards! Way to go! A complete list of Montana’s Award Winning Schools is available at: [http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/SchoolPrograms/School_Nutrition/index.html#gpml_6](http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/SchoolPrograms/School_Nutrition/index.html#gpml_6)

WHAT: The HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSSC) program is a voluntary, national award which recognizes schools which create healthy school environments by improving the quality of meals and increasing physical activity and nutrition education. Four award levels are available. Award winners receive from $500 to $2,000 to support school wellness and national recognition.

A state-level award program, the Healthier Montana Menu Challenge, offers recognition for schools serving healthy school breakfast, lunch and/or a la carte meals.

WHY do it? Receive national and statewide recognition for your dedication to serving healthy school meals. Award money supports school wellness. Help your School Wellness Committee work together to create a healthy school.

NEED HELP? Montana Team Nutrition staff and regional School Wellness Coaches are available to help schools navigate the application process. To learn more about these healthy school award programs, refer to: [http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/SchoolPrograms/School_Nutrition/#gpml_6](http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/SchoolPrograms/School_Nutrition/#gpml_6)

Please contact Montana Team Nutrition at (406) 994-5641, or email Molly Stenberg at: stenberg@montana.edu or Katie Bark at kbark@mt.gov

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The Montana School Nutrition Association offers two $200 scholarships. Any member who is working to achieve certification or is working toward advancement educationally in the Food Service area may apply for these scholarships.

**MEMBER INFORMATION**

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If not Certified, what steps are you taking to become Certified?

**SCHOLARSHIP AWARD CRITERIA**

1. **Application Deadline is May 15th of each year.**
2. Must be SNA Certified or working toward SNA Certification.
3. Must be currently employed in a child nutrition program in the state of Montana. However, there are no constraints on the number of hours worked each day (i.e. full-time or part-time).
4. The scholarship money must be used to benefit knowledge in child nutrition.
5. Must submit a complete application and letter explaining how the scholarship would benefit you.

   **To:** Sue A. Hesse
   641 22nd Street
   Black Eagle, MT 59414

6. The MSNA Scholarship Committee will disperse the scholarship money after you submit a certificate of course completion.
ally-supported meals programs. The “Smart Snacks in School” nutrition standards, reflects USDA’s thoughtful consideration and response to the nearly 250,000 comments received on the proposal earlier this year.

This new policy will not go into effect until July 1, 2014 giving time to school districts and food vendors to adapt to this new policy. This rule does not impact foods that parents send their kids to school with for homemade lunches or treats for activities, such as birthday parties, holidays and other celebrations. The majority of fundraisers occurring during the school day do need to meet the nutrition standards.

“Smart Snacks in School” carefully balances science-based nutrition guidelines with practical and flexible solutions to promote healthier eating on campus, drawing on recommendations from the Institute of Medicine and existing voluntary standards already implemented by thousands of schools around the country, as well as healthy food and beverage offerings already available in the marketplace. Highlights of the “Smart Snacks in School” nutrition standards include:

- More of the foods we should encourage. Like the new school meals, the standards require healthier foods, more whole grains, low fat dairy, fruits, vegetables and leaner protein.

- Less of the foods we should avoid. Food items are lower in fat, sugar, and sodium and provide more of the nutrients kids need.

- Targeted standards. Allowing variation by age group for factors such as portion size and caffeine content.

- Flexibility for important traditions. Preserving the ability for parents to send their kids to school with homemade lunches or treats for activities such as birthday parties, holidays, and other celebrations; and allowing schools to continue traditions like fundraisers and bake sales.

- Ample time for implementation. Schools and food and beverage companies will have an entire school year to make the necessary changes, and USDA will offer training and technical assistance every step of the way.

- Reasonable limitations on when and where the standards apply. Ensuring that standards only affect foods that are sold on school campus during the school day. Foods sold at afterschool sporting events or other activities will not be subject to these requirements.

- Flexibility for state and local communities. Allowing significant local and regional autonomy by only establishing minimum requirements for schools. States and schools that have stronger standards than what is being proposed will be able to maintain their own policies.

Montana Team Nutrition Program will be offering training and technical assistance to school staff, parent groups and key stakeholders. Please contact Katie Bark at kbark@mt.gov or (406) 994-5641 for more information.
MTSNA and Western Marketing are very proud to be able to offer a scholarship to a graduating senior who is planning to further their education in the field of nutrition. This can be in the education field as a home economics teacher, or dietitian, or going to a trade school to become a chef. Along with our commitment to feed our children we also want to help them further their education in the field of nutrition if that is where their interests lie. Please have the student have their application to me by April 1, 2014.

Send to: Carol Simanton  
1081 East Whitewater Road, Whitewater MT  59544

They will then be sent to the selection committee and we’ll notify students by May 1, 2014 and try to arrange to have someone present these scholarships to the students at their awards banquet or graduation. We will also hope to have these individuals attend our conference banquet in June.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions and I will do my very best to help you. Below is the scholarship application, make as many copies as you need for interested students. Looking forward to seeing all of you at conference next June in Great Falls. I hope your upcoming year is a wonderful one.

Montana School Nutrition Association  
Western Marketing  
Application for $500 Scholarship Award

Application Cover Sheet

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<td>Phone: __________________</td>
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<td>High School Attending: __________________</td>
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<td>College or School You Plan on Attending Fall 2014: __________________</td>
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Applicant’s Signature: __________________ | Date: __________________

By signing this scholarship application you are acknowledging the information is true and provided in good faith.

APPLICATION CRITERIA

Please include the following with your Cover Sheet and Application

1. Official High School Transcript
2. Most Recent Grade Report- (if not included on transcript)
3. An essay stating why you would like the scholarship