Welcome back to school! I hope you all had a great summer, filled with a few vacations and a little time to relax.

It is an exciting new year of leadership and advocacy for me at both the SNA state and national level. Serving as Montana SNA State President is a challenge I take seriously along with our strong MTSNA Executive Board. It is an honor to serve alongside them. This group of dedicated individuals work very hard for you; we are lucky to have them.

How about that Billings conference, wasn’t that fantastic?! The Board did that for you with 100% of their time volunteered. My personal thanks and gratitude to the 2017 Executive Board, Jayne, Jennifer, Louise, Joan, Ellen, Tara, Wendy, Ginny, Tammy, Pam and Karen for being strong, powerful leaders, and making a difference.

I am also very proud of our national leadership. SNA President Lynn Harvey and her Executive Board understands that you are on the frontline of the battle against childhood hunger. They recognize you are the experts in successful school nutrition programs. I will continue to work with our state and national leaders as I represent you this year.

As we put one more successful year behind us, we have seen many changes. We sadly say goodbye to our past president Jayne Elwess. She has retired from the Executive Board after serving as President for four terms and dedicated many, many years of service behind the scenes. Thank you, Jayne.

Early in the year we said farewell to a few Executive Board members with busy schedules. Marla Pluhar and Maria Schwarzrock, thank you for helping while you could. Also leaving the board recently is our secretary Ginny Kirby, she has taken a new position in her school district. We wish her the best! Jennifer Spellman resigned as Vice President because of a new position she took with SYSCO, but we are excited to have her back as our Industry Representative!

Now to share some great news! We welcome new board members, Brian Jones from St. Labre Indian Catholic School as well as Pam Radke from Sidney Public Schools as well as Amanda Stahl from Shepherd School. Welcome! We are very glad you are joining us! It is going to be a fantastic year!

As always, I hope if any members have concerns or want to see changes within MTSNA don’t hesitate to call (788-5526) or write syoung@3rivers.net. I am here to serve you. Thank you all for your energy and dedication to school nutrition and a job well done. You make a difference in the life of children every day.

Salley Young, MTSNA President
2017 SNA Annual National Conference Highlights

SNA’s ANC brought together more than 7,000 school nutrition professionals to share new ideas for strengthening meal programs for students. Attendees participated in education sessions and visited the nation’s largest exhibit school cafeteria trends. Montana was represented well!

My personal highlight, was listening to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue. Awesome!

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue met with school nutrition professionals, proud to call themselves “Lunch Ladies,” while attending School Nutrition Association’s 71st Annual National Conference in Atlanta, GA. Mr. Perdue attended a listening session which allowed him to hear first-hand about the successes and challenges encountered by those working on the frontlines to improve menus for students while meeting updated nutrition standards for meals and snacks.

Secretary Perdue then addressed the crowd during ANC’s Closing Session, taking the opportunity to recognize the many contributions of school nutrition professionals to students’ academic achievement.

My favorite quote of Secretary Perdue speech was, “If the program isn’t working as designed, as intended, is it really progress? Others have said the program is a success because most schools are compliant already! I said if all that means is that they obey orders under the threat of the federal government taking away their money, I guess I’d be compliant too.”

Following his speech and the listening session, Secretary Perdue said, “The USDA and SNA are partners working together because we all have the same goals in mind, and that’s the health and vitality of our young people. My goal as Secretary of Agriculture is to remove the bookkeeping headaches and menu problems that are distracting our school nutrition professionals from doing their real job of feeding kids nutritious and appealing meals. That’s why it is especially meaningful to be working at the side of SNA – they directly influence, nurture, and mold the lives of the most important people in our country.”

We, the School Nutrition Association, are a very professional and powerful group. The USDA is listening.

Salley Young, MTSNA President
National School Lunch Week

Mark your calendar for the National School Lunch Week! This year, the theme is “School Lunch: Recipes for Success,” so you can tell your lunch story, including the secret ingredients to success. Share with students, parents, and administrators during NSLW to show them what makes your school lunch program special.

Adding Comedy to the Apron Contest

Wendy Shreeve, Professional Development Chair

We need a little variation with the apron contest for next June. The basic guidelines will stay the same as far as style, color etc. but this time what would everyone think of doing a bit of a spoof on the contest? For example, if you choose to do a Star Wars themed apron call it Darth Ladle. The fabric can have the character of Darth Vader but incorporate a ladle somehow.

You could take any fruit or vegetable and make it more interesting and funny. By adding some kind of food spoof to it!

I think you get the idea so please think about it and get back to me if you would like to try this or not.

Remembering that all the money from auctioning these aprons off, goes to support our organization and all we do.

Think of the gingham fabric, or seersucker, these could be turned around to make it a little more fun to get those imaginations out and really put them to work… Christmas aprons could have Rudolph on the fabric and when you wear them add a red nose or red radish earrings to the set.
Our Montana School Nutrition Association received a Membership Division Champion Award at the 2017 Annual National Conference for exceeding our recommended state membership goal in the 1 to 600 Division. SNA sets a 3% percent growth goal for all state associations. Montana was able to overshoot their goal by 6%. This is the second consecutive year we received this recognition.

Congratulations everyone!

If something exciting is going on at your school and you’d like to share with the association family, please pass articles for the next newsletter on to Tara at tray@mt.gov by November 10.

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The MTSNA Member Scholarship is intended for attendance at the annual MTSNA conference. Any MTSNA member can apply for the scholarship. The MTSNA conference is a fun and easy way to meet the professional standard requirements. We would like to make it possible for everyone involved with school nutrition programs in the state to be able to attend. Don’t wait! Apply today! The scholarship deadline is March 1. Find the application at www.mtsna.org and reach out to Tammy Wham with any questions twham@ennisschools.org

I’m setting a fairly high goal for Montana lunch ladies and lunch dudes. Hopefully to be achieved at conference next June. My goal for us is to have at least 15 new certifications by conference!

I’m going to bet almost everyone has completed the Serve Safe class, so all you will need to earn your Level 1 Certificate is to complete the Nutrition 101 class. You can do it at conference or online at the Institute of Childhood Nutrition (ICN) website. ICN has a whole list of additional online classes you can take for continuing education to meet the professional standard requirements.

Once you have completed the two classes for the Level 1 Certificate, go to the SNA website, fill out the form, submit the $16.00 and you will receive your letter in the mail in about 3 or 4 weeks. Have a great school year!

MTSNA offers three high school scholarships to students graduating and going into further education in the field of nutrition or dietetics. The scholarship deadline is April 15. Not many students apply, so start thinking of those you know that might qualify and be interested. Please pass this opportunity along to school counselors as well! Find the application at www.mtsna.org and reach out to Tammy Wham with any questions twham@ennisschools.org

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Have a great school year!
Share Your Thoughts: Comment on Regulatory Simplification

The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced intentions to solicit direct and specific guidance from school nutrition professionals for the shaping of school meal policies. Now is your chance to do just that! USDA wants your opinion on how best to simplify school nutrition program regulations.

SNA encourages you to share your ideas in response to a Federal Register notice posted June 17, 2017. The notice asks for ideas from the public on how the USDA can remove barriers to participation in school meal programs without interference to our customers or our mission. They are specifically asking for your ideas on regulations, guidance documents, or policy documents that are in need of streamlining, modification, or repeal.

Please submit your ideas at www.schoolnutrition.org. Your suggestions will be part of a consolidated document making recommendations to USDA on regulatory reform.

If you have any trouble submitting your ideas please contact me and I will help you get to the right place.

2017-18 Annual Membership Campaign

School District Owned Membership

Our Association currently has 268 individuals who have the opportunity to take advantage of the numerous benefits the association offers. Fifty of these folks are in the association through a School District Owned Membership (SDM). If your district doesn’t already sponsor your SNA membership, you can present them with the district owned membership option.

Simply, a SDM is designed to benefit both the district and the individual. Your school pays the dues and you reap the same benefits you would if you paid for the SNA membership. A School District Owned Membership is setup in the name of the current employee. When the original assignee leaves the district, the membership is then transferable to that employee’s replacement. Furthermore, if an individual starts their own SNA account their district can make it a SDM at any time.

Please contact Ellen Mills if you would like more information 406-334-0821.

As an SNA member, you understand the value of belonging to SNA. Now, more than ever, SNA is playing a critical role advocating on behalf of the children you serve, and providing enhanced professional development opportunities.

SNA is 57,000 members strong nationwide and because membership matters to the school nutrition profession, help SNA recruit new members and your reward could be the chance to win a registration to ANC 2019!

Recruit five or more new members between June 1, 2017 and May 31, 2018 and you will be automatically entered into a drawing to win 1 of 5 registrations to SNA’s 2019 Annual National Conference (ANC) in St Louis, Missouri*.

*This prize drawing is not available in any state or local jurisdiction where prohibited or restricted by law.

DON’T FORGET!
Make sure the new member writes your name in the referral section of the membership application form, otherwise it won’t count.
Introducing Caroline Rowe!

Caroline Rowe grew up in Great Falls, MT—a proud graduate of Great Falls High School (Go Bison!). She then attended MSU Bozeman, where her interest in school nutrition began while working as an intern for Montana Team Nutrition. In 2015, she graduated with a Bachelor’s in Food & Nutrition with a focus in Dietetics. After taking a year off, she completed the Montana Dietetic Internship, graduating last June. Currently, her spare time is spent preparing for the RD exam while also planning her September wedding. Caroline is honored and excited to join the OPI team as a School Nutrition Programs Specialist, and looks forward to serving as a resource for schools across the state.

New and Improved OPI Website!

Coming this fall we will be rolling out the new and improved OPI website! Our team has been working passionately to show off our new coat of paint. The intent is to provide the public and our program operators with pertinent information that is easy to access.

Meet MAPS

CNPweb has officially retired! In its place, OPI School Nutrition Programs has a new online application and claims system called MAPS (Montana Agreement and Payment System). MAPS includes applications to operate the School Nutrition Programs (SNP), claims for reimbursement, and all required forms needed to operate your school food service program. MAPS is a secure system requiring an assigned user ID and password to login. Your username and password will be the same for GEMS, DCA, and MAPS. Please access MAPS at http://montanaopi.cnpus.com/Prod/Splash.aspx and complete your online agreement before September 30, 2017. All sponsors will be required to download, sign, and upload a new certification of acceptance agreement into MAPS this year.

School Year 2017-2018

Meal flexibilities require an exemption request from individual school sites wishing to participate. To reduce administrative burden for schools, Montana will not elect to provide exemptions. Meal flexibilities include sodium content meeting the targets level, allowing service of 1% flavored milk, and serving whole grain-rich items.

Preschool meal patterns* will no longer include chocolate milk or vegetable subgroup requirements, and offer versus serve is not allowed. 100% juice can count towards the entire vegetable or fruit component once per day. Preschool meal patterns must have at least one whole grain-rich food per day, breakfast cereal must contain no more than 6 grams of sugar per dry ounce, and yogurt must contain no more than 23 grams of sugar per 6 ounce. *Only applies to meals served in a separate location from K–12 students.

SNP Workshops

This September we have some exciting workshops scheduled across our great state.

Introducing: Pam Radke

Hello, I am Pam Radke from Sidney, MT. As a Montana born and raised native I am excited to be serving in this capacity. My passion for food became my life long career at the age of 14. At that time in my life I started assisting a school teacher during the summer months by cooking for their hired men. My food service journey has taken me into the nightclub industry, nursing home, Boy’s Ranch and served me well spending 19 years at the Sidney Country Club. Currently I utilize my passion in the Sidney Public School System and have been in this position since 2009. We have a very successful lunch program that serves over 950 students per day. We have implemented a breakfast program in 2 of our 4 school sites.

In my off time I have been blessed with 3 boys and am busy with 9 grandchildren. My love for cooking carries over into my family as I spend a great deal of time feeding the ones I love. When I am not slaving away in the kitchen I enjoy crocheting, knitting, quilting and reading. Again, I am excited to be joining this team and collaborating on new endeavors.

Introducing: Amanda Stahl

Originally born and raised in southern Alberta Canada on the family farm, Amanda Stahl came to the Billings area in 2008 with her husband, Justin Stahl. She began working for the Shepherd School District in 2010.

Amanda is bringing her expertise and eagerness to the school kitchen department after having previously worked in other food service positions. In 2015, in acknowledgement of her dedication to serve and willingness to lead, she was offered the position of Food Service Director.

She has become actively involved in MTSNA and was recently appointed as Nominating Chair on the Executive Board. Amanda looks forward to sharing her passion for child nutrition with the community locally as well as statewide.

Outside of work, Amanda enjoys spending time with her husband traveling, attending rodeos, and managing their local trucking business.

In my off time I have been blessed with 3 boys and am busy with 9 grandchildren. My love for cooking carries over into my family as I spend a great deal of time feeding the ones I love. When I am not slaving away in the kitchen I enjoy crocheting, knitting, quilting and reading. Again, I am excited to be joining this team and collaborating on new endeavors.
**Introducing: Brian Jones**

Brian Jones is the Food Service Director for St. Labre Indian Catholic Schools located in Ashland, MT with campuses in Pryor, St. Xavier and Lodge Grass, MT. Originally from Oregon, Brian brings his years of management and leadership experience to the field of School Nutrition. Brian served as a Mentor at the 2016 Montana School Nutrition Association. In 2017 he was part of the speaker panel during Team Up for Success at the 2017 Conference. Growing up in Oregon and spending time in Minnesota Brian is honored to call Montana his home. Serving God's children one meal at a time. Brian can be reached at 406-784-4530 or at bjones@stlabre.org

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**Montana School Nutrition Association Executive Board Open Positions**

**MTSNA Vice President**

A candidate is eligible for the position of Vice President after having previous MTSNA Executive Board experience and having attended two (2) of the last five (5) Annual State Conferences.

The Vice President shall be elected annually and serve for one (1) year, beginning 2018.

**JOB SUMMARY:**

The Vice President is in training to assume the office of President-Elect, then President.

**MTSNA Secretary**

This is a two-year term 2018 to 2020.

**JOB SUMMARY:**

Be the recorder for the Association. The primary function is to accurately record the Board meeting minutes and maintain permanent records for the association.

We will have elections for these positions in the spring and are looking for qualified nominations by February 1, 2018.

More information about the responsibilities of the MTSNA Vice President and Secretary can be found on our web page. [www.mtsna.org](http://www.mtsna.org)

Please send candidate selections to, Amanda Stahl, Nominating Chair at a-stahl@shepherd.k12.mt.us
MTSNA Executive Board Members
2017-2018

President
Salley Young
Power, MT
syoung@3rivers.net

President Elect

Vice President
Louise Chandler
Noxon, MT
montanaweex@gmail.com

Secretary

Treasurer
Joan Karls
Great Falls, MT
joan_karls@gfps.k12.mt.us

Professional Development Certificate Chair
Wendy Shreeve
Forsyth, MT
wshreeve@forsyth.k12.mt.us

Area Representative Chair

Auction Chair
Amanda Stahl
Billings, MT
a-stahl@shepherd.k12.mt.us

Membership Chair
Ellen Mills
Libby, MT
millse@libbyschools.org

Newsletter Editor
Tara Ray
Bozeman, MT
tray@mt.gov

School Nutrition Employee/Manager Representative Award Chair
Pam Radke
Sidney, MT
pradke@sidney.k12.mt.us

Public Policy & Legislation Chair
Salley Young
Power, MT
syoung@3rivers.net

Vendor Chair

Scholarship Chair
Tammy Wham
Ennis, MT

Bylaws Chair and Resolutions Chair
Tara Ray
Bozeman, MT
tray@mt.gov

Industry Representative
Jennifer Spellman
SYSCO Foods

Member at Large
Brian Jones
Colstrip, MT
bjones@stlabre.org

Bylaws Chair and Resolutions Chair