A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Louise Chandler, MTSNA President

Welcome to summer! I pray this letter finds you in the best of circumstances, for your health, your family, friends, school, staff, and community. We have collectively faced a new crisis, not of funding but of finding a way. I am proud of our state in how we all reached beyond our kitchen walls. We found a way to plan, to prepare, to creatively use what we had on hand, to distribute meals, to keep the connection with our communities, and most importantly, we found a way to serve our students.

We became the good news leaders, the innovators and smile deliverers. It’s something we’ve done all along, quietly serving, nourishing bodies and minds. When you take away foot traffic in hallways, assemblies, and sporting events, our schools are left with silent classrooms and bustling kitchens. Feeding students is our business and we showed our best stuff! We see your efforts, your heart, and your service. If I can leave you with one thought this summer (besides essential) it would be that you are awesome. I speak for the board when I say how proud we are to represent you, your work, and our great state.

Now to business. As you know we are not meeting for our annual training conference, therefore we are not able to hold elections in person, and will be conducting them electronically. The voting link is: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KBFLR9R. Your member number is required for voting, and can be found online at SNA under your account, or in your membership renewal letter. Voting is an essential part of association membership, we thank you for taking the time to review and cast your ballot.

Normal progression in MTSNA - from Vice President to President Elect, then to President - is a three year leadership process. The resignation of Brian Jones (then VP) created a gap in that progression. Tammy (newly elected VP 2019) and I split the (President Elect) duties for the 2019/2020 year, while she learned her new role. This year Tammy becomes your President Elect, you will be voting in a new Vice President, and I will remain President for this term. In this manner all leaders have the time to develop MTSNA knowledge and best practices for running your association.

With great appreciation, Louise
"I CAN'T GET MY TRAINING HOURS AT CONFERENCE... NOW WHAT?"

The MTSNA Executive Board is aware that many people count on the annual summer conference to achieve their required professional development hours each year. In light of this year's cancellation, the board - along with Montana Team Nutrition and the Office of Public Instruction - has worked to give our members alternative options to get the training they need.

There are countless online options available in this digital age that we live in. While learning online is not the same as in person, your training hours can be completely "digital" if needed. Team Nutrition has even developed a Certificate of Participation (see their link below) to fill out for yourself with each training.

Visit the following websites for a full roundup of the resources, trainings, webinars, topics, and activities the internet has to offer:

- [http://www.mtsna.org/additional-resources.html](http://www.mtsna.org/additional-resources.html)
- [http://www.montana.edu/teammunition/training/](http://www.montana.edu/teammunition/training/)

MT SCHOOL NUTRITION PROFESSIONALS LOBBY CONGRESS IN SUPPORT OF SCHOOL MEALS

Salley Young, Legislative Co-Chair

Tammy Wham and I traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in SNA’s 48th annual Legislative Action Conference (LAC). During the conference (March 8 - 10), we joined approximately 900 peers from across the country in urging Congress to increase student access to healthy school meals and support efforts to simplify child nutrition programs.

LAC’s "Charge to the Hill" allowed us to meet with our Members of Congress, discuss the importance of school meal programs, and provide insights on Montana’s school meal program trends, successes, and challenges. Attendees also shared SNA’s 2020 Position Paper which calls on Congress to eliminate the co-pay for students who are eligible for reduced price meals.

School meals are critical to student achievement, so we want every child to have access to healthy school meals. Unfortunately, many low-income families struggle to afford the reduced price co-pay, forcing vulnerable children to go hungry during the school day. Congress should eliminate the reduced price category to ensure at-risk students have consistent access to nutritious school meals at no charge.

SNA’s 2020 Position Paper also addresses the importance of providing flexibility in school menu planning. USDA’s current and proposed rules to simplify menu planning ensure students continue to receive healthy meals at school, exposing them to a wide variety of fruits and vegetables. “We look forward to assuring our state representatives that this flexibility will not compromise the tremendous progress we've achieved in our school cafeterias.”

The next MTSNA Executive Board Meeting will take place on October 9th & 10th at the Great Falls Heritage Inn

The 2021 MTSNA Summer Conference will be held June 28 - July 1 in Great Falls at the Heritage Inn. We made the best choice with the availability of the venue and look forward to learning and celebrating with you there!
MTSNA 2020 AWARDS

PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER

KATIE BARK / MSU TEAM NUTRITION
Ennis School Kitchen Manager Tammy Wham writes:
I would like to nominate Katie Bark for Professional of the Year award. Katie has always been a phone call or email away to help with any problem. Katie works endlessly to promote a healthy lifestyle both physically and mentally. No matter what she is involved in, Katie represents Team Nutrition with the utmost level of professionalism, poise and hard work. I do not think I would have the program or be the success I am today without the help and support of Katie and Team Nutrition. I am honored to nominate Katie Bark for Professional of the Year.

SILVER SPOON AWARD WINNER

BROOK SAVAGE / Gallatin Gateway School
Gallatin Gateway District Clerk, Carrie Fisher writes:
Brooke has worked at Gallatin Gateway School for four years. In her capacity as assistant cook she has always proven to be dependable and reliable. Brooke is punctual and doesn’t leave until her work is completed. This small school has two kitchen employees and Brooke is very capable of handling duties in the absence of the head cook. Brooke greets students with a big smile every day and has an infectious laugh. We are happy to have her as a part of the Gateway Gators team and would like to nominate her for the Silver Spoon Award.

WOW AWARD WINNER

DIANE KRIER / Lincoln School
Lincoln School Clerk, Carol Williams writes:
Lincoln School would like to nominate Diane Krier for the WOW Award. Diane has worked as our Food Director for 28 years. She is always willing to go the extra mile. Some WOW factors which go above and beyond are: Oatmeal Wednesdays where she provides all sort of healthy toppings, implementing healthy preschool breakfast and lunch. Implementing Fresh Fruit and Vegetable program and Salad Bar. She even worked with Deb Jones during our review to create Brownie Batter Humus. Diane Krier has been a rock-solid pillar in our school for almost 30 years. Lincoln School couldn’t function without her!!!!

NEW FROM MTSNA!!

In recognition of exceptional service, all nominees will receive a personalized MTSNA apron. Those who are not MTSNA members will receive a

ONE-YEAR MTSNA MEMBERSHIP!

2020 AWARD NOMINEES:

RENATA NICHOLS, Alder School
KATIE BARK, MSU Team Nutrition
BOBBI JO GUNDERSON, Gallatin Gateway School
DIANE KRIER, Lincoln School
BROOK SAVAGE, Gallatin Gateway School

Be sure to check out our celebration of School Lunch Hero Day on the MTSNA Facebook Page!
With many thanks for their years of service, we bid farewell to Joan Karls (Treasurer) and Amanda Stahl (By Laws and Resolutions Chair and Nominating Chair), both pictured left.

Joan is heading off to enjoy retirement. We will miss her dry humor, hearty laugh, die-hard Green Bay fan status, her care of our association, and friendship. Joan, we wish you the best - enjoy!

Amanda is resigning from the board, allowing more time for family and work commitments. We will miss her funny comebacks, caring smile, thoughtful ideas, and no-nonsense perspective. We very much look forward to conference when we will meet again!

Joan and Amanda, thank you for your years of service to MTSNA, you made a difference, and we appreciate you!

Christopher Smith has accepted the ByLaws and Resolutions Chair position, along with his current Farm to School and Eat Right Montana chair positions.

Barb DeZort has accepted the Area Representative/ Nominating chair position in addition to her position as Public Communication and Webpage Chair. Thank you both for your dedication to MTSNA.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!
This year, voting will be conducted electronically via Survey Monkey. Cast your vote HERE: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KBFLR9R

Renata Nichols - Candidate for Vice President
HOMETOWN: Madetswil Switzerland (childhood); Alder Montana (Current)
EDUCATION: Bachelor in Pharmaceutical Field, Law Enforcement Officer
WORK AT A GLANCE: Started working at Nursing home Kitchen in 2012, FSD at Alder Elementary School since 2014, Feeding ~ 25 Kiddos Breakfast in classroom and Lunch (like cooking for a big Family) :) SNA AND ME: Became a Member in 2015, started helping with Conference in 2016 and just got “roped into” the Board. Love to help wherever I’m needed and I’m also the SNF Ambassador, so if you’d like to know about the Foundation... :)

Pam Radke - Candidate for Secretary
Montana born and raised. I enjoyed the simple life spending every moment I could on my grandparent’s farm. Grandma Fern started my ‘formal’ training as a cook by the time I was 5 years of age. From my family I learned life skills on frugality, hard work, tenacity and honesty these things have served me well as a supervisor. In my 20’s I had the honor of working for a 1 ½ years at a boys home. The lessons I learned from those boys will stay with me forever, they are responsible for the deep compassion and empathy I have whose lives have been more difficult than most. It is because of that experience I am able to recognize those students that come to my lunch room and I would like to think I have been able to pay it forward. I am blessed to work for Sidney Public Schools and enjoy being part of the MTSNA board.