It's Winter Again!
The Latest Events and Information from MTSNA

President's Message

Louise Chandler, Noxon

Positive thoughts, a positive outlook, and finding joy in your day all require a certain amount of introspection; a willingness to put “I don’t feel like it” aside, and discipline your mind to look for the good, the joy, the progress. As a human and a leader, I am a work in progress. Some days the discipline is easy peasy, some days it’s a messy mayhem, but either way the progress is more beneficial than staying in the same place. As we transition to the new year, we reflect on things done well, and areas of continued improvement. My wish for all of you in this transition into 2020 would be that the New Year brings you a fresh outlook for your school, your family, and your community. I wish you peace for the season, joy for the moments, and time. Time for introspection, time to set an intention, and time to create a dream for yourself in 2020.

From me to you, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Louise Chandler
MTSNA President 2019-2020

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I have been asked many times, “Why should I get certified?”. A few answers I have given are as follows; Any education that you achieve can never be taken away from you. With your acquired knowledge you can better serve your students. We as Lunch Ladies and Lunch Dudes have a very noticeable effect on the students that we serve. We fuel their minds, bodies and brains.

I once had a boss, Brenda Petch, that reminded me of something years ago when I worked in Colstrip. She told me, you are not ‘just a’ cook. What we do as school food service professionals not only helps the students, but the teachers as well. How, you ask? Well, think about it. When we feed our students, be it breakfast, lunch, or both, we are helping to calm them for the rest of the day, or at least until the next meal. We are helping them to concentrate on their studies, in turn helping the teacher teach better by not being interrupted with a possible discipline problem if a student can’t concentrate when distracted by a hungry stomach. That boss also reminded me that as lunch ladies and dudes we see more students per day than anyone else. And what we do by feeding our kids has an almost instant effect on those students.

Here is one more reason to get certified and continue your education. This reason came from the Superintendent, Dave Shreeve, at Rosebud Schools. Let’s just say through a strange chain of events you end up in court defending your school district in a food illness situation. When you are asked what makes you an expert in food handling and procedures, you can inform them that you have certification and have been trained in the HACCP plan, you have a certification and have been trained in the ServeSafe policies, you keep the documentation as required in these programs to prove how your food was received, stored, thawed, cooked, tempered, held, cooled, and stored properly. All this information you received through continued education and certification!

Now we all know that not all super heroes wear capes, but in a food illness case like this you may have just saved your school district from lawsuit and you have not only earned an extra super hero cape but a crown as well. So get that certification and be proud of the work that we all do on a daily basis in feeding the kids of Montana!

**National School Breakfast Week is March 2-6 this year!** How will you celebrate? For ideas, resources, and marketing materials like the Facebook Cover Photo below, visit: schoolnutrition.org/meetings/events/nsbw/2020/
Conference Watch:

TELL US WHAT YOU WANT!

From seeing you all in June to planning holiday and NYE celebrations, now your MTSNA board members are planning the 2020 Summer Conference set for Great Falls on June 22-25.

Do you have a great class idea? Positive way to promote your program? Energy and enthusiasm to teach? Share your ideas, wisdom, and suggestions; montanaweez@gmail.com

Remember: It's YOUR conference, and we want to bring the material YOU are most interested in!

Public Policy Corner
Salley Young, Greenfield

Coming Soon: 2020 Policy Priorities

Each year, SNA's national office writes a Position Paper on important issues to advocate for the challenges, concerns, and interests of their members. That's YOU! The Position Paper reflects the Association's top legislative/regulatory priorities and will serve as the roadmap for 2020 advocacy efforts.

To prepare for crafting the 2020 Paper, SNA asked for input from members on what they care about, and what SNA can do in Washington to help support school nutrition professionals nationwide. While the survey closed on November 23rd, SNA's Public Policy and Legislation Committee (PPL) began reviewing member responses on December 9th as they work to draft the Association's newest Position Paper. MTSNA encourages its members to take advantage of opportunities to make your voices heard like this one! Stay tuned for updates on the Association's progress for the 2020 paper as well as other opportunities to advocate!
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS!

AWARDS:

Here is YOUR chance to recognize your FAVORITE School Nutrition STAFF MEMBER!

Nominate your staff member for THESE THREE AWARDS by forwarding an EMAIL, 100 WORDS OR LESS to Patrice O’Loughlin at patrice.oloughlin@hardin.k12.mt.us

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NOMINATIONS DUE: April 1st

Nominate your staff member for THESE THREE AWARDS by ⇒
Logging onto MTSNA.org ⇒ Awards Tab ⇒ Complete the Nomination Form ⇒ Forward To ⇒
Patrice O’Loughlin, 4915 Blue Spruce Circle, Billings MT 59106, 406.665.5412 or patrice.oloughlin@hardin.k12.mt.us

SUBMIT NOMINATIONS BY APRIL 1ST, 2020

Vice President's Report
Tammy Wham, Ennis

Can you believe we are already over a quarter of the way through our school year? Time sure does fly when you have a great job like we do! Not many jobs have a new adventure every day. We all make a difference every day in at least one little one’s life and how great of a feeling is that! All of us on the board are busy planning for the 2020 summer conference that will be in Great Falls in June. If there are any classes you would like to see offered let us know and we will see if we can get it scheduled. Remember the conference is for all of us and we want to offer you a fun and educational experience. I always look forward to seeing all of you!

Facebook
If you haven't joined our Facebook group page, please do so and while you're at it, share what your lunch room is up to! It is so fun to see what other schools are doing. As of November 4th, we have 110 members on the page. Let’s get every school nutrition worker on there!
Meet Your Executive Board!

(Continued from Fall Newsletter)

Treasurer: Dave Thomas, Darby
I’ve been the Food Director in Darby for coming up on five years, and am very passionate about serving kids healthy scratch-made meals as well as educating them on why such things are important. I try to get involved in anything I can that has to do with scratch cooking or introducing new local fruits & veggies (and beef!) to my students. I also love to help others who share these passions to strive to be better and reach their goals. Last year, I was humbled by winning the “Health Hero Award”. I serve on the committee for Montana Cooperative Services (MCS) and I’m also a peer educator. But before everything else, I’m a father of three boys (ages 18, 16, and 13) and a girl (11) and happily married to my beautiful wife of 23 years.

SNA Foundation Ambassador: Renata Nichols, Alder
HOMETOWN: Madetswil Switzerland (childhood); Alder, Montana (Current)
EDUCATION: Bachelor’s in Pharmaceutical Field, Law Enforcement Background
WORK AT A GLANCE: FSD at Alder Elementary School since 2014, Feeding ~ 25 Kiddos Breakfast in the 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 as you know I’m the SNA Ambassador, so if you like to know about the Foundation... :)  

Auction Chair: Kaddi Lohrenz, Ennis
Hello fellow lunch people! Wow, I can’t believe how fast 2019 has flown by and with the holidays right around the corner. I would like to give a shout out to everyone for the gift basket auction this past year, it was amazing. Through your generosity we are able to provide so much in scholarships, help children in need and further education for board members to help strengthen the MTSNA board to better serve our members. I am so excited for the 2020 Montana School Nutrition Association summer conference. I will be taking on the auction chair and boy do I have big shoes to fill. Amanda has done such an amazing job!! Stay tuned for details on the theme for the auction, coming next newsletter. Hope your holidays are Merry and Bright!!

Scholarships

Tammy Wham, Ennis

Post-Secondary Education Scholarships
Do you know one of your kids that is going into the nutrition field (culinary or Dietitian)? Montana School Nutrition Association offers two $500 scholarships to anyone pursuing these fields. Please encourage our future food superstars to apply! To apply go to http://www.mtsna.org/scholarships.html

MTSNA Member Scholarships
Do you have to pay for yourself to attend the MTSNA summer conference? Will your school send more attendees to the summer conference if you receive a scholarship? MTSNA offers two $500 scholarships to attend the summer conference. It will be in Great Falls next summer and we are busy planning and hoping to make this the best conference ever. Go to http://www.mtsna.org/scholarships.html and apply.

Continuing Education Scholarships
MTSNA offers two $250 scholarships every year for continuing education. This can be any conference you would like to attend that will be beneficial for your job. These are based on a first come, first awarded basis. Apply at http://www.mtsna.org/scholarships.html