



Magnolia Petals

The Newsletter of the Mississippi School Nutrition Association

Feeding Bodies. Fueling Minds.™

Volume 17, Issue 1

September 2022



Message from President Keba Laird

I am honored and excited to represent the hardworking and talented members of the Mississippi School Nutrition Association (MSNA), and begin my journey as your President. With 855 members across our great state, MSNA remains a strong and vital organization focused on being your “go to” professional resource for all things school nutrition. You play an important and valuable role in nourishing our students every day, and I am proud of the commitment and passion shown in all that you do.

I am looking forward to the events that are planned for you this year. One of which is our 52nd Annual Conference that will take place at the beautiful Sheraton Flowood – Refuge Hotel and Conference Center in Flowood, MS. Registration is open now through October 7, 2022. You will be treated to lively keynote speakers, informative breakout sessions, fun activities, a silent auction, and an amazing exhibition show that will be held at the Clyde E. Muse Conference Center. This year’s conference theme is, “Leadership Next: Power of the Past, Force of the Future.” This emphasizes the notion that the baton has been passed from the sage hands of our past leaders into the eager hands of our future leaders to build upon MSNA’s rich tradition.

There are great things on the horizon! One new program that MSNA will launch in November 2022 is the L.E.A.D. Mentorship Program. This program is designed to match mentors and mentees so that together they build a relationship that provides a path to accountability, skill and knowledge transfer.

MSNA is dedicated to enriching your experience as child nutrition professionals, operators, and industry partners. Moreover, we are committed to representing you through legislative efforts at the local, state, and national levels. This is your organization, and I encourage you to reach out to any of your board members and myself at any time that you need us. We are always open to feedback on our current resources or how we can better serve you and the children of Mississippi.

MSNA we will continue to strive for outstanding achievements, recognize and maximize the growth of membership, and celebrate our successes along the way. I look forward to the remarkable accomplishments that we will make together as we enter SY 2022-2023. I am confident that we can take on anything that comes our way.

Continue to be safe, work hard, play hard, and perfect love.

Best of health,

Keba Laird, MBA, RDN, SNS, ACSM EP-C

Ashley's Angle



We are on the move MSNA! We have made waves in 2022 with two in-person conferences. Thank you to Kenny Coker and the Nutrition Education committee for hosting a very well attended conference in beautiful Bay St. Louis. The Leadership Conference in Oxford, MS followed shortly after in June. I would like to say thank you and welcome to the newly installed leaders of the 22-23 Executive Board. I would like to express my gratitude to the out-going executive board members. President Jimmy Buchanan, his executive board and steering committee members lead our association through a very testing time and I will always be grateful for his perseverance during those months to keep the association alive.

MSNA will keep the momentum going, as we finish the year up in Flowood, MS with our 52nd Annual Conference at the Sheraton Flowood Refuge Hotel and Conference Center. Keba Laird and her steering committee have been hard at work planning the conference. This will be the very first conference at this venue so register early! Encourage your colleagues in neighboring districts to register. The professional development and collaboration time you will receive with experts in the field is valuable time that you do not want to miss!

In closing, I wish you the best of luck with the start of the 22-23 school year! The association is right here with you. We know there will be tough days ahead, but always remember that you are *braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, smarter than you think and loved more than you know.*

President Elect Ashley Harris, MS, RD, SNS

Pointers by Vice President Valeria Weivoda



There's something about a new school year that's exciting. It is an opportunity for a fresh start, a blank page without stains, a challenge to make it better than the year prior. You know there are still hard times ahead in the supply chain. You cannot control all of the problems you're bound to face, but you can make a plan of attack. If your to-do list looks anything like mine, then there is no end. So take a deep breath, start with the most difficult task and eat the worm. Choose something you've been putting off and do it first thing in the morning as soon as you can. This will make you feel more confident in completing the rest of your tasks and give you a sense of power. My wish as your Vice President is to bring you motivation for the new school year. The best way you can stay motivated is to stay connected. Reach out to your fellow directors in all directions and see what everyone is up to now and periodically throughout the year. Start with your surrounding districts. Then, reach out a little further throughout the state and beyond. You'll find comfort during the difficult times, hope for the future and passion in your job just by talking with others. I challenge you when you get back to your office to build your plan of attack to combat the obstacles you know are ahead. Then, I challenge you to get connected and stay connected. You won't regret building valuable relationships. Have a wonderful school year!

Vice President Vice President, MS, RD, LD, SNS

MSNA 52nd ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sheraton Flowood Refuge Hotel & Convention Center

November 10-12, 2022

Thursday, November 10, 2022

9:00 a.m.	Steering Committee	Refuge
10:00 a.m.	Executive Board Meeting	Refuge
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Silent Auction Setup	Refuge
11:30 a.m.	Industry Advisory Board Meeting	Refuge
12:30-3:30 p.m.	Activity: Bowling/Lunch	TBA
6:00 p.m.	Executive Board/Steering Dinner	TBA

Friday, November 11, 2022

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Registration/T-Shirt Pickup	Refuge
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Industry Booth Setup	Muse Center
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Banquet Seating/Voting	Refuge
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Pre-Conference Sessions-Directors	Refuge
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Pre-Conference Sessions-Managers	Refuge
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.	Silent Auction Setup	Refuge
2:30 - 4:00 p.m.	Turn in Story Boards for Judging	Refuge
2:30 - 5:00 p.m.	Exhibits: Directors & Buyers	Muse Center
2:30 - 5:30 p.m.	Silent Auction	Refuge
4:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Judging Story Board Entries	Refuge
7:00 - 11:30 p.m.	Industry Appreciation Dinner & Dance	Refuge

Saturday, November 12, 2022

6:00 - 7:00 a.m.	Wellness Activity	Refuge
8:00 - 9:30 a.m.	General Session	Refuge
10:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Silent Auction	Refuge
10:00 - 12:30 p.m.	Grand Opening of Exhibits	Muse Center
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Contest	Muse Center
1:00 - 4:30 p.m.	Interest Sessions	Refuge
3:45 - 5:00 p.m.	Silent Auction Pickup	Refuge
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.	Free Time	
7:00 p.m.	MSNA Conference Awards/Banquet	Refuge

Exhibits will be at the Muse Center at Hinds Community College in Pearl, MS

All other conference events are at the Sheraton Flowood Refuge Hotel & Convention Center

MSNA 2022-2023 Executive Board**President ... Keba Laird****Standing Committee/Non voting****President ElectAshley Harris****Communications.... Brad Barlow****Vice President....Valeria Weivoda****Membership-....Alex Hallmark****Secretary.... Carolyn Barber****Nominating....Louise McPhee****Treasurer....Sue Ellen Coddling****Nutrition Standards....Kenny Coker****Executive Secretary....Armer Moore****Professional Development....Pam Kirby****Single UnitShannon Scarborough****Public Policy and Legislation....Armer Moore****District Director....Amanda Williams****Resolutions/Bylaws....Mary Hill****State Agency.... April Catchings****State Director....Scott Clement****College Personnel....Dr. Alisha Campbell****Past President....Jimmy Buchanan****Industry Advisor....Alston Sory****MASA Representativ.... Jeremy Berry****Parliamentarian....Mary Hill****MS-AND Representative.... Sarah Busby****Region I Director Mike Robertson****SNF State Ambassador- Christell Hicks****Region II Director....Sandy Hearn****Region III Director....Tonette Cochran****Region IV Director....Ronda Stacker****Regional V Director....Jessica McCovery**



Take a Tour: An Introduction to LEAD to Succeed

One of our very own MSNA members, not only a member, but our very own MSNA President, Keba Laird, Child Nutrition Supervisor, Clinton Public School District; had the task of presenting an educational session at SNA's ANC held in Orlando, FL this summer.

Keba had the opportunity to speak on the new and high-quality Lead to Succeed training program that is available at NO COST to all school nutrition professionals. The goal of conducting this session was to answer all questions, such as how does the program work? Where can I find it? Who is it meant for? How can I use it? And who has used it thus far? The discussions focused on the available communication modules and how one can bring the program to their staff. You were also able to hear from operators who have benefited from the training and attendees received a preview of upcoming modules.

The session also gave out information for you to be able to request training. Visit www.schoolnutrition.org/lead. Any questions please contact Alex Martinez at amartinez@schoolnutrition.org.

Note: All training request forms must be completed by a SNA state association or state agency.

2022 MSNA Conference

Education Sessions

Friday November 11, 2022

Pre-Conference Sessions

1. ServSafe Class with Test

Anyone interested in the Servsafe class has the opportunity to take the class and the test. There is no charge for the class. The textbook is required and can be purchased on the National Restaurant Association website. Be sure to purchase the 'ServSafe Manager Book with Exam Answer Sheet.

2. Decide to Succeed 2.0 - Refresher class

Great for new managers or new directors or anyone wanting a refresher course
Focus: Current Meal Pattern, OVS and Red Book-'Getting it right the first time'

3. ICN Financial Management - 8 Hour Course

New directors, assistant directors and/or bookkeepers. This session provides training on the following areas: Importance of Financial Management, Reporting and Managing Revenues and Expenditures, Controlling Food and Labor Costs, Budget Development and Analysis, Communications and Ethical Behavior

*****Advance registration is required for Pre-conference sessions*****

Registration forms will be emailed soon.

Saturday, November 12, 2022

Education Sessions

Time 1:00PM - 4:30PM

*Reclaim Your Better Self - Judy Barbe - Sponsored by the Dairy Alliance

*SNS Credentialing - Ashley Harris, MS, RD, SNS

*Offer vs Serve - Becke Bounds

*Do's and Don'ts in kitchen management - previous audit findings

*Answering tough questions, how to tackle them - Judy Barbe -Dairy Alliance

*Best practices for large equipment purchases

*Pre-K/Headstart Meal Pattern - Marianna Chauvin - OCN

*Good Alternative to Food Allergies

*****Topics subject to change without notice*****

MSNA 52nd CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

NOVEMBER 10-12, 2022

FLOWOOD, MS

To guarantee your T-shirt sizes, registration and payment must be received by **Friday, October 7, 2022**. Non-members who complete form as members will be invoiced the difference between membership and non-membership package.

STEP 1: Complete the following information:

LAST NAME _____ FIRST NAME _____ MEMBERSHIP # _____

SCHOOL DISTRICT _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____ W. PHONE _____

FAX # _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____ POSITION/TITLE _____

STEP 2: PLEASE MARK RIBBONS THAT YOU SHOULD RECEIVE:

DIRECTOR _____ BUYER _____ MANAGER _____ BOARD MEMBER

STEERING COMM _____ DELEGATE _____ SCHOLARSHIP WINNER _____ FIRST TIMER

HOSTESS _____ OFFICE STAFF _____ CHAPTER PRESIDENT _____ NEW MEMBER

SNA CERTIFICATE IN SCHOOL NUTRITION _____ SPEAKER _____ SNS _____

STEP 3: ADVANCED REGISTRATION: (INCLUDES SHORT SLEEVE T-SHIRT ONLY) CIRCLE THE SIZE THAT YOU NEED. .NOTE: SHORT SLEEVE T-SHIRT SIZES: S – 5XL (fee included in registration); BASEBALL SLEEVE T-SHIRT SIZES: S – 3XL (\$18 each)

MEMBERSHIP FULL CONFERENCE PACKAGE \$200.00	T-SHIRT SIZE: S M L XL 2X 3X 4X 5X	\$ _____
NON-MEMBER FULL CONFERENCE PACKAGE \$230.00	T-SHIRT SIZE: S M L XL 2X 3X 4X 5X	\$ _____
MEMBER ONE DAY PACKAGE (WITH T-SHIRT, NO MEALS) \$90.00	T-SHIRT SIZE: S M L XL 2X 3X 4X 5X	\$ _____
NON-MEMBER ONE DAY PACKAGE (WITH T-SHIRT, NO MEALS) \$100.00	S M L XL 2X 3X 4X 5X	\$ _____
STUDENT REGISTRATION (MUST BE 16 OR OLDER W/ ID) \$25.00 (NO T-SHIRT OR MEALS)		\$ _____

STEP 4: TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL TICKETS FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENTS, PLEASE INDICATE THE NUMBER OF TICKETS BELOW:

INDUSTRY PARTY \$65/Guest (Friday Night) _____ AWARDS BANQUET \$65/Guest (Saturday Night) _____

STEP 6: ON-SITE REGISTRATION: PRICES WILL BE HIGHER FOR REGISTRATION POSTMARKED AFTER FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2022, AND CORRECT T-SHIRT SIZE IS NOT GUARANTEED.

MEMBER FULL CONFERENCE PACKAGE \$250.00	\$ _____
NON-MEMBER FULL CONFERENCE PACKAGE \$275.00	\$ _____
MEMBER ONE DAY PACKAGE (NO T-SHIRT OR MEALS) \$90.00	\$ _____
NON-MEMBER ONE DAY PACKAGE (NO T-SHIRT OR MEALS) \$100.00	\$ _____
STUDENT ONE DAY PACKAGE (NO T-SHIRT OR MEALS) (MUST HAVE ID) \$30.00	\$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

STEP 7: TOTAL DUE. (MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO MSNA)

RETURN COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECK TO JANICE FRANKLIN, CLINTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS, P.O. BOX 300, CLINTON, MS 39060. EMAIL ADDRESS IS jfranklin@clintonpublicschools.com, PHONE: 601-924-4002, FAX: 601-924-1364. IF CHECK IS NOT SENT WITH REGISTRATION FORMS, A PURCHASE ORDER MUST ACCOMPANY THE FORMS. ADVANCED REGISTRATION IS DUE NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 7, 2022. IF AN INVOICE OR W-9 IS NEEDED OR FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT CONFERENCE, CONTACT ARMER MOORE at msnaorg@gmail.com or 601-260-8907. No rolling carts on exhibit floor. Hotel Information: Sheraton Flowood/ The Refuge Hotel & Conference Center, 2200 Refuge Boulevard, Flowood, MS, 39232 (601)936-4550. The Standard Group Rate is \$139.00 per night/MS School Nutrition Association. Link: [Book your group rate for MS School Nutrition Association 2022 Annual Conference](#)

LAST DAY TO BOOK IS OCTOBER 20, 2022

REFUND POLICY: REQUEST FOR REGISTRATION REFUND FOR ANY CONFERENCE/SEMINAR SPONSORED BY MSNA SHOULD BE IN WRITING TO THE REGISTRATION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE THE PRINTED DEADLINE DATE. CANCELLATIONS RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE THE PRINTED DEADLINE DATE OF OCTOBER 7, 2022, WILL ENTITLE THE REGISTRANT TO FULL REFUND LESS AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$25.00. CANCELLATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE PRINTED DEADLINE AND ON OR BEFORE THE TEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE CONFERENCE BEGINNING DATE WILL ENTITLE THE REGISTRANT TO A 50% REFUND. THERE WILL BE NO REFUNDS FOR CANCELLATIONS AFTER TEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE CONFERENCE BEGINNING DATE DEADLINE. REFUNDS FOR SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, DEATH OR ILLNESS, WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION WILL BE REQUIRED. NO REFUNDS WILL BE MADE FOR NO-SHOWS. NO CHILDREN UNDER 18 ALLOWED ON EXHIBIT FLOOR. REGISTERED STUDENTS ARE AN EXCEPTION.

I REQUEST THAT YOU ACCEPT ME AS PARTICIPANT AT THE MSNA CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN FLOWOOD, MS. NOVEMBER 10-12, 2022. I UNDERSTAND THERE IS SOME RISK INHERENT IN TRAVELING TO AND FROM AS A RESULT OF ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE. THE UNDERSIGNED HERBY RELEASES MSNA AND THE COMMITTEES, MEMBERS, AND OFFICERS AS WELL AS OTHER PARTICIPANTS AND OTHER PERSONS WHO MAY TAKE PART IN SAID CONFERENCE FROM ALL LIABILITY FOR INJURY, DEATH, AND PROPERTY DAMAGES THAT MAY BE SUFFERED IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH ACTIVITIES WHETHER DUE TO NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE, ACCEPTING SUCH RISKS INVOLVED IN WAIVING ALL RIGHTS OF ANY KIND THAT MIGHT OTHERWISE ARISE. THE UNDERSIGNED AGREES TO INDEMNIFY MSNA, ITS COMMITTEES, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS AGAINST THE COST OF DEFENSE OF SUCH CLAIMS INCLUDING REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES.

SIGNATURE: _____

CHECK THE MSNA WEB SITE FOR UPDATE ABOUT THE MSNA 52ND CONFERENCE. THE WEB-SITE ADDRESS IS WWW.SCHOOLNUTRITION-MS.ORG



Not all HEROES Wear Capes

When we were children, we all had our own idea of what a HERO was. We all must agree, at one time or another we have had thoughts about Batman, Robin, Superman, Wonder Woman, and others. The one thing they all have in common is, all these HEROES" wear capes. Also, at one

time or another growing up, we all went to the bathroom grabbed a towel, threw it around our necks and ran around the house pretending to become the next HERO to start fighting the villains, or we thought.

In March of 2020, the villain hit us and none of us were prepared. This was an unseen villain that took no one in consideration. This villain's name was COVID and was out to destroy what we all knew as a normal life, work, family, and friends. We were in for the fight of our lives. So what did we do? We started fighting. We fought by packing food, cooking food, serving food and making sure that each and every child felt safe and loved. This villain shut down workforces, businesses, homes, and schools but what it didn't shut down was the love, passion, desire and the determination that Child Nutrition employees has throughout the country. Schools had to make sure that all our babies throughout the State of Mississippi had meals for their tummies and minds. Some heroes fought with medicine, some fought with research but we as Child Nutrition employees, we fought with LOVE. Love for all our babies in every school throughout the State of Mississippi and the nation. We fought this villain for over two years and have defeated it.

So to the Mother who lost her job due to work shutting down and not knowing how she was going to feed her children.....You are her HERO

Grandparents who took the lead so mom & dad could still go to work....
You are their HERO

Students who came to school all masked up being separated from friends 6 ft apart
You are their HERO

Families that not only had students in school but also had siblings at home that came to pick up food to eat
You are their HERO

Finally from all coworkers that stood on the front line with you every day and from all the coworkers that are no longer with us because of this villain
You were and you are their HERO

So as you look around you will see all HEROES
Because not all HEROES wear Capes.

Kenny Coker
Chairmen Nutrition Standard

MSNA

Learn, Refresh & Network

Nutrition Education Seminar

The Annual MSNA Nutrition Education Conference was held on April 6, 2022 at Bay St. Louis Hollywood Casino. There were 163 in attendance. Chef Barry Karr was guest speaker for the morning session along with Mary Hill, retired Child Nutrition Director and MSNA Bylaws Chairperson. Chef Barry spoke on the variety of ways that spices and foods can be used in our school and Mary presented "Why MSNA needs you". A lunch buffet was enjoyed by all. The afternoon session was conducted by Bill Urban providing reminders on the implementation of OVS and Doris Schneider and Ashley Harris provided great menu ideas. Everyone left the conference with new ideas that can be taken back to their districts.



We are now working on next year's Nutrition Education Conference to be held March 29th, 2023, in Hattiesburg. I would like to take this opportunity to extend an invitation to each of you to attend..

Thank You!



First and second photos: Members engaging in Chef Karr's presentation. **Last photo:** Bill Urban providing updates.

Nutrition Education Chairman Kenny Coker

LEADERSHIP NEXT: POWER OF THE PAST, FORCE OF THE FUTURE

MSNA held its annual Leadership Conference at the Institute of Child Nutrition on the campus of Ole Miss University. The conference was Thursday, June 30th, 2022. We were excited to come together again. We had an wonderful agenda along with an very tasteful lunch sponsored by our amazing industry partners. We certainly thank and appreciate the following industry for their unwavering support.

Chuck Ainsworth, SFSPac

Kristin Dukes, Tasty Brands

Wanda McDowell, Super Bakery

Cheryl Pratt, ES Foods

Buddy Todd, Trident Beverage

Corey Ainsworth, Winston Industries

Teresa Graham, Pilgrims

Becky Murad, Morel Associates

Alston Sory, Marketing Agents South

Patrick Caulifield, PMR

Ula Kamenavola, Nordone Bros

Brandi Pecoul, Schwan's Foods

Kim Smith, Ekon-O-Pac

Sarah Spivey, Affinity Group

The agenda had something for everyone. The guest speaker was Judge Kenny Lewis, "LeaderSHIFT; Live for the Applause or Lead for a cause." There were breakout sessions lead by Mary Hill, retired child Nutrition Director, past state and national president; Lead with impact, tools and techniques to be a more impactful leader with MSNA and beyond, and Past President Jackie Henry, ServSafe; Test prep made easy . Everything you need to know to successfully pass the exam with confidence.

Those were among a few highlights of the conference. Of course, another highlight was the installation of the 2022-23 MSNA Executive Board.



Caliborne County Excellence!

“Meatloaf” — First time on CCSDs Menu

First, I must be honest with this article and admit that experience is the best teacher. As the Child Nutrition Director, I was hesitant to place this meatloaf on the school’s menu because I was unsure how the students would respond. Admittedly, I didn’t set-up a taste-test station to receive feedback prior to putting the new item on the menu. Honestly, I really did not know if students would eat it or not. I was assisting in the kitchen and on the serving line one day during lunch at the Port Gibson Middle School. When the students saw the new item on the serving line, they immediately began to ask, “What is that?” I replied that it was “meatloaf” with BBQ sauce on it. I suggested to the students just try it and let me know what you think. When I had a break from the serving line, I went out into the dining area and introduced myself to the students. I verbally polled them to get their opinions about the taste of the meatloaf. I wanted the students’ honest opinions and much to my amazement, the students at Port Gibson Middle School loved it! They shouted, “It is good!” I was so thrilled that we celebrated, and I raised the roof with them. I was genuinely surprised at the responses from the students. Often times, meatloaf gets a bad rap, especially from students. Even without the BBQ sauce, the student and I found the meatloaf was fabulous! I also received positive feedback from the elementary and high school as well. The students enjoyed the new food item. Because of the great feedback from students, meatloaf has found a new home in our menu rotations. Therefore, the pictures I am presenting show the timely preparation for the meatloaf. As you can see, Mrs. Ida Banks (not pictured) and myself were crumbling up crackers for the ground beef mixture. Mrs. Brinder Mackey, Manager, (not pictured) was on the mixer stirring up the ingredients. Once the ingredients were blended together, Mrs. Ida Banks is shown pulling the batter from the mixer, patting and shaping the mixture to form the loaves and then, the ending result of the meatloaf is on the serving line. Doesn’t it look delicious?

Ronda Stacker, Child Nutrition Director, CCSD



We Will Survive!!

It is still a chaotic time for all of you. I realize that it is not easy to stay positive and encouraged to keep going. My heart goes out to you and your staff for the long hours, juggling, and magic acts that you perform each and every day.

The Dairy Alliance is here to help you with [trainings](#). We offer "Strive for 35", "Maximizing Your Reimbursement", "Fuel Up [To Play 60](#)", "Good for You, Good for the Planet", and "Moo Brew" trainings. Some can be done online at your convenience for continuing hours. All the [trainings](#) can be done for your staff virtually or live. Bulletin board kits are available, as well as lessons you can share with your teachers for all grades. We offer many downloadable posters, decals, and handouts to encourage your students to eat in the cafeteria and consume their dairy.

Grants for dairy optimization are available to help you draw students into the cafeteria and to increase your meal participation. Moo Brew- our iced coffee program, Smooth and Smart- our smoothie program, and breakfast meals are our focus for this year. We continue to work with our Fuel Up [To Play 60](#) grants, which gives schools up to \$4,000 for equipment. This grant is much easier to complete with less requirements than in the past. Here is the link, [Fuel Up To Play 60 FUTP60](#), for information on that grant.

In Mississippi, for 2021, The Dairy Alliance and our Mississippi Dairy Farmers distributed more grants to increase meals and dairy than ever before. Equipment or funds were distributed to 33 schools, reaching 24,432 students, with \$75,350 spent. Some schools were able to start programs immediately and some had issues getting equipment shipped, but every school is a winner!

Our grants gave equipment for Moo Brew programs, milk coolers, breakfast carts, and insulated bags for breakfast in the classroom. The goal of The Dairy Alliance is to help our Mississippi Dairy Farmers increase dairy consumption with our students so they develop a lifelong love for dairy and good health. We know this is also a goal for many of you.

In this hectic world, we want you, your staff, and your students to be successful in work, studies, and body with dairy. The Dairy Alliance is here to help you. Contact Donna Speed, your Mississippi Manager of Youth Wellness for resources, grant opportunities and training for your staff at 601-317-1565 or dspeed@thedairyalliance.com.



For Your ServSafe Needs (Training and Exams)
from a Child Nutrition Perspective

Contact: Jackie T. Henry, Certified Instructor/Proctor
Former Child Nutrition Director

jackthentry1068@gmail.com

601-410-2305



Professional Development the FMSD Way!

Forest Municipal School District, under the leadership of Dr. Karen Norwood is known for having fun, engaging opening sessions to mark the beginning of a new school year. Well known speakers have graced the stage to motivate and gear up teachers for a new year of learning adventures. On August 3, 2022, the Forest Municipal Child Nutrition Department, decided to change the paradigm for their professional development. "Last year was a very tough year for us. Covid hit two of our kitchens at the beginning of the year, there were staffing shortages, inventory shortages, and on top of that it was my first year as a director. But, by God's grace we made it!" It was determined that the staff would need a different type of motivation than their usual professional development. Going along with the school district's Superhero theme, I decided to bring in two legends in the field of Child Nutrition to help prepare the staff for the upcoming year. Ms. Mary Hill presented a very encouraging message entitled, "Motivation, Who Me?" It encompassed building a culture of motivation to keep the team engaged, happy, and working together which ultimately affects our greatest resource, the children we serve daily. There were mini breakout sessions where each school worked together to list things that their school could improve from the previous year, goals for this year, and things that motivate them. Each staff was encouraged to take their responses back to their sites to revisit them as needed. Mrs. Armer Moore, former director with FMSD addressed State Department mandates and meal patterns. The staff enjoyed being able to look at different meals to determine if they were reimbursable meals. Our new fire chief, Randy Jones talked about kitchen safety and reviewed fire extinguisher safety. After a wonderful Staff Development, we were ready for the doors to swing open.



Queen Renee's Retirement



SFSPac

Food Safety & Sanitation System



HACCP



Verification



Sanitation



Education



Contact us to get started!
800-289-7725 or info@sfspac.com



Rollin' in Richland

Richland Upper Elementary at Rankin County Schools got off to a GREAT start celebrating a 50's theme diner. The school theme is: Traveling through the Decades. Third grade is the 70's, Fourth grade is the 90's, Fifth grade is the 60's and Sixth grade is the 80's. Cafeteria staff dress in their 50's attire while serving the students daily.



MSNA SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES

Have you thought about taking a college or university course or another training opportunity that would increase your skills??

MSNA provided funds for five MSNA members at the 2021 MSNA Annual Conference. You too could receive a MSNA scholarship!

You must have been an MSNA member for two years, complete the scholarship application forms (found on the MSNA webpage) and send by October 1, 2022, to Pam Kirby at Rankin County Schools. Scholarships are awarded for one year. If you have questions, contact Pam Kirby at 601-825-2257.

The MSNA Scholarship Committee is raising funds for scholarships and anyone can donate to the Scholarship fund. If you want to donate, contact either Pam Kirby or Armer Moore.

Research Opportunities through the Institute of Child Nutrition Applied Research Division

Did you know that Mississippi is home to the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN), a federally-funded national center dedicated to supporting school nutrition programs (SNP)? The institute has two locations, one at The University of Mississippi and one at The University of Southern Mississippi, and conducts in-house research to develop free training and resources for and to support school nutrition (SN) professionals across the United States. Researchers at the Applied Research Division regularly reach out to SN professionals with a variety of responsibilities, ranging from cooks to directors, to participate in projects that help improve SNP operations. The research conducted by the ICN Applied Research division yields a lot of valuable information, and the findings are used to assist the ICN in the development of SNP resources to provide guidance and support for SNP directors, managers, administrators, and staff in the upcoming school years.

The ICN Applied Research Division is looking for willing SNP personnel to participate in research opportunities. If you receive a notification of a research opportunity by the ICN Applied Research Division, consider participating. Your involvement is vital to the development of new resources, trainings, and knowledge gain for school nutrition. If you are interested in work completed by the Applied Research Division, you can find the full list of research reports and resources on the ICN website at <https://theicn.org/research>.

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Feeding Our Special Babies

The Southern Bell Chapter from VWSD Feed 100 Special Needs campers and staff at Camp Silver Cloud this year. They have fed these "Special" campers for 13 years. They have served 3 nutritious meals a day.



Crumbley

PAPER & FOODSERVICE

Laurel, MS

Clarksdale's Superheros

The staff at Kirkpatrick Elementary School in Clarksdale, MS were given a break for their challenging work and efforts during these tough times. Adrienne Hudson, principal, and her staff Ms. Kennedy and Ms. Burton dressed up as a tomato and peas to help with lunch service. They presented the cafeteria staff Denita Blair, cafeteria manager and cafeteria staff Anfernee Jackson, Jackie Davis, and Ladonna Young with T shirts. Principal Hudson entered the students in the POS. Her staff served lunch to the students. It is good when staff is shown appreciation for the challenging work they do. Mrs. Hudson said the cafeteria staff are superheroes. The staff has done all they could to serve nutritious and healthy meals during the shortages



National School Lunch Week
October 10-14, 2022



USDA Announces New Funds for School Meal Programs

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced nearly 2 billion in additional Commodity Credit Corporation funds to allow food banks and school meal programs, struggling with supply chain issues and high costs, to purchase American-grown foods. Funds include:

- Nearly \$500 million for schools to purchase food for their lunch and breakfast programs, bringing the total CCC investment in school food since December 2021 to close to \$2.5 billion, benefiting the roughly 30 million students who participate in school lunch and 15 million who participate in school breakfast each day.
- Nearly \$500 million to expand the Local Food Purchase Assistance, or LFPA, cooperative agreement program; and
- Nearly \$1 billion to purchase food for emergency food providers like food banks.

"SNA is extremely grateful to USDA for their continued work to support school meal programs contending with inflationary pressures, supply chain disruptions and the loss of pandemic waivers providing free meals for all students," said SNA President Lori Adkins, MS, SNS, CHE.

USDA's press release indicates this Supply Chain Assistance funding can be used by school districts to purchase unprocessed and minimally processed domestic food such as fresh fruit, milk, cheese, frozen vegetables and ground meat. Each state will allocate the funds to schools based on student enrollment, with a minimum amount per district.

Executive Board Candidates 2023-24

Amanda Williams/Vice President



Hello again,

I, Amanda Williams born and raised in Kemper County. I was the Child Nutrition Director of Kemper County School District for 10 years before I decided to venture out to Meridian Public School District where I am now the Assistant. Child Nutrition Director. I have held many positions within Mississippi School Nutrition Association and have always been dedicated to the mission of the MSNA. I am married and have two wonderful children. I am a member of, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc, and have been a member of the Mississippi Army National Guard for 19 years where I specialize in food service. In conclusion, I have a passion for Child Nutrition and the staff that I come in contact with daily. Working in Child Nutrition has helped me grow in leadership and other abilities. As a VP, I will continue to work to improve and bring my great ideas to the Child Nutrition community.

Mark Carpenter/Treasurer

Mark Carpenter is the Child Nutrition Director for Tunica County School District, where he supervise six cafeterias. Mr.



Carpenter loves to cook, travel, and watch sports. He loves teaching people how to cook and proper techniques in catering. Over his 27 years in the food industry, Mr. Carpenter has a of list professional achievements. Mr. Carpenter is a Certified Executive Chef and holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management Information Systems from Liberty University and a Master of Business Administration from Strayer University. He's also served in the U.S. Army for 12 years.

Margaret Beatty/Region II Director

Margaret has twenty-eight years in Child Nutrition and eighteen years in Healthcare facilities. She was born and raised in Tennessee before she married and moved to Mississippi in 1976. A graduate of Tennessee Tech University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics Education, and has done graduate studies at Au-



burn University. Margaret has been very active in the Mississippi School Nutrition Association for many years and held various offices serving on Executive and Steering Committees. Margaret and Mike are the parents of two children and three grandchildren. They own and operate Caney Creek Angus farm in Pulaski, Mississippi, and enjoy watching grandchildren show their Angus calves at state, district, and national events.

Gertrude Parker/Single Unit

I am Gertrude Parker, Food Service Manager at McBride Pre-K Academy with Greenville Public School District, where I have devoted twenty-one years of service. I am a problem solver as well as a team player. One of my greatest joys is coming to work and knowing I've made someone's day better. Presently, I am serving students nutritious meals



through the summer feeding program. This year I received employee of the month at my school and for the Child Nutrition Department. Moreover, I have won first place three years at the MSNA state conference for the most creative Storyboard. I was educated in Benoit, Mississippi public school system. I am married to William Parker III, have two beautiful daughters, one handsome son, and one granddaughter, Zakala, who is the sunshine of my life.



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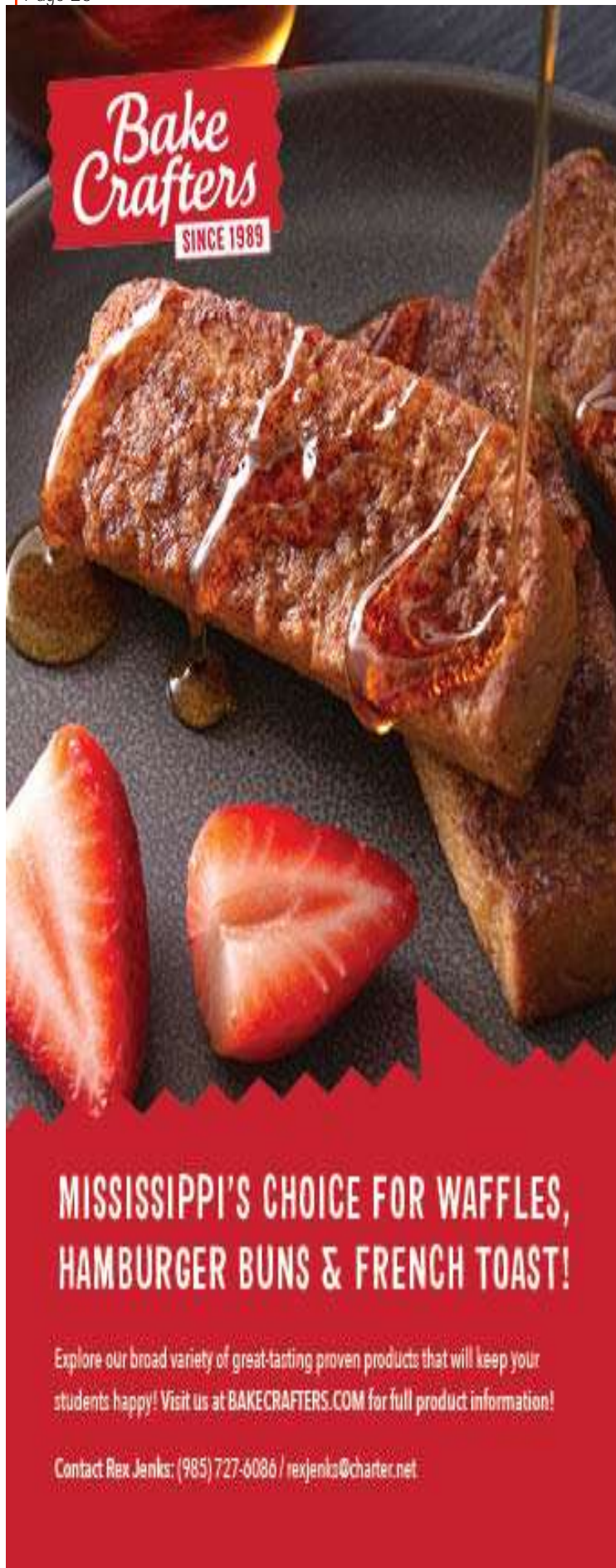
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Upcoming events

November 10-12**MSNA Annual Conference****January 20, 2023****MSNA Executive Board,****Industry Advisory Board****Steering Committee****Biloxi, MS****March 29, 2023****Nutrition Education****Seminar****Lake Terrace Center****Hattiesburg, MS****June 15, 2023****MSNA Leadership Seminar****July 9-11, 2023****SNA Annual Conference****Denver, Colorado****November 2-4, 2023****53rd MSNA Annual Conference****Golden Nugget Casino****Biloxi, MS****MSNA GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF THESE INDUSTRY SPONSORS!****MSNA PLATINUM SPONSORS****SFSPAC, Inc.****Total Equipment Maintenance Company, Inc.****Crumbley Paper and Foodservice Company****BakeCrafters****Feeding Bodies. Fueling Minds.™**