

THE FLASH



Diana Weber

A Message from our President...

Welcome to the new school year 2006-2007 and "Congratulations" School Nutrition Association Iowa, (SNAI). This is our Golden

Anniversary year which we will celebrate with the theme, "Celebrate School Nutrition-Building Healthy Minds and Bodies". You will first see this theme carried out with our Nutrition Seminar on October 28, 2006 at Marshalltown.

Before I explain our State Plan for 2006-2007, I want to thank Laurie Peyton-Crane for all her hard work in leading our organization, SNAI, this past year. Laurie accepted three awards at SNA's Annual Conference in Los Angeles in July. Iowa received the first place award for "Membership Growth Award, 501-1000 Member Division", "Membership Goal Award", and "Increasing Membership Award". Also last October, we had the largest attendance at the Wellness Nutrition Seminar and in Spring we held 5 District Workshops that were very well attended by our membership.

This year's planning started at SNA's National Leadership Conference in San Antonio in April, 2006. Nancy Hogstad, President-Elect, Cathy Gehris, Vice President, and I attended this 3 day conference. We started by identifying a Mission Statement: To advance good nutrition for all school-age children in Iowa. Our State Plan for 2006-2007 was developed in support of this statement.

The top 4 issues impacting Child Nutrition Programs are as follows:

Wellness-“Childhood health and wellness concerns are creating an opportunity for school nutrition professionals to take a leadership role in developing, implementing, promoting and evaluating new district-wide wellness policies.” This is one way we can take charge and help promote wellness activities and lead by example.

Membership-“Shifts in school nutrition employee generational and cultural demographic profiles are creating barriers to maintaining and increasing the current level of membership, examples-training issues, communication/language issues, and ownership/accountability issues.” Our Membership Chair, Nancy Hogstad is working very diligently to gain members and retain the members we have. When she asks for help to man a booth at a food show, please say yes.

Professionalism-“The increased complexity of child nutrition programs is driving the need for more training opportunities to insure future program quality for all child nutrition program staff members.” Cathy Gehris, Vice President is developing a “Needs Inquiry Survey”. This was started at our State Leadership Conference in West Des Moines in July 2006.

Voice of School Nutrition-“School nutrition professionals need to be recognized as the leading voice of



Making the right food choices, together.

school nutrition in cooperation with other child health related groups.” Those of us that work in the school nutrition environment should be the spokes people for our programs.

Our Executive Board is very excited and determined to make a difference this year. LaRae Doll, Conference Chairperson, has a great start on this year's state conference to be held at the Grand Harbor Convention Center in Dubuque on June 19 & 20, 2007.

Best wishes for the 2006-2007 school year. If I can be of assistance to you or your school district, please do not hesitate to call or email. For phone numbers and emails check “Your SNAI Officers:” column on the next page. Also don't forget to check out our website, www.snaiiowa.org.



Did you try one of the “Egg”ceptional USDA commodity processed products at State Conference? Highlights are inside...

What's Inside:

President's Message	1
Certification and Membership	?
Nutrition Resources	5
Statewide Nutrition Seminar	6
SNAI Conference Highlights	2
Dates to Remember	7

Your SNAI Officers:

PRESIDENT*

Diana Weber
Food Service Director
Nevada Community Schools
1035 15th Street
Nevada, IA 50201
W - 515-382-3521 x251
H - 515-232-2164 Fax - 515-382-2935
Cell - 515-291-8717
dweber@mail.nevada.k12.ia.us
weber@thewebers.ws

PRESIDENT - ELECT*

Nancy Hogstad
Purchasing Specialist
West Des Moines Community Schools
2055 Country Club Blvd
Clive, IA 50325
W - 515-633-4906 H - 515-224-2380
hogstadn@wdmcs.org

VICE PRESIDENT*

Cathy Gehris
Director of Student Nutrition
Regina High School
2150 Rochester Ave.
Iowa City, IA 52245
W - 319-338-5436 FX - 319-887-3817
H - 319-351-0010 C - 319-330-4660
cgehris@regina.PVT.k12.ia.us

SECRETARY/TREASURER*

Ann Feilmann
Food Service Director
Marshalltown Schools
1002 S. 3rd Ave
Marshalltown, IA 50158
W - 641-754-1090 ext 6120 Fax 641-754-1086
H - 641-752-6928
afeilmann@marshalltown.k12.ia.us

LEGISLATIVE* & PARLIAMENTARIAN

Beth Hanna
Director of Nutrition Services
W. Des Moines Schools
3550 Mills Civic Parkway
West Des Moines, IA 50265-5556
W - 515-633-5086 H - 515-224-5838
C - 515-390-3694 FX 515-633-5098
hannab@wdmcs.org

SNA MIDWEST REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Teresa Nece
Director of Food & Nutrition
Des Moines Public Schools
1225 2nd Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50314
W - 515-242-7636
H - 515-253-0324 Fax-515-242-8118
teresa.nece@dmps.k12.ia.us

EDUCATION/NUTRITION*

Cathy Gehris
Director of Student Nutrition
Regina High School
2150 Rochester Ave.
Iowa City, IA 52245
W - 319-338-5436 FX - 319-887-3817
H - 319-351-0010 C - 319-330-4660
cgehris@reginia.PVT.k12.ia.us

CO-CHAIR EDUCATION/NUTRITION

Laura Smith
West Branch School District
PO Box 637
West Branch, Iowa 52358
W - 319-643-7213 x139 H - 319-643-2789
lsmith@west-branch.k12.ia.us

MEMBERSHIP/CERTIFICATION*

Nancy Hogstad
Purchasing Specialist
West Des Moines Community Schools
2055 Country Club Blvd
Clive, IA 50325
W - 515-633-4906
H - 515-224-2380
hogstadn@wdmcs.org

Highlights – SNAI Conference 2006

Welcome back! Hope everyone had a great relaxing summer and that you are "Serving Up Good Health"! What a wonderful conference we had in Des Moines! It was filled with many great sessions from New Look of School Milk, After School Snacks and Preventing Obesity, Balancing Your Life, Getting and Staying Fit, and Updates on Wellness Policies to name a few!

We had great general sessions with John Irvin with his "Hilarity Therapy"! I'm still laughing and going to use his suggestions for seeing more humor in everyday life.

La Donna Gatlin sang her way into our hearts! La Donna's presentation of "Tune Up Your Life" endeared us to her and she encouraged us to "sing our own song"!

We toured the Des Moines Central Nutrition Services Department. What a great place to visit and see it in operation! We wish to thank Des Moines Central Nutrition Department for allowing us to visit.

Entertainment was provided with a Banquet Dinner and Michael Johns, hypnotist straight from Las Vegas! Michael had several volunteers to entertain us. I hope everyone had a great time, mingling with friends, eating good food and having fun. I know I did!

I think the best thing about attending conference is being able to see and talk to fellow food service employees. Some we only get to see once or twice a year and it is hard to catch up in such a short time!

I hope to see everyone at next conference June 19th and 20th in Dubuque!

Vickie McVey, SFNS
Marshalltown



Future Forecast

Future Leaders Program-- New Adventure for SNA

School Nutrition Association (SNA) is creating a Future Leaders Program that will assist states with leadership recruitment and development. The goal of the program is to provide hands-on training to new and future leaders of SNA to help strengthen the long-term viability and effectiveness of the state associations and SNA.

The program will be over a 2 ½ day period and will be held in conjunction with National Leadership Conference in April 2007 in Williamsburg, Virginia. Three SNA past presidents--Marilyn Hurt, Karen Johnson, and Marcia Smith--have agreed to participate and will assist a professional consultant with program development and facilitation.

Criteria set forth by SNA for this Future Leader Program are as follows. Candidates must be nominated by a state association meeting the following criteria:

- Must be a SNA member
- Must be certified or credentialed
- Minimum of 3 years in the school nutrition industry
- Can be a state association board member but should not have served as past officer or current officer
- Demonstrated qualities for future association leadership
- Committed to life-long learning and career in school nutrition

SNA will extend complimentary registration and SNAI will be responsible for travel and accommodation costs. If you are interested in attending this Future Leaders Program and meet the criteria, simply write a short letter or email requesting participation in this program to state president, Diana Weber, by October 1, 2006

Members are an Association's Best Friend

Fall Membership Drive Celebrating SNA's Diamond Anniversary

August 1 through October 31, 2006

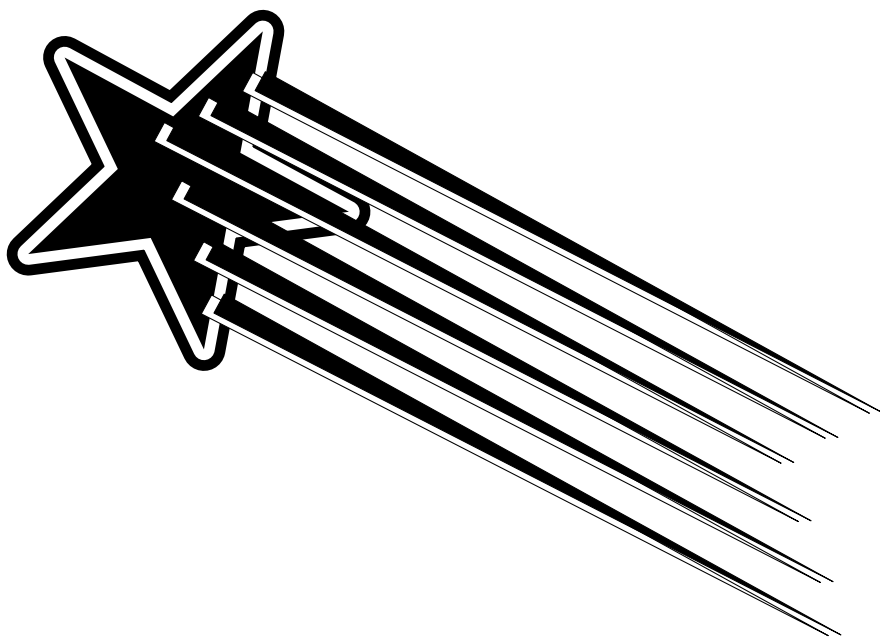
ARE YOU A STAR?

Recruit three new members and become a STAR and help SNA-Iowa shine. You accumulate credits when you recruit new members to the association and you get these people to renew each year. To become a Star Club Member, you must earn three credits within one membership year (June 1-May31). You receive one STAR credit for each member you recruit and an additional credit for that new member's renewal. Each time a new member's application shows you as their sponsor, the information is entered into SNA's data base. Three new members in one year and you are a STAR. Your name also is entered to win great prizes in SNA's annual membership campaign.

Star Club members recruit by promoting the many benefits of membership, including:

- Information and Knowledge
- Education and Training
- Networking Opportunities
- Advocacy
- Discounts on registration fees for SNA events
- Grants and Scholarships
- Research
- Public Awareness

Request your recruitment materials today by contacting Norma La Mantia at 563-823-0162. This recruiting kit will help you become familiar with the services offered by SNA and help recruit new members. *It's Your Time to Shine.*



Your District Chairs

DISTRICT I CHAIR*
Cathy Caldwell
Food Service Manager, Smart Intermediate
Davenport Community Schools
1934 W 5th St
Davenport, IA 52802
W - 563-323-1046
H - 563-843-3729
caldwellc@davenportschools.org
pjccaldwell@netins.com

DISTRICT I CO-CHAIR*
Christine Nichols
237 1st Avenue
Clinton, IA 52732
W - 563-559-0052 H - 563-243-2694

DISTRICT II CHAIR*
Julie Hauser
College Community Schools
221 W. Main Street
Solon, IA 52333
W - 319-848-5215 H - 319-624-3006
jhauser@prairiepride.org

DISTRICT II CO-CHAIR*
Rhonda Phillips
Lisbon Community Schools
23634 15th Street (home address)
Lisbon, Iowa 52253
W - 319-455-2075 H - 319-455-2179

DISTRICT III CHAIR*
Kathy Nervig
Food Service Director
Saydel School District
5740 NE 14th
Des Moines, IA 50313
W - 515-264-0866
H - 515-597-2650
nervigk@saydel.k12.ia.us

DISTRICT III CO-CHAIR*
Chad Taylor
Des Moines Public Schools District
1225 2nd Avenue SO314
Des Moines, Iowa
W-515-242-7636
H-515-251-8633
chad.taylor@dmps.k12.ia.us

DISTRICT IV CHAIR*
Mary Curtis Baker
Marshalltown Schools
507 Dennis Dr.
Marshalltown, IA 50158
H - 641-753-9530
gregandmary@mailmis.com

DISTRICT IV CO-CHAIR*
Sue Ellen Rathbun
Food Service Director
Allamakee Community School District
1059 3rd Ave., NW
Waukon, IA 52172
W - 563-568-6089
H - 563-568-2925 cell 563-568-7737
srathbun@allamakee.k12.ia.us

DISTRICT V CHAIR*
Stephena Kallemeyn
Food Service Director
Carroll Community Schools
214 W. 14th Street
Carroll, IA 51401
W- 712-792-8001
H - 712-792-4786
skallemeyn@carroll.k12.ia.us

DISTRICT V CO-CHAIR*
Kathy Simmerman
Food Service Director
Clarke Community School
800 N. Jackson
Osceola, Iowa 50213
W - 641-342-6505 ext. 529
H - 641-447-2195
ksimmerman@clarke.k12.ia.us

MAKE IT A DATE!!!!!!

Did that get your attention? Great, because we want each of you to take out your handy calendar, Palm Pilot or what ever you use to keep your life in order, and pencil in the dates and locations of the 2007 Nutrition Workshops closest to you!

In response to many requests for more equidistant locations for the workshops, SNAI has added a 6th date and location. Check out these sites!

- District IApril 18th at the Oelwin Middle School in Oelwin
District II February 24th at College Community High School in Iowa City/Cedar Rapids
District III.....March 10th at the Callahan Middle School in Des Moines
District IVMarch 3rd at the Humboldt High School in Humboldt
District VMarch 17th at the Harlan High School in Harlan
District VMarch 31st at the South O'Brien School District in Paulina

We'll keep you posted on the topics and times as the workshop develops. There will be 5 CEU's (Continuing Education Credits) for attendees. Last year's workshops were highly successful and well attended. Plan to be there again this year or join us for the first time! You'll be glad you did. Additional information on the workshops will be available on our website: WWW. snaiowa.org as it becomes available.

Is Legislative Action Conference For You?

The Legislative Action Conference is scheduled for March 4-7, 2007 in Washington D.C. at the JW Marriot Hotel. Each year, SNA Iowa sends the President, President-Elect, Vice President, and the Legislative Chair to the LAC to meet personally with their Iowa legislators to enlist their support for Child Nutrition Programs. SNAI also sends a "member-at-large." If you would like to be considered, simply write a short letter requesting that position. Send your request to Diana Weber, State President, by December 15, 2006.



Martin Bros. Wellness Workshop



Martin Bros. Wellness Workshop provides you with the tools necessary to create your school's wellness policy. As your foodservice partner, it is our mission to serve you with innovative solutions. School foodservice is ever-changing and we want to help you meet both the nutritional needs of your students and your need for a successful foodservice program. The tools on this site are designed to provide you with resources to accomplish a successful school wellness program.

Contact your Martin Bros. Sales Representative for more information.

Martin Bros.
Inspired to create a difference

martinsmart.com
1-800-847-2404

FULL-LINE FOODSERVICE DISTRIBUTOR
Operations Center • 406 Viking Road, Cedar Falls, IA 50613
Marketing Center • 6623 Chancellor Drive, Cedar Falls, IA 50613
Solutions Center • 312 Viking Road, Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Mark Your Calendars!

School Nutrition Association Iowa State Conference 2007

Grand Harbor Resort and Water Park
Dubuque IA
June 19 & 20, 2007



Featuring awesome keynote speakers, breakout sessions

And Exhibits!

The Celebration Belle River Boat Cruise

Dinner & Evening of Entertainment
Tuesday June 19, 2007



More information in future Flash and on Web

www.snaiowa.org.....



Key Leaders Meet in West Des Moines

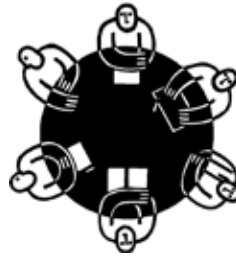
The School Nutrition Association Iowa's annual Leadership Training was held at the West Des Moines Learning Resource

Center, July 27 & 28, 2006. Nancy Hogstad, President-Elect and Cathy Gehris, Vice President directed most of this training due to Diana Weber, President becoming ill.

Thursday afternoon was spent reviewing the Leadership Handbook which is a guide for chapter and state officers. It contains everything one needs to operate the state and local chapters in the coming year. You can find Iowa and National contact information, dates and events, scholarship information, by-laws, and association policies.

Thursday evening, Deb Morlan with Hockenberg-Newburg Brokerage hosted dinner and an evening at the Science Center. Participants viewed the Titanic display and then were entertained with the movie "Superman". Friday started with reviewing the State Plan for 2006-2007. Then Cathy was able to get some good ideas and start planning for the Nutrition Seminar. Later dates and places were chosen for the District Workshops to take place in March and April, 2007. This year we will hold 6 workshops to better serve our members.

One final note, this year SNAI will be lead by a team comprised of President, Diana Weber; President-Elect, Nancy Hogstad; and Vice President, Cathy Gehris. We met several times before this training workshop to set an agenda for the 2 days so that it would be worth your time to attend. I'm hoping this will encourage more people to volunteer because you are not expected to do the job alone.



Nutrition Resources

Looking for MyPyramid posters? Information to help you plan your school wellness policy?

- **MyPyramid posters**
Cost is \$1.00 plus shipping.
- **MyPyramid teepad** with MyPyramid on front and suggested servings on back.
Cost is \$3.00 per pad plus shipping.
- **School Wellness Tool Kit** – a comprehensive tool kit for school wellness policies. Contact us for a free kit, or view the kit (and download it) at www.beefnutrition.org/matehealthyschoolnutrition.aspx
- **Nutrition Web site for kids**– www.zip4tweens.com.
- Fun games – **Appetite Attack**.
- **Calculation Station** – figure out your Pyramid. Yummy recipes and nutrition information.

To order these and other items, contact the Iowa Beef Industry Council. Additional nutrition education resources may be found at www.beefnutrition.org. Go to **Healthy School Nutrition** button on left.

Phone: 515-296-2305

E-mail: beef@iabeef.org

Web: www.iabeef.org



SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION

DATES TO REMEMBER

Date	Events and Meeting	Location
October 9-13	National School Lunch Week	
October 20	SNA Fall Executive Board Meeting	West Des Moines Learning Center
October 28	Statewide Nutrition Seminar	Marshalltown
November 16	School Board Convention	Des Moines
January 14-16	SNA Industry & Technology Conference	Tucson, Arizona
February 16	SNA Executive Board Meeting	West Des Moines Learning Center
March 5-9	National School Breakfast Week	
March 4-7	Legislative Action Conference	Washington D. C.
June 18-20	SNA Iowa Conference	Dubuque, Iowa
July 15-18	SNA Annual Conference	Chicago, Illinois

Date	Association Deadlines	Contact
December 1	Letters of Intent for Louise Sublette Award due	Diana Weber
December 15	Winter FLASH report deadlines	Suzu Ketelsen
March 1	Heart of the Program entries due	Diana Weber
March 1	Outstanding Director of the Year entries due	Diana Weber
March 1	Louise Sublette Entries due	Diana Weber
March 15	Heart of the Program state winner due	Teresa Nece
March 15	Louise Sublette state winner due	Teresa Nece
March 15	Outstanding Director of the Year state winner due	Teresa Nece
March 16	Spring FLASH report deadlines	Suzu Ketelsen



**(It's your secret weapon
against obesity.)**

Jennie-O Turkey Store's Commodity Processing Program makes it easy for you to deliver nutritious, delicious food to all your kids. Call your local broker today to learn how to efficiently add turkey, the low-in-fat protein, to your menu!

Doherty Food Marketing

Bob Collin

Beth Wick

(515) 255-1285

Or visit our website:

www.jennieofoodservice.com/schools

Be a Hero. Serve Turkey.

www.k12foodservice.com



© 2006 Jennie-O Turkey Store Sales, LLC

ServSafe Essential Training

Food Safety Training Is Smart, Necessary, Affordable and Convenient.*Become ServSafe Certified in 2006. Food safety training for your entire staff is smart business! Proper and consistent training protects your business, your employees and your customers. The simplest, most convenient and affordable way to accomplish this, and to protect your business is to have your managers and kitchen staff attend and successfully pass the ServSafe Manager's Certification program. The Iowa Restaurant Association (IRA) and Kirkwood Community College are sponsoring this ServSafe(r) program.

Time: 8:30 - 4:30 PM
Date: Sunday, November 12, 2006
Section #: CFFO-970-SLI01
Tuition: \$79.00, Members of the Iowa Restaurant Association
Tuition: \$129.00, Non -member
Location: Gritter Room, Iowa Hall
Instructor: Eileen O'Toole

Or

Time: 8:30 - 4:30 PM
Date: Sunday, December 3, 2006
Section #: CFFO-970-SLI02
Location: Amana Room, Iowa Hall
Instructor: Eileen O'Toole

Register by Phone:

Call 398-1022 or toll-free 1-800-332-8833 between 8 am and 4:30 PM any weekday. Have the section number of the class and your social security number or student identification number available.

You may CHARGE your tuition to your Visa, MasterCard or Discover Card.



Wellness Solutions

Because you're not the only one concerned about nutrition and health. Reinhart FoodService is, too. Our Nutrition Services department has created several tools for schools and camps to assist you in addressing the needs of your students.

Reinhart's registered dietitians and corporate chef are just a call or e-mail away. Contact us at 888-711-4020, ext. 481, 464 or 805 or e-mail us at qadep@reinhartfoodservice.com. Don't forget to check www.reinhartfoodservice.com regularly for new products and recipe ideas.



Call us Today!

Cedar Rapids Division
4100 44th Ave. SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404
800-332-8170



Alliance for a Healthier Generation / Soft Drink Industry Guidelines:

An Opportunity for Improving Students' Access to Healthy Beverages in Schools

In May 2006, the Alliance for a Healthier Generation (a joint initiative of the American Heart Association and the William J. Clinton Foundation) announced an industry agreement with Cadbury Schweppes, Coca-Cola, PepsiCo, and the American Beverage Association to establish new guidelines that will voluntarily remove high calorie soft drinks from all schools and limit beverage portion sizes and calories available to children during the school day. Under these guidelines, only lower calorie or nutritious beverages will be sold to schools by the participating soft drink companies.

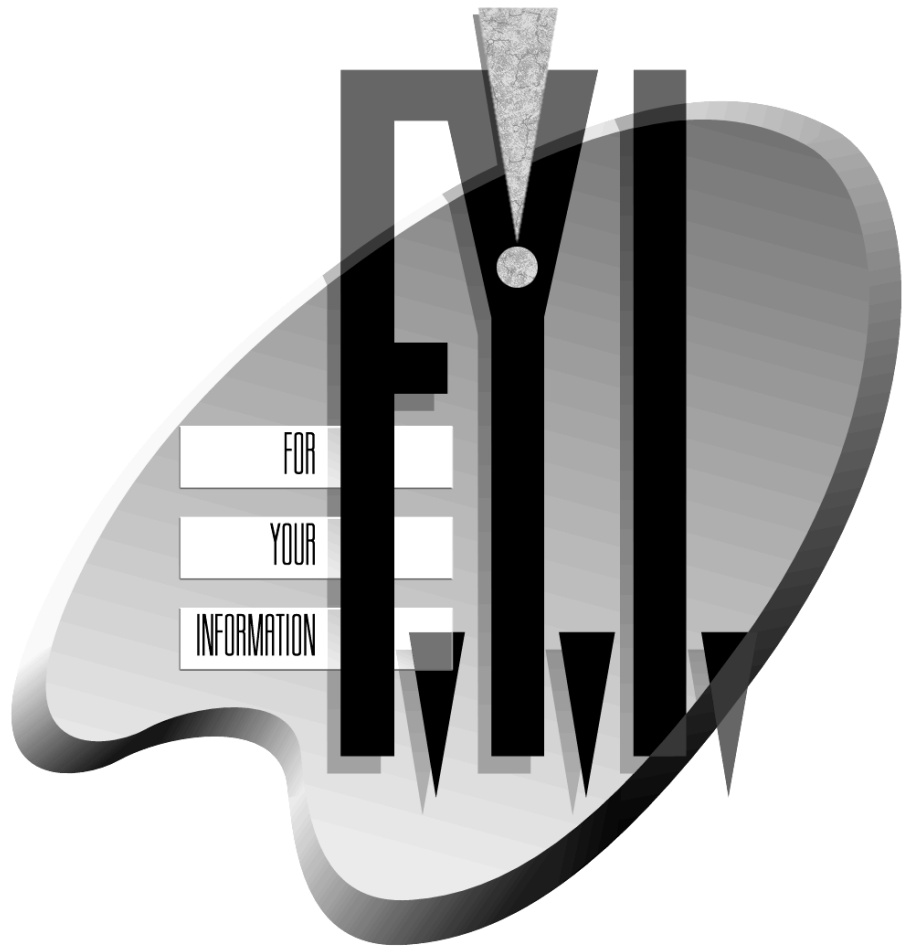
With the removal of non-diet soft drinks from schools, there may be an increased opportunity for offering nutritious beverages including milk and 100% fruit juices in schools through vending and other school venues. The guidelines are a voluntary set of standards that the soft drink industry has agreed to implement in their school marketing programs. Keep in mind that the limitations on serving sizes of milk and 100% fruit juice in the soft drink industry guidelines are not binding on any school or district.

Points of Clarification

- The soft drink industry guidelines were not developed and have not been endorsed by any official government entity, such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Instead, the guidelines reflect a voluntary agreement between the Alliance for a Healthier Generation and the soft drink companies.
- These soft drink industry guidelines direct beverage company practices not school districts. The guidelines are not binding on any school or district. They will primarily affect vending and a la carte sales, not the main school meal line.
- According to the federal wellness policy legislation*, schools must set individual goals for nutrition standards for all foods available on each school campus. School districts must adhere to any binding state legislation/regulations in doing so, but otherwise they have the sole authority to determine which standards they will apply in their district.
- The same law that created the wellness policy requirement also reaffirmed the longstanding mandate to offer milk with all school meals, and specifically called on schools to offer "a variety of fat levels," as well as providing that schools can always offer milk anytime anywhere on school property and at school events. The 2005 Dietary Guidelines encourage low-fat and non-fat dairy products but do not exclude the consumption of other fat varieties of dairy products.

If you are interested in offering milk through vending or in other school venues, contact your local dairy council. To find your local dairy council, go to http://www.nutritionexplorations.org/utility/findDC_a-l.asp.

* The Federal Child Nutrition and Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Reauthorization Act of 2004 mandates that any school district participating in a federal school meal program adopt a policy on student wellness. This law says that school districts must set goals for nutrition education, physical activity, all foods sold on campus and other school-based activities designed to promote student wellness. Additionally, districts are required to involve a broad group of individuals in policy development and to have a plan for measuring policy implementation.



Did You Know....

1. **Zartic** processes all four proteins?
2. **Zartic** is processing under the Standard Yield program for Chicken & Turkey?
3. **Zartic** is processing under the Guaranteed Return Program on Commodity Beef and Pork?
4. **Zartic** Commodity products are “Heat and Serve?”
5. **Zartic** offers the Net Off Invoice / Pass Thru Value Program?
6. **Zartic’s** SYL labeled product has a commercial equivalent?
7. **Zartic** participates in the National Contract with the USDA?
8. **Zartic** offers Commodity tracking through K12Foodservice.com?

Contact your Zartic Rep for more details

Walter Finn

Michael Carter

K12 Regional Manager K12 Reporting Coord.

800-241-0516 ext. 3177 800-241-0516 ext. 3253

wfynn@zartic.com

mcarter@zartic.com

FLASH Deadlines

Please submit your articles or photos for publication in the next FLASH:

Electronic submissions are preferred. Please send to sketelsen@cr.k12.ia.us

Otherwise:

Food and Nutrition Department
615 G Avenue NW
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52405

Deadlines are:

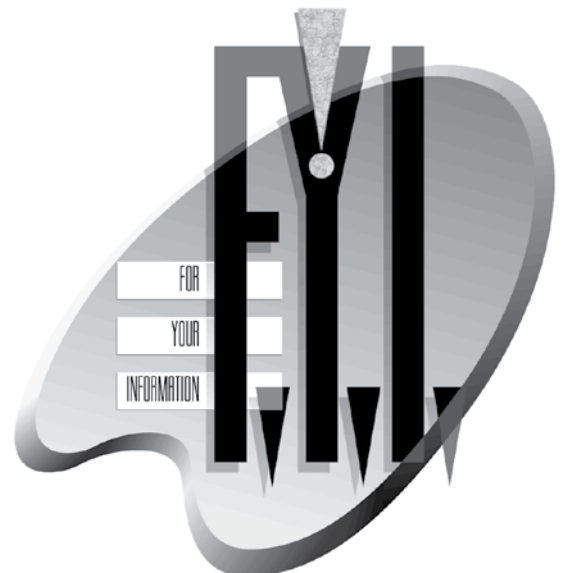
Winter Issue – December 15, 2006
Spring Issue – March 16, 2007

Continuing Education Prior Approval Chairperson

Contact Cheryl for prior approval on continuing education sessions. Forms are available on the web or contact her.

PRIOR APPROVAL

Cheryl Spring
Nutrition Services
5608 Merle Hay Road
P.O. Box 10
Johnston, IA 50131
Work phone: 515-278-0278
Home phone: 515-334-0244
Fax: 515-278-6303
cspring@johnston.k12.ia.us



Election 2006 and Beyond!

By now you are aware of the election races in Iowa. Whether it is the governor's race, U.S. House races, the 100 Iowa House seats, or the 25 Iowa Senate seats, the battle is on. Are you taking an active part in the future of Iowa and the United States?

With the nation's most closely divided Legislature up for grabs and the battle for Terrace Hill rated a toss-up, the choices Iowa voters make on Election Day could have an impact on the future of schools, taxes, and the direction Iowa moves in the next decade. According to Tim Storey, a senior fellow and political analyst for the National Conference of State Legislatures, Iowa's a place where both parties have a legitimate shot at controlling either or both houses and the governor's race. Currently, the Senate has 25 members from each party, while the Republicans outnumber the Democrats by just two in the House.

You should find out where your candidates stand on current issues so you can be an informed voter. What issues? Does the candidate have an opinion on foods sold at school or financial support for school meals? If they want to spend more money on education, what does that mean for the school meals programs? What about health care as insurance premiums are costing foodservice programs more each year? Is minimum wage an issue for you? Where do they stand on corn-based ethanol?

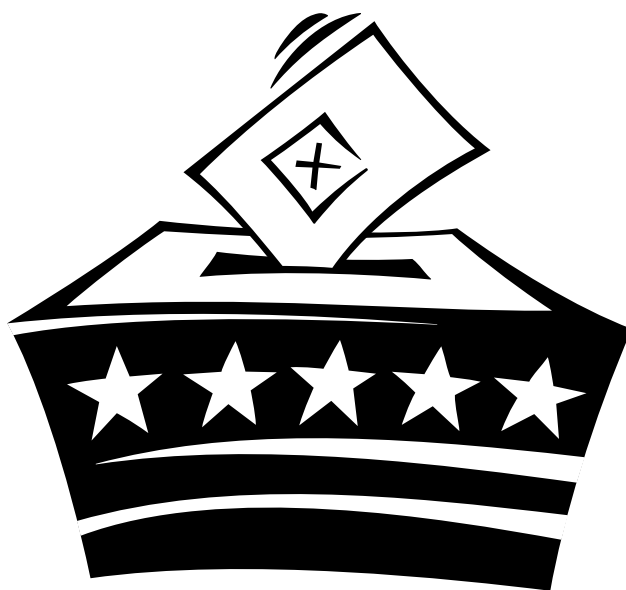
At the National level there are two highly contested races in Iowa. If you are in Congressional District 1 or 3, have you asked the candidates about support for school meals? It is important to find out where the candidates stand.

Turning to current legislation in Washington, DC, SNA members and friends of child nutrition are asked to support the Child Nutrition Promotion and School Lunch Protection Act (S. 2592/H.R. 5167). The legislation would update and strengthen the nutrition standards for foods and beverages sold in the school environment outside the federal school meals programs. The Child Nutrition Promotion and School Lunch Protection Act:

1. Expands the authority of the USDA and federal nutrition guidelines to cover foods and beverages available on school campuses during the entire school day – not just in the cafeteria during the lunch period.
2. Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to revise the definition of food of minimal nutritional value (FNMV).

Senator Harkin (D-IA) introduced the legislation in April 2006 and currently 12 bi-partisan Senators have signed onto the bill. In the House of Representatives, 27 Members (22 Democrats and 5 Republicans) have co-sponsored. Please fax or email your Members of Congress to say Thank-you if they have already signed on or ask for their support by becoming a co-sponsor.

Remember, it's important to get involved. These elections may change the legislative direction of the state including financial or moral support for child nutrition programs.



SPRING DISTRICT WORKSHOPS

