SNAC Bites
May 2020 Edition

Welcome to the May 2020 issue of SNA Communication (SNAC) Bites! SNAC Bites highlights new SNA programs and news, and provides content for your state association publications, chapter meetings and social media channels. In some cases, the content will need to be customized for your state association’s needs, should you decide to use the below stories.

Here are this month’s headlines:

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1. Annual National Conference
SNAC continues to monitor the pandemic situation very closely and is engaged in ongoing discussions with the Gaylord Opryland Resort concerning the effect of the pandemic on the ability to host ANC in July and SNA’s contractual obligations. The safety of our members, attendees, exhibitors, participants and staff is our highest priority. We appreciate your understanding and patience during this unprecedented and unpredictable time and will continue to keep members, exhibitors and speakers updated.

2. Stay Connected with SNA—Update Your E-mail Address Today!
Thank you for all the hard work that you do to ensure America’s children are still fed during COVID-19. As a valued SNA member, we want to ensure you are receiving all the latest COVID-19 information. If you are not receiving emails or would like to update your preferred address, please try the following:

1. Check your spam/junk folder
2. Log on to MyAccount at www.schoolnutrition.org to verify or update your email address and mailing preferences

Still not getting emails or need help switching your mailing preferences? Contact SNA at servicecenter@schoolnutrition.org for questions about staying connected.
3. Directors: We Need You to Participate in SNA’s Latest Survey
As part of SNA’s ongoing advocacy for SNA members, students and school meal programs, SNA is conducting a survey with directors to capture the most current data on the impact of COVID-19 closures. You should have received an email from the School Nutrition Association last week with a unique link to take the survey. We encourage you to participate in this brief survey to assist in our efforts to advocate for school nutrition programs across the country. Please complete the survey by COB Friday, May 8.

4. SNA Continues to Provide the Most Up-to-Date Information Regarding COVID-19
SNA is continuing to monitor the COVID-19 response as we communicate with the USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service and Congress. Please be advised this is all fluid and changing so be sure to rely on your state agencies, local guidance, and decision-makers in your district for what plans are appropriate in your community. Visit our Coronavirus Member Resources webpage for the latest updates and information. Please remember to stay safe during this time.

5. School Nutrition Foundation Help Feed School Kids Now! GoFundMe Grants
The School Nutrition Foundation established the GoFundMe campaign Help Feed School Kids Now! In order to help support the essential school nutrition professionals across the country still working during the COVID-19 crisis. This application is open to both members and non-members. We have awarded our first six grants, congratulations to the following school districts:

- Jennifer Al-Saeed, Riverway Learning Community School District, Minnesota
- Sarena Glenn, Wichita Falls Independent School District, Texas
- Mayelin Lora-Williams, South Bend School District, Indiana
- Vincent Palmiero, Marlboro School District, New Jersey
- Cindy Smith, Bluffview Montessori School #4001, Minnesota
- Morgan Stasik, Beech Grove City Schools, Indiana

In addition to the cash award, winners will also receive two Innoseal Professional Sealing machines to assist them in their meal preparation and service. Co-owner Jeff Rebh said his company wanted to help school nutrition professionals who are feeding children out of school due to COVID-19 closures. Innoseal is donating 250 Professional Sealing machines to the Help Feed School Meals Now! efforts. If your school district is interested in applying, follow this link to submit your grant application today!

6. Considering Diversity and Inclusion During a Pandemic
It’s not easy to maintain a healthy mindset during a pandemic. For those working out in the field, there may be the added stress of interactions with parents who are picking up meals, or new volunteers with different worldviews. Gone unchecked, your team members can start to feel underappreciated or even hostile during this time of crisis.

Join us Wednesday, May 6, for The Inclusion Breakthrough: A New Paradigm for Managing Diversity and Leveraging Inclusion as Georgetown Professor, Ella Washington, PhD., focuses on ways to check in with your team and specifically concentrate on how team leaders should consider differences in race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, socio-economic status or physical disability. Explore questions you can be asking your team, so they know their voices are being heard, which ultimately creates a healthier mindset.
Then join us on May 13, to hear from four school nutrition directors who are currently navigating food distribution and supply chain constraints. They will share how they are managing to still serve healthy fruits and vegetables in their districts. Also hear from a processing plant on their current perspective in Produce in a Pandemic: Providing Children with Fresh Fruits and Vegetables During COVID-19 School Closures.

We are striving to continue to bring relevant content during this time. Please visit our On-Demand Covid-19 Series Webinars page for topics designed to support the work you are doing.

7. SNA Launches New Weekly Wrap-Up Series
How are school nutrition programs feeding students during COVID-19? On Friday afternoons, join us for the newly released SNA Weekly Wrap Up Series featuring an SNA member and SEA Level Social’s Liz Roesel. Weekly episodes can be viewed on the SNA Facebook page or YouTube channel. From unexpected success stories such as serving 300,000+ meals at emergency sites, to gaining new partnerships, you do not want to miss out on the latest episodes featuring SNA members representing districts in Arizona, California, and Texas!

8. SNA Advocates for Funding to Offset Losses
On Monday, April 27th, SNA joined 37 allied organizations in a letter to the U.S. House and Senate Appropriations Committees advocating for funding to help offset financial losses for school meal programs due to COVID-19 closures. The letter urges Congress to provide $2.6 billion to mitigate a portion of the estimated, significant loss that school nutrition programs have and will continue to experience. Read the complete letter.

9. USDA Announces New Waiver for School Meal Programs During COVID-19
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is working to provide flexibilities through nationwide waivers to allow SFAs to continue meal service during COVID-19 school closures. For a complete list of nationwide waivers and FNS actions to respond to COVID-19, visit USDA’s resources webpage.

10. SNA and United Fresh Partner to Assist Schools with Produce Needs
SNA and United Fresh Produce Association, the national association representing the fresh produce industry, have partnered to connect produce distributors to school foodservice authorities requesting single-serve, individually wrapped produce as part of their COVID-19 meal distributions. Read more in SNA’s press release.

11. DGA Committee Draft Report Meeting and Final Systematic Review Protocols
The 2020 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee’s schedule has been extended by one month, in consideration of new demands on Committee members’ schedules due to COVID-19. The Committee will now present its draft report via webcast on June 8, 2020. Registration opens in May. Public comments are due by June 1, 2020. The 2020 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee’s final systematic review protocols are now posted online.

12. SNA Comments and Federal Register Notices
SNA monitors the Federal Register for notices impacting school nutrition programs including recent Proposed, Interim, and Final Rules, and changes to existing Rules. Check for updates, including SNA comments, and share your comments on SNA’s Action Network.
13. Federal Court Rules on School Meal Flexibility Suit
The federal district court in Maryland ruled in a lawsuit challenging USDA’s 2018 Final Rule Child Nutrition Programs: Flexibilities for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Requirements. The ruling effectively strikes down the Final Rule and sends it back to USDA for further action. Read more in SNA’s press release.

14. New School Meal Bills Introduced
All school nutrition-related bills and legislation can be found on SNA’s Action Network. Three (3) new Federal bills impacting school nutrition programs were introduced in April 2020:

- Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN5) has introduced H.R. 6430, the Suspend School Meal Debt Act which formally suspends the collection of all meal debt until the conclusion of COVID-19 pandemic.
- Rep. Jahana Hayes (D-CT5) introduced H.R 6445, the Food Assistance for Kids and Families During COVID-19 Act. This bill would modify nutrition programs to address the Coronavirus; specifically, it would protect access to food through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and The Emergency Feeding Assistance Program (TEFAP).
- Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN4) introduced H.R. 266, the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act providing $484 billion to replenish a small business lending program and support hospitals and COVID-19 testing. The bill includes an additional $310 billion in funding for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).

15. SNA Urges USDA to Restore School Meal Flexibilities
In a letter to USDA, SNA emphasized the Court’s findings that the Final Rule was “not inconsistent” with federal statute and that “USDA used its expertise to balance the nutrition science in the Dietary Guidelines with the practical considerations of implementation.” SNA also highlighted the urgency of preserving these flexibilities given COVID-19 procurement challenges and the financial impact of closures on school meal programs. Read more in SNA’s press release.

16. School Nutrition Publishes the Second Article in its COVID-19 Digital Series
From nonprofit organizations to law enforcement officers, funeral homes to farms, school nutrition operators have forged meaningful partnerships during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through these connections, they are ensuring a hunger safety net for their community remains in place.

A newly released digital extra from School Nutrition, and the second installment in the series, “Getting Through This Together,” looks at how school foodservice teams are finding support from outside stakeholders nationwide.

In fact, operators are encouraged not just to wait for partners to come to them, but to reach out and seek opportunities that will prove to be helpful resources after the crisis has passed.
The digital supplements are part of the magazine’s mission to provide relevant articles pertaining to the COVID-19 crisis in between print editions. Each month, we will publish additional online content. Stay tuned for the next supplemental article in early May.

Providing you with science-based research and applicable information, the spring edition of the Journal of Child Nutrition & Management is available for viewing. Published twice yearly, this recent edition has articles on the impact of "smarter" lunchroom programs, the selection of fruits and vegetables by children, farm-to-school solutions and much more. Read the issue of JCN&M today!