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## August-September 2022 Newsletter

# Healthy Bites

### In this issue:

- **President's Welcome**
- **Industry Seminar**
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- **PPL Corner**
- **FAME Awards**
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- **Thank You**

### SAVE THE DATES:

- **CSNA Industry Seminar**  
Oct 26-28, 2022
- **CSNA Summer Conf**  
June 12-14, 2023

Hello Colorado School Nutrition Association Membership~

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your CNSA President for the 2022-2023 school year! I am excited to serve and ready to put the needs of our members and our association first. My journey to the presidency has been a long one. My first service opportunity came as I served on the CSNA Industry Committee. After a few years growing as a committee member and ultimately leading what was then called, "The Chef's Challenge," I definitely knew I wanted to serve this association in even more ways. I then was lucky enough to serve as Treasurer for three years, Vice President and President Elect. Each of those roles helped me grow my skills, knowledge and ultimately my passion to lead our association.

Over the course of this year, the CSNA Governing Board will be working on the third and final plan of action from our three-year Strategic Plan. We have several areas of focus, but the highlights include:

- Strengthen our association through strategic planning, timeline and role development
- Engage our members through events, scholarship and volunteer opportunities
- Expand partnerships with allied groups and stakeholders
- Develop a resource center to support our chapters
- Continue our advocacy and public policy efforts

As with every year and with every plan of action, there will be times we will be tested in our capacity, adaptability, flexibility, and creativity. As an association full of diverse collaborators, I know we will overcome this by using shared successes, opportunities, and solutions to strengthen ourselves and our association. I look forward to an exciting year of new challenges and adventures ahead!

Finally, as Presidents before me have said, I am so honored to be part of CSNA. Personally, one thing I love about our association is the personal and professional relationships that are fostered within our membership. Colorado really is a bright spot in our nation. Let's continue to be cooperative, inclusive and let our differences and shared understandings unite us! Here's to a great year in serving the students of Colorado!

Sincerely,

*Molly Brandt*

Molly Brandt, RD, SNS  
2022-23 CSNA President





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# CSNA

## INDUSTRY SEMINAR 2022

**Don't miss out! Register today!**

You won't want to miss this event that will take place October 26-28, 2022 in Beaver Creek, CO. This year's theme will be 'It's the Climb' and promises to be full of engaging activities, laughter and partnership building.

Highlights in the agenda include:

- A welcome reception to reconnect with colleagues and partners.
- Intriguing general sessions full of information and ideas.
- Tabletop experiences and flash networking.
- Team building challenges.
- A silent auction to support the CSNA scholarship fund.
- Dueling pianos.
- Humor and wellness to soothe the soul.

We can't wait to convene with you in the beautiful mountains this fall. See you there!

Full details on [CSNA's Website](#). Hotel block open through Sept 26, 2022

**DISTRICT REGISTRATION**

**VENDOR REGISTRATION**





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## CDE RURAL SUMMITS

The child nutrition rural summits are a training and networking event for school food service directors, managers and staff operating child nutrition programs in Colorado. Events will be hosted in Northeast and Southeast Colorado and sponsors from all regions are welcome. This event will provide opportunities for staff to engage with one another, learn new skills and discuss innovative ideas for program improvements and overcoming challenges. Funds are available for individuals/groups that require financial support to attend. Register your team today on Eventbrite!

[Southeast Region – October 14, 2022 at Otero College \(La Junta, CO\)](#)

[Northeast Region – October 21, 2022 at Northeastern Junior College \(Sterling, CO\)](#)

YOU'RE INVITED

## School Nutrition Rural Summits



JOIN CHILD NUTRITION PROFESSIONALS  
FROM YOUR REGION FOR A DAY OF TRAINING  
AND NETWORKING. REGISTRATION IS FREE  
AND ALL FOODSERVICE STAFF ARE WELCOME!





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# PPL Corner

## Healthy School Meals for All

### Proposition FF

Colorado House Bill (HB) 1414 created a ballot initiative for November 2022 (Proposition FF) to provide meals at no cost to Colorado students while also providing additional support to districts for local procurement and employee salary stipends. CSNA is excited to support this initiative and below is an overview of the initiative and what it means for school nutrition in CO.

- If approved by voters in November, districts will choose to opt-in to the program or not.
- If participating, a district will be able to provide breakfast and lunch meals at no cost to all students starting in school year 2023-24.
  - ◇ All eligible meals will be reimbursed to the district at the federal free reimbursement rate— either through federal reimbursement or using funds from this state initiative program.
  - ◇ Districts must maximize federal reimbursement by participating in Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) at all sites that are eligible.
    - \*Using this program a district may be operating CEP district-wide, at some sites or not at all depending on the district.
    - \*Free and Reduced meal applications must still be collected at all sites not participating in CEP.
    - \*Colorado has applied to participate in the Medicaid Demonstration Project which would allow for Medicaid eligibility to be used for Direct Certification. As soon as this data is available, it will be used to determine sites eligible for CEP – likely increasing the number of sites eligible due to higher numbers of students in Direct Certification.
  - ◇ All eligible meals that are not reimbursed at the federal free rate through CEP, Direct Certification, or by income application will be reimbursed to the district using state funds.
    - \*State programs such as Smart Start Breakfast and the Lunch Protection Act will still pay the reduced-price copay.
- This program will be funding by limiting Colorado income tax deductions for those earning over \$300,000 per year. For single filers, the deductions will be limited to \$12,000 and for households, the deduction is limited to \$16,000. This is estimated to raise approximately \$101,000,000 per year.
- Additional programs will begin in school year 2024-25.

You may follow progress and see opportunities to get involved here : <https://www.yesonff.org/>

If you have questions about this measure, please don't hesitate to contact Erika Edwards, CSNA PPL Chair at [Erika.edwards@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:Erika.edwards@jeffco.k12.co.us).



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# FAME AWARDS

## Nominations accepted through Sept 23

### BASIC AMERICAN FOODS 34TH ANNUAL FAME AWARDS PROGRAM CALLS FOR NOMINATIONS

Basic American Foods Foodservice Achievement Management Excellence (FAME) Awards program opens its call for nominations of deserving school nutrition professionals. Nominations from across the industry will be taken online at [baffoodservice.com/fame-awards](http://baffoodservice.com/fame-awards) from August 1, 2022 through September 23, 2022.

“School foodservice consists of the hardest working, kindest, most creative people in the foodservice business, and we couldn’t be more excited to help reward these special, one-of-a-kind humans,” shares Deniece Ledin with Basic American Foods.

Eligible nominees include members of the School Nutrition Association that are in good standing with the industry. Four categories will be awarded including one Gold Award for School Foodservice Director of the Year and three Silver Awards – Leadership, Spirit, and Rising Star. The selection committee is made up of 2022 FAME Awards winners, the School Nutrition Association President and industry media partners. For ideas on the type of school nutritional professional to nominate, watch the [inspirational videos of the 2022 winners](#).

The annual FAME Awards event honoring excellence among school nutrition professionals will be held during the School Nutrition Industry Conference in January 2023. Take this opportunity to nominate and recognize a deserving school nutrition professional today.



*Winning the FAME Award to me means I get the privilege, the honor, and blessing to represent school nutrition super heroes across this country.*

*-Shannon Solomon, 2022 Rising Star Award Winner*





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# Get to Know Your CSNA Board

## CSNA Vice President

### Sarah Blaida

Welcome to our latest newsletter feature: *Get to Know Your CSNA Gov Board*

We are excited to get to know our current CSNA Vice President Sarah Blaida!

#### Q&A with Sarah



**What is your role within your district?**

Nutrition Services Operations Manager at Adams 12 Five Star Schools

**What is your educational background?**

Registered Dietitian by trade, attended a small school in Minnesota for my undergraduate and completed my dietetic internship at Iowa State University!

**Family?** Engaged to Matt, who I met in college, and we have a black and white Goldendoodle named Hank!! I am also an Aunt to Frank, Bernadette, and George who I love dearly! I am from the Chicagoland area, where my parents still live!

**How long have you been a member of CSNA and what roles have you held?**

I have been a member of CSNA since 2018. I was a member of the PPL committee prior to running for VP last year.

**Where was your first CSNA Conference/Event? What was memorable about it?**

My first CNSA conference was also my most memorable! I attended the Summer Conference in Loveland, CO in 2018 for my very first day of work at Adams 12! I had arrived in Denver the weekend prior with Matt, his mom, and full U-Haul and was thrown right into the CSNA world by helping Jodi at the Registration desk within the first 20 minutes! It was a whirlwind 2 days of learning about our state association, how Adams 12 operated and meeting coworkers and vendors. That was also when I knew I wanted to become a part of CSNA and get involved!

**What is the food whose appeal is lost on you?** Cheeseburgers!! I have tried to love a good cheeseburger but I just never enjoy them, no matter the toppings! I am a true Chicagoan so a hot dog is always my go-to summer BBQ item!

**What skill would you most like to learn?** I want to learn to speak Japanese! I have always found the language to be incredibly beautiful and Matt and I are planning to visit Japan soon so I would love to be able to communicate using their language.

**If you could have any career outside school nutrition and income was not an issue, what would it be?** I would own a flower and plant boutique! If you know me, you know I love plants and always have fresh flowers in my house!

**What is something that always makes you smile?** A summer boat ride at sunset! Some of my best memories with my family growing up are on a boat in Minnesota and always a stop at Dairy Queen on the water! Just thinking about that brings a smile to my face!



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## **National School Lunch Week**

**Oct 10-14, 2022**

### **Download #NSLW22 Resources (Including the Brand-New Toolkit!)**

National School Lunch Week is right around the corner—are you ready to celebrate "Peace, Love and School Lunch"? Use the resources that SNA has created to help you share what's special about school lunches, including:

**NEW:** [The official #NSLW22 toolkit](#), available exclusively to SNA members!

[The official #NSLW22 logo and artwork](#)

[Colorful social media graphics](#)

[Themed coloring and activity sheets for students](#)

Don't forget to enter the [#NSLW22 Contest](#)! Share your plans, and you'll be entered to win one of three SNA Shop gift cards.



# CSNA 2022-23 Industry Members

Thank you for Investing in CSNA

Trustee Members





# CSNA 2022-23 Industry Members

Thank you for Investing in CSNA

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