



COLORADO  
SCHOOL  
NUTRITION  
ASSOCIATION

Feeding Bodies. Fueling Minds.™

## December 22 -January 23 Newsletter

# Healthy Bites

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### SAVE THE DATES:

- CSNA Summer Conf  
June 12-14, 2023  
Pueblo, CO
- CSNA Industry Seminar  
October 25-27, 2023  
Westin Riverfront

### Letter from the President

The new year is in full swing already and while we look forward to the upcoming year and all that it will bring with free meals for all, I want to take a pause. It is important to be mindful and intentional about our personal health.

Here are some January reminders to stay grounded in:

#### **You can do anything, but not everything at the same time.**

As school nutrition professionals, we can reach capacity quickly. Remember to evaluate, prioritize and delegate.

**You don't have to have everything figured out today.** Remember to take time to think. As professionals we don't do this enough. It is during our silent moments that the best ideas come. Schedule "focus time" in advance so you can have time to think, reflect and bring clarity.

As an association I wanted to mention just a few things that CSNA should be very proud of

- Colorado voters passed Proposition FF to provide free meals for all. Although overwhelming at times, this is a huge step forward in feeding the future of our state. We've got this Colorado!
- Colorado was 1 of 4 states that won SNA's Fall Membership Drive. Congratulations as it was a tight race to the finish line!
- CSNA hosted our Industry Seminar in October. We welcomed 44 District Directors, just over 60 Industry Partners and raised over \$5000 for our CSNA Scholarship Fund. It was a fantastic 2 days of networking and information sharing and of course a fair share of laughs!
- Summer Conference planning is underway for June 2023. We are excited to move down to the southern part of our beautiful state and explore Pueblo, Colorado. The new convention center and riverwalk area will be the perfect setting for our conference and exhibit hall.

It is a pleasure to serve our association. I am beyond proud about what we have accomplished and excited about what the future has to hold. Keep dreaming because anything is possible!

Sincerely—Molly Brandt, RD, SNS

2022-2023 CSNA President





# SAVE THE DATE

## CSNA SUMMER 2023



## SAVE THE DATE!

CSNA Summer Conference registration will opening Mid Feb for Industry Partners and early March for Districts! Registration will be online and linked on our website conference page.

We can not wait to see you all there as we focus on Blazing the Trail for 2023. The passing of Prop FF, Healthy Schools for All, will bring some changes to our programs. You will not want to miss this conference and the education sessions that will be held focusing on the new local regulations and opportunities.

Frank Kitchen—"The Mindset Master Chef" will be joining us to present our keynote. Frank will teach his proven recipe for transforming your professional aspirations into reality and breaking through mental barriers to cook up Professional Dreams!

We are excited to be taking the conference down south this year and explore all that Pueblo, Co offers.

**Monday, June 12th:** Precons, SNS Exam, Servsafe

**Tuesday, June 13th:** Education Sessions (tracks for Director/Supervisor and On-Site Manager/Employee), Keynote, Dinner and One Plate Premier, Evening Entertainment

**Wednesday, June 14th:** Exhibit Hall, Education Sessions



# CSNA ELECTION OF OFFICERS 2023

## Candidate for Vice President: Anna Meza



**Current Position:** Operations Specialist, Greeley Evans District 6

**Education/Credentials:** Associate of Arts - Advanced Culinary Arts; Front Range

Community College; Certificates: Event Planning, Culinary Arts Management, Hotel Operations Management ; SNS Credentialed

**Leadership Positions Held:** Current CSNA Director Supervisor Rep; CSNA Conference & Education Chair 2020-2022; WCS D6 Classified Council Representative; CSNA Conf & Ed Member 2018-2020; CSNA Employee Manager Rep 2016-2017; CSNA Membership & Marketing Committee Member 2016-2018

### Leadership Experience and Skills that will enable me to make a strong contribution to the association

I am grateful for the opportunities presented by the school nutrition professionals in Greeley-Evans SD6 and CSNA. I have pursued a career in school nutrition, starting as a Roving Substitute and part-time employee ten years ago. Leaders in Greeley have encouraged me to continuously take on new challenges- from kitchen manager to trainer; and now, as the Operations Specialist, allowing me to hire and onboard all of our employees. This wouldn't have been possible if I had not been encouraged and guided by the School Nutrition Association.

I received my Associate of Applied Science in Advanced Culinary Arts through Front Range Community College- alongside many hospitality certificates; and followed that by receiving my School Nutrition Specialist a year later. Working for Nutrition Services and receiving my degree concurrently gave me a foundational belief that School Nutrition is an incredible career that provides boundless opportunities for personal growth and professional development. It's my mission in D6 to ensure that we provide incredible work opportunities to the adults in our community while providing nutritious and delicious meals to our students.

I want to ensure that CSNA is seen as the leading expert in school nutrition and utilized as a resource and partner for other hunger organizations. Whether it's through hosting SNS study sessions, embracing my tenure as the Conference and Education Committee Chair, or attending learning sessions at our conferences, it's been the time of my life to be encouraged to share my passion for feeding students (and employing their family members!), with School Nutrition Professionals everywhere.

I am proud to bring my passion to CSNA in any position and am so grateful to have your consideration for the position of Vice President. It would be an honor to serve every one of you by being the voice of the CSNA.



## GOALS

1. Encourage Committee membership and leadership opportunities to rural districts for a better understanding of how CSNA can support.
2. Increase opportunities to share best practices in our ever changing regulatory environment.
3. Encourage membership to increase involvement and voice in state and national policy and legislation to ensure that we are School Nutrition Professionals are heard as the leading experts in our field.



## CSNA ELECTION OF OFFICERS 2023

### Candidate for Treasurer: Katie Cossette, MDA, RDN, SNS



**Current Position:** Director of Nutrition Services & Warehouse, St. Vrain Valley Schools

**Education/Credentials:** Masters in Dietetics Administration– Utah State Univ, BS in Culinary Nutrition– Johnson & Wales Univ.; SNS Credentialed; SNS Certification

**Leadership Positions Held:** 2021-2023 CSNA Membership, Fundraising & Marketing Chair, 2016-2021 member of CSNA Conference and Education Committee; Culinary Nutrition Advisory Committee– Johnson & Wales

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### Leadership Experience and Skills that will enable me to make a strong contribution to the association

I believe that I am uniquely qualified to understand and excel with respect to the business and financial responsibilities of the position. With me I bring 3 years of higher education in finance and leadership resulting in an MDA. During that time, I was the Director of Nutrition Services for Englewood Schools and was named as the 2021 Colorado SNA Director of the Year. As the Director, I was responsible for managing all aspects of the department, including the accounting and financial reporting. Currently, I work for St Vrain Valley School District (SVVSD) as the Director of Nutrition Services & Warehouse. Within that role I manage 10 administrative employees and over 200 department employees, oversee the procurement and allocation of resources, budget and manage all revenue for our meal programs, and have leveraged technologies to find cost reducing solutions to our department. I believe my education and experience provides a solid base necessary to effectively and efficiently fulfill the responsibilities of CSNA Treasurer. As the CSNA Treasurer, I hope to be able to find ways to utilize funds and resources as efficiently as possible. The role of Treasurer would afford me the opportunities to not only use my expertise to fulfill the requirements of the position, but also to be more involved in an association I truly believe in.



## GOALS

1. Explore new or innovative revenue sources to expand membership benefits
2. Reinforce CSNA's Strategic Plan through aligning fiscal policies and adequate budget forecasting
3. Ensure sustainability and growth of CSNA benefits to members through transparency in financial reporting



# **Get to Know Your CSNA Board**

## **CSNA President Elect**

### **Brandon Durio**

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

We are excited to get to know our current CSNA President Elect, Brandon Durio!

#### **Q&A with Brandon**

**Your current position and start in Child Nutrition?** I started at Cherry Creek School District in February 2013, officially 10 years ago, as the Executive Chef and just this past July, I stepped into my new role as the Coordinator of Operations. Upon starting my career in Child Nutrition, I also started a new pathway by joining CSNA in 2013. Previous to joining CSNA, I was very involved with the Colorado Chefs Association, in which I completed their Culinary Apprenticeship program, sat on their Association and Education Funds Boards, and continued on to receive my Executive Chef Certification through the American Culinary Federation. My culinary journey started with me in my grandparent's kitchen in Arnaudville, Louisiana, where I got to experience true Cajun cooking.



**Family?** All my family still lives in Louisiana, but my heart is with the family that I have created here in Colorado with my supportive wife, my three furry girls, and all the amazing people I am surrounded by in CCSD and CSNA.

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

At my first CSNA Summer Conference, I entered into a Chips and Salsa Competition. I was excited to incorporate some of my culinary techniques with my new knowledge of school food. I made one chip (the grain) filled with an avocado mousse thicken with potatoes (the vegetable) and drizzled it with a cantaloupe gastrique (the fruit), and then I used a spherification technique to make my salsa look like caviar. I was very confident that I was going to impress everyone with my creation. After assembling each chip, I was told that it was a blind tasting completion, and I never got to explain what I made to anyone.

**Who is your dream dinner guest?** Jesus. I have a Crawfish Boil Last Supper picture in my kitchen, and every time I look at it, I wish that I could be at that table.

**What advice would you give your younger self?** Wear ear protection. My other passion is live music, and I am definitely feeling the impact for all the concerts that I attended.

**What is your favorite season?** Any of Louisiana's seasons: Crawfish, Crab, Oyster, and Shrimp...

**What is the greatest accomplishment of your life?** I am still working on it. Every day, I feel like I am achieving my greatest accomplishment being a part of a national group of child nutrition professionals all with the same goal to feed the future.



# **SNA Election 2023**

## **Jessica Gould for Director**

CSNA is thrilled to announce that our very own Jessica Gould, past CSNA President and Director for Littleton Public Schools, is on the ballot for SNA Director Rep. SNA Election will take place Feb 15-28, please take a moment to [VOTE](#).

### Meet Your **SNA DIRECTOR CANDIDATE**

*Jessica Gould*



#### **My Leadership**

Through my experiences in leadership, I have learned to work collaboratively, have confidence in my voice and find consensus within a group. I have had the opportunity to meet many members & believe by listening and learning from those around me helps me better advocate for ALL school nutrition professionals

#### **All About Me...**

I am a director of Nutrition in Littleton, CO. I have served as Colorado SNA president, SNA PPL Chair & been involved in SNA strategic planning. I am a dog mom of 2 crazy pups, avid hiker, amateur gardener & teach yoga

#### **I Hope to Show You...**

That I authentically believe in SNA and the work we do. I am passionate about feeding kids, creating pathways for leadership & growing our membership so SNA can continue being the loudest voice for school nutrition

#### **My Role in D.E.I.A**

It is important to me to prioritize this work & create a community where individuals unique perspectives are celebrated. I am committed to continue learning, have the courage to deepen my understanding & own where I can improve so that together we can grow

*I would love for you to vote for me as Director! Most importantly though, please encourage any SNA member to sign on and cast their vote 2/15 - 2/28.*

*In kindness,  
Jessica*



# 2023 SNA Awards

**NOMINATIONS DUE MARCH 1, 2023**

**H**onor a colleague by nominating them for an SNA award! There are SNA awards to recognize every member type:

- Employee of the Year Award
- Manager of the Year Award, in honor of Louise Sublette
- Director of the Year Award

It's now easier than ever to recognize a school nutrition colleague by nominating them for an SNA Award!

- No certificate requirement for Employee and Manager of the Year
- No requirements for a certificate, SNS credential or service on a committee or board for Director of the Year
- Membership requirement for Director of the Year is now 3 years
- Applications have been streamlined and are now all digital
- Regional judging will be done by an ad-hoc committee of volunteers, and
- You can now team up to collaborate on applications!

Get started today at [schoolnutrition.org/awards](https://schoolnutrition.org/awards)



**[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT A NOMINATION](#)**



## PPL Update

The passage of Proposition FF and its implementation next school year has dominated conversations here in Colorado. CSNA has been working to ensure that our priorities and plan of action align our members needs in implementing the program. In addition, we've worked with a number of partners to help support a successful implementation of the program. Here are a few of the ways you can be sure that you are up to date as Healthy School Meals for All moves forward.

- Ensure that one representative completes the survey (sent by CSNA) indicating if your district will opt-in to Healthy School Meals for All and any training that may be needed.
  - CSNA plans to create a document highlighting Best Practices for districts implementing Healthy Schools Meals for All (including CEP and anticipated higher participation. If you have questions or concerns you'd like addressed, add them to this [document](#).
  - Subscribe to 'The Dish' newsletter by CDE to stay up to date with trainings provided by CDE Office of School Nutrition this Spring.
- Attend CSNA Summer Conference where many in-person trainings will be provided discussing CEP and implementation of Healthy School Meals for All.

In addition to Colorado happenings, SNA's Legislative Action Conference (LAC) is coming up fast! If you plan to attend please register today. Early bird rates are expiring tomorrow Feb 1. SNA has released its [2023 Position Paper](#) ahead of the conference. Whether you plan to attend or not, check out the Position Paper to understand better what this year's advocacy priorities will be in Washington D.C.

For questions regarding Public Policy and Legislation (PPL) contact Erika Edwards at [Erika.edwards@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:Erika.edwards@jeffco.k12.co.us) or Shannon Thompson at [sthompson2@cherrycreekschools.org](mailto:sthompson2@cherrycreekschools.org).



"Spend time with people who remind you and show you that anything is possible."  
- Jen Sincero

## Kindness. Pass It On.

Sonder. A word I've never heard of before until recently, but could very much appreciate and connect with its meaning.

It's having the awareness that everyone has their own unique challenges and complexities they are working through that we know absolutely nothing about.

Similar to the golden rule in the sense that we should treat everyone with the same kindness and compassion that we ourselves would like to receive.

In having this perspective, we are able to provide a much kinder, more thoughtful and caring approach to our leadership; which in turn builds better relationships and brings the best out in everyone!

Giving people the benefit of the doubt, believing in and focusing on strengths rather than shortcomings, and providing unconditional support and encouragement of their success is a pretty awesome way to lead.

# #BeKind

**Kindness is not a weakness. It is our ultimate strength!**

We are a couple of months into the new year! What are some ways you are spreading love and kindness to the people around you? Keep sharing that goodness!



You are doing  
**\*GREAT!**

**YOU  
GOT  
THIS!**



# **ANC in DENVER!**

## **Volunteers Needed**

CSNA is so excited to help host the SNA Annual National Conference that will take place in Denver, July 9-11, 2023. It goes without saying that this event will be a large undertaking and that it will require a lot of passionate volunteers. CSNA will be helping to coordinate these volunteer opportunities and we hope you are one of the passionate individuals that is going to help make this event happen!

Volunteer duties are open to all CSNA District Members and could include- welcoming and directing attendees; monitoring lounges; assisting in conference bag stuffing; supporting the registration booth; assisting with Culinary Demos and with the New Product Showcase; monitoring private meeting rooms; assisting with seating during general sessions; etc. Any volunteer that provides at least 8 hours of service will receive reimbursement for 50% of their registration fee! Volunteer service can be accumulated throughout the entirety of the event. Pre-event volunteers-starting on July 7-will also be needed.

The registration window for these volunteer opportunities will open in February, 2023 prior to regular registration. Keep your eyes peeled for notifications related to this. In the meantime, if you have any questions about being an ANC volunteer, feel free to reach out to Amy Faricy ([Amy.Faricy@dcsdk12.org](mailto:Amy.Faricy@dcsdk12.org)) or Kara Sample ([ksample@greeleyschools.org](mailto:ksample@greeleyschools.org)).



# CSNA 2022-23 Industry Members

Thank you for Investing in CSNA

## Trustee Members





# CSNA 2022-23 Industry Members

Thank you for Investing in CSNA

## Patron Members



## Sustainer Members

