

first hand news**Editor**

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New Name, New Challenges, New Opportunities

From the Office

Scott Marble and Mary J. Hardy

NEW NAME!

The new name, School Nutrition Association of Michigan, has fully taken hold. The new name has been changed across all publications and in the minds of members. SNAM has come to mean an organization rich in diversity, strong in its state-wide membership and excited about the future.

NEW CHALLENGES!

With the new name have come four important challenges: the database, updating the website, membership transition, and developing relationships with members and industry partners. Each of these challenges has created positive change in the organization.

Effectively managing membership has required a new database. This challenge resulted in a newly completed database which will benefit all members with updated accurate information, quicker response times and effective communication.

The challenge of creating the new SNAM website has also brought welcomed change. This website is being eagerly anticipated with a posting goal date of January 31, 2006. Collaborating with SNAM Executive Board members across

the state has resulted in a user-friendly site designed to assist members and industry partners in finding the information they need.

At the 2005 Annual Conference, the SNAM House of Delegates voted to transition membership options from either state-only or state and national membership to state (SNAM) and national (SNA) membership only. This challenge has contributed to an increase in membership numbers as well as greater clarity in membership options.

One of the largest, yet most rewarding, changes afforded ETC has been the development of relationships with the SNAM membership and industry partners. Building relationships with SNAM members and industry partners has provided opportunities to continually develop and monitor management goals for SNAM.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES!

The opportunity to meet with so many state-wide members at board meetings, committee meetings, and SNAM events has been gratifying. Meeting members and industry partners give us an opportunity to seek input.

We look forward to more opportunities to provide greater value by continuing to foster effective, two-way communication with members and industry partners. Improved communication will help us:

- provide higher quality service to members by effectively responding to needs as identified.
- forge stronger links with industry partners.
- provide greater value to school districts.

Finally, our goal is to help members better serve the nutritional needs of their students, who are at the heart of all we do.

It is our hope that members and industry partners continue to inform us of new challenges and new opportunities they see in the field. We look forward to seeing all members and industry partners at the 2006 Annual Conference April 27-30 at the Soaring Eagle Hotel and Conference Center in Mt. Pleasant. 🍏



President's Message

Charles Wolford, SNAM President

A New Year

I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. Wow, I can't believe how quickly 2006 has gotten here. It seems like just the other day we were at our 2005 Annual Conference and I was getting ready to begin my term as president. The new year has arrived. Are we ready to make the most of it?

Many of us make resolutions for the new year, such as dropping a few of those extra pounds, eating better or pledging to spend more time with family. All of these are great goals and I hope you succeed. But do you make professional resolutions for the new year? I have been thinking about what kinds of resolutions we could make professionally. As I spoke to people over the past few days I asked them what resolution do they have for the new year? Below are a few of those responses.

- Positively affect more kids by raising participation in our program.
- Find new ways to improve our speed of service (get kids through the line faster).
- Make it easier for kids to make better/healthier choices.
- Develop new ways to cut costs in our program.
- Do a better job training staff, parents and students about the importance of good nutrition.
- Improve customer service by offering a smile or a kind word to our students.
- Seek out more training to better myself in my position.
- Be more open to new ideas or change.
- Work on food safety programs for my district.
- Educate others on the importance of child nutrition (lawmakers, parents and staff).



Charles (Chuck) Wolford
SNAM President

These were just a few of the professional resolutions I have heard recently. I'm planning to make a list just for me and keep my list of personal and professional resolutions on my desk this year; this will keep them fresh in my mind and help guide me through the year.

I would like to challenge you to do the same. Make a list. You will be surprised at how many resolutions you can come up with. Put it somewhere you will see it often or carry it with you as reminder or a guide for you in this new year. Let's not let 2006 slip by. Let's make it our best, both personally and professionally. 🍏

WHAT'S NEW
www.michigansna.org

Watch for the release of the NEW and IMPROVED website. SNAM staff will be looking forward to your comments!

Students To Participate in Taste Test for State

Students representing middle and high schools will be helping make some delicious decisions for Michigan. Listed below are just a few of the quality foods provided to schools through the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National School Lunch Program. The following foods are "out for bid" to the Food Distribution Unit of Michigan Department of Education, and will be taste tested:

- French Bread Pizza
- Cheese Stuffed Bread sticks
- Precooked Hamburger Patties
- Beef Taco Filling
- PBJ Sandwiches
- Grilled Cheese Sandwiches
- Breaded Chicken Patties
- Plain + Cinnamon Applesauce cups
- Tortilla Pieces
- Macaroni + Cheese (Lowered Fat version)
- Low Fat Ranch Salad Dressing
- Egg Patty/French Toast



Many companies will be vying for the opportunity to be a supplier to the USDA and the nation's school children. Rating the foods by taste, appearance and student acceptability, students from six districts will be helping to assure that the entire state serves healthy, nutritious foods students will enjoy.

The following schools are participating in the Taste Test. Also listed are the director-members of the State of Michigan's Commodity Advisory Committee.

- Lakeview Schools – Paul Yettaw
- Portage Schools – Lance Gerry
- Boyne City Schools – Kathy Fruge'
- East Jackson Schools – Glenn Schramm
- Buchanan Schools – Suzette Hendershott
- Vicksburg Schools – Maureen Ouvry

A big THANK YOU to our students for taking time to help. 🍏