

School Nutrition Leadership Conference



Over April's school vacation week, 6 members of Maine School Nutrition Association traveled to San Diego, California to attend the School Nutrition Association's National Leadership Conference (NLC). This annual conference provides current and future state and national leaders with the opportunity to learn critical information about successfully leading a nonprofit association, to network with other leaders from across the country, and to gain new skills in order to become a more effective and engaging leaders. In attendance from the state of Maine this year were current MSNA President, Betty Hayes, MSNA President Elect, Martha Spencer, MSNA Vice President, Jeanne Reilly, MSNA Secretary Stephanie Salley, MSNA Treasurer Dottie Janotta, and Sue Morrell, the Director of School Nutrition for the Saco School Dept and candidate for Maine's next MSNA Vice President.

One of the main themes of the conference this year focused on managing change. As we all navigate the waters of change on a daily basis at work and in our personal lives, and because of the changes brought about by the Healthy Hunger Free Kid Act of 2010 & the looming potential changes of the Child Nutrition Reauthorization 2015, this theme seemed particularly appropriate. Additional sessions included sessions on utilizing Social Media to promote your school nutrition program, idea sharing from around the country, and planning for professional standards.

Each attendee found educational sessions and the networking incredibly valuable and engaging. Smaller than the Annual National Conference (ANC) this national conference was a fantastic opportunity to meet with, plan and strategize with school nutrition leaders from around the country. We came away with fresh inspiration to help our own districts and Maine School

Nutrition Association navigate the waters of change as we head into the next reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act.

- Respectfully Submitted, Jeanne Reilly, DTR/1, SNS