

# MAINE SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION

*Mission:*

*Educating and empowering members to provide healthy meals  
to Maine Children in pursuit of lifelong wellness.*

**Wednesday October 26, 2022**

**2pm Google Virtual meeting**

## **Minutes**

### **Call to Order:**

Whitney Thornton

Time: 2:06

Executive Board: Whitney Thornton (X) Alisa Roman (X) Mary Emerson (X) Allison Leavitt (X) Tina Fabian (X)

### Voting Board Members:

Dave Roberts () Vanessa Richardson (X) Wendy Collins (X) Caroline Trinder (X) Erin Dow (X)

### Non-Voting Board Members:

Cassandra Ring (X) Jane McLucas(X) Jeanne Reilly () Stephanie Salley () Ellen Demmons (X) Ellen Dore  
() Melanie Lagasse (X) Abbey Pelletier (X) Dottie Janotta () Adrienne Ackroyd (X) Jody Fournier (X), Sue  
Bourque (X), Stacy O'Neil (X), Samantha Wedgewood (X)

### **Communications/Correspondence:**

NE Regional Conference- Nov 3-5<sup>th</sup> in Burlington, VT We have 7 members that will be attending. Topic is on DEI in the organization and regional updates.

Overview of Fall DOECN Informational Meeting & Event on Oct 11 with Governor Mills, Representative Pingree & Secretary Vilsack – Jane McLucas reported on positive remarks the delegation made on school meals including Maine is leading the way with meals at no charge & is considered a model for the rest of the country.

Nationals- fall membership drive/challenge and regional town halls for anyone on the board interested. Whitney reported that Nate from SNA says anyone from our SNA may attend Virtual Town Hall Updates.

Welcome Jodi! – Jody Fournier works for the Augusta School Department. We are looking forward to having jodi involved with MSNA.

### **Action Items:**

Secretary's Report- Minutes from August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting were distributed

#### *Recommended Motion:*

Motion: Ellen Demmons motioned to accept Second: Tina Fabian

Vote: Passed – 1 abstaining – Mary Emerson

Treasurer's Report – Mary presented Financial Summary 9/30/22 & Profit & Loss 8/1/22 to 10/25/22 – including Conference cost of \$47597.19 & income of 71112.30.

*Recommended Motion:*

Motion: Ellen Demmons motioned to accept Second: Wendy Collins

Vote: Passed – 1 abstaining – Mary Emerson

Committee Reports:

Education Committee: Allison reported that committee has been evaluating options for changing dates from August to possibly the fall. There are a number of groups trying to organize trainings in the summer. Options for sessions include director roundtable,. Mind Bites were popular, but we would need more support to put it in place. Also looking for a co-chair of the Education Committee.

Legislative Committee – Ellen Dore has had to step down as chair. Caroline Trinder is the new chair. Jeanne Reilly, member of SNA National Legislative Committee, reported that SNA is reaching out for stories on meals at no charge. Jeanne is encouraging people to share their stories on how you participated in advocacy or a story about how free meals have impacted families. Jeanne shared October 25, 2022 Tuesday Morning – SNA Government Affairs Update with information on how to tell your story. Address to send stories about advocacy for meals at no charge and/or also stories about families and students benefiting from meals at no charge to is [advocacy@schoolnutrition.org](mailto:advocacy@schoolnutrition.org). Discussed where CNR stands with the upcoming election. Increased participation in our programs with meals at no charge.

Communications Committee: Vanessa encouraged others to share updates for the website. Problem with the website going

Membership Committee: 314 active members including 5 new members in September – membership up 3% over last year. Membership drive could share more information about District Owned Memberships. Discussed value of District Owned Memberships. Erin will be sending information about this to directors on the membership list.

Nominating Committee: Tina, Alisa & Dave on the members on the committee – Looking for a secretary and also a treasurer in training.

Finance Committee: Tina, Alisa & Dave on the members on the committee – they will be scheduling an audit with Mary soon.

Industry Committee: NOI Show- Dave/Tina

Program Committee: Wendy reported that they are starting to look at venues. Discussed options for the meeting during the school year – which can be challenging.

MSNA Partners Updates:

Cassie Ring shared Let's Go has launched a free on demand, online learning platform that has all of Chef Sam's culinary training on the web. There is a self-assessment tools that replaces the spring manager surveys. The self-assessment is a tool to evaluate your program and the environment to set goals to improve your operation. Let's Go is planning a culinary boot camp during the summer. Here is the link for the site:

<https://letsgolearning.thinkific.com/>

Sue Bourque from General Mills reports that they want to support culinary boot camps & similar projects. They are also aware of the supply chain issues we are experiencing.

Jane McLucas reports that the Thursday Update will be asking folks to complete a survey to information needed for

NERO. One idea she wanted to share was that some SNAs have had a farmer's market was well. She encouraged everyone to stay in touch with their legislators to advocate for continuing our meals with no charge. Jane put link to NPR's Maine calling in the upcoming Thursday update coming out tomorrow. Adrienne Ackroyd shared that there has been some confusion about the dates in the last 2 columns of the direct cert list – just ignore those dates – once they are on the list they are good for the whole year. Tina Fabian encouraged others to check on students that do not have state ID numbers on the direct cert list as they were probably not matched when they were uploaded into the district's student information database.

### **Old Business**

1. Summer conference update/details. (Vote or survey on summer/fall date) need to finalize – Discussed need to make sure that vendors are available during the time the meeting is scheduled. Discussed summer versus October with the vote for summer – probably the second week of August.
2. Raising the dues of state/membership – Raising the dues by \$5 may be beneficial since we are only have one conference per year. Whitney to further investigate dues increase and steps needed to implement.

### **New Business**

1. January/February mini food show
2. A letter expressing concern on remote days – Caroline explained concerns around Remote Learning Days pivoting on school nutrition having to provide meals for the remote learning day. Request is for MSNA to compose letter. Caroline will work with the executive board on drafting a letter.
3. Upcoming events: March 5-7 LAC in Washington DC – book hotel early
4. Ideas for all members of MSNA - looking for ways to boost morale given the staffing and supply chain issues.
5. Whitney is requesting pictures for the website.
6. Need for the Maine Light? It was agreed we have other platforms for communication. We can still do something special for retirements.
7. Whitney plans to rotate board meetings from Virtual to In Person. Next meeting will be in person at location TBD.

### **Adjourn:**

Motion: Tina Fabian Second: Wendy Collins

Vote: All in favor – motion passed

Time: 3:22 pm