

Candidates for Chapter 1's 2011 Executive Board

Ballots for the 2011 Executive Board will be distributed through the mail and at the February 4th Chapter meeting. Results will be announced at the March 25th Chapter meeting. Please return completed ballots to Teresa Mee, Director, Food Services at Palos Verdes Peninsula USD, 375 Via Almar, Palos Verdes Estates, Ca. 90274.

President Elect

Debra Amos, RD

Debra Amos, a Food Service Director, has been with Arcadia Unified School District for 23 years. She has received many honors and recognitions over the years including the Fame Special Achievement Award, CSNA Creativity Award, and School Nutrition Association Nutrition Advisory Council of the Year award. Debra received her Bachelor of Science degree in dietetics' from California State University Los Angeles and her Masters in Administration from University of La Verne. Before moving to school food service, Debra started her dietetic profession in health care as a clinical dietician she then became the director of food service and finally an assistant administrator. In her free time, Debra enjoys baking, golfing and shopping with her five children and four grandchildren.

Recording Secretary

Jennifer Chin, RD

A little about myself... My undergraduate degree is from UCLA. I majored in Political Science with a specialization in Business Administration. My first job out of college was working for Congressman Henry A. Waxman, first as a Staff Assistant then as a Caseworker. I then got the itch to cook, so I went to the California School of Culinary Arts in Pasadena. I worked as a Pastry Chef and then Executive Chef for several restaurant/bakeries in the Los Angeles area. Anyone who has worked in retail foodservice knows the hours are brutal, so I jumped at the opportunity to teach at the culinary school I had attended. I worked there for 6 years, first as a Chef Instructor and then as the Culinary Baking and Pastry Department Chair. While teaching, I went back to school part time to get a Masters degree in Nutritional Science and to become a Registered Dietitian. It was during my internship rotation in foodservice (at Glendale – thanks Agnes!) that I figured out I wanted to work in schools. And here I am now in Monrovia. It's hard to believe how quickly time flies. I already have a year and a half under my belt. When I'm not at work I enjoy reading and watching reality TV. (a guilty pleasure).

Laura Glenn

I have worked in school food service industry for the past 16 years. Starting off as a 2 hour per day kitchen worker with the Downey Unified School District I soon moved into a full time position. Working in Downey for 11 years provided hands on foundational knowledge as I moved through the ranks and was promoted to Middle School Cafeteria Manager, a position I held for 8 years. Seeking further industry advancement I accepted the Area Supervisor role for the Hacienda La Puente Unified School district in 2004. After 2 years I was promoted to Assistant Director where I served my final year and a half at Hacienda. In February 2008 I joined the Norwalk La Mirada Unified School District as the Director of Nutrition Services.

Working on my off hours to finish my Bachelor's degree in Business Management and taking on the Director role at NLMSD I have not been able to serve SCSNA until now. Having been a member of SCSNA for 14 years I appreciate the value the organization and what it means to the industry.

Treasurer

Susan Delgado, SNS

I began my career in school food service at San Marino Unified School District in 1981 as the Food Service Department accountant, at that time participating in the San Gabriel Cooperative Purchasing Group when the original Co-Op included only Pasadena USD, Montebello USD and San Marino USD. I became a member of the Association beginning in 1987 and have volunteered for a variety of committees and positions in both the Southern California School Nutrition Association and the California School Nutrition Association. In addition, I have been an active participant in the San Gabriel Cooperative Purchasing Group, having served as Co-Op Chair, Co-Chair, as well as representing the Co-Op as commodity lead district.

I have served as a representative in our State Association as CSNA's Conference Registration Chair (1994-when it was still completed by hand on excel spreadsheets!), Resolution and Bylaws Chair, Parliamentarian, Public Policy and Legislative Committee, Nominating Committee member, Annual Conference committee member and speaker. I have also served in a variety of committees as Southern Cal's Nominating Committee member, Public Information Chair, Legislative Co-Chair, Legislative Chair, Editorial and Publications Chair.

I would appreciate your vote as Treasurer and consider it an honor to be nominated. I have thoroughly enjoyed the camaraderie and professional leadership opportunities shared with my colleagues in the Southern California School Nutrition Association. Susan is currently the Director of Food Services, Mountain View School District, El Monte

Lauren Teng, Candidate for Treasurer

I was appointed as "interim" treasurer this summer due to the election of the treasurer to the president-elect position! I appreciate the board's vote of confidence in me to finish out the term. I majored in Dietetics and Food Administration and worked in the food business for many years, starting with a lemonade and popcorn stand! My job history includes the Department of Fish and Game; the Long Beach Veterans Hospital; Knott's Berry Farm; U.S.D.A. and several retail department stores (employees get great discounts)! After working with the V.A., I wanted to make a difference in what children ate and learned about nutrition so I went to work at ABC Unified School District as the Central Kitchen and School Operations Supervisor. I left ABCUSD for the director of food services position with the Ocean View School District and then moved onto the administrator of food and nutrition services position with the Huntington Beach Union High School District. I have been in school food service for over 25 years....time flies quickly when you enjoy what you do!

I have volunteered for CSNA and SCSNA in the following capacities:

Poppy Seeds editor
Conference Hospitality Chair
Conference Exhibits Chair
Recording Secretary
Corresponding Secretary
Legislative Chair
By-Laws and Parliamentarian Chair
Nominations Chair
LAC Fundraiser Committee

I feel it's important to participate in our school nutrition associations and assist and support each other in our child nutrition goals.

Corresponding Secretary

Maureen Conklin

I grew up in Queens, NY where I received Associates Degree in Restaurant Management and a Bachelor's Degree in Hospitality Administration. While in school I started working for the Marriott and over the course of my 18 years with them worked everything from resorts & convention centers to airports & schools, managing all aspects of food & beverage from bars to catering. I started in the School Services Division of Marriott in 1997 working at Saddleback Valley USD, then Fairmont Private and Mater Dei HS and finally Burbank USD. In 2006, I accept a great position at ABC Unified, a wonderful district, as Nutrition Services Manager and joined CSNA. In 2007, I was asked to fill the position of Professional Development which I accepted and held it for two years. I've been married for 13 years and have two active boys, 7 & 9 years old. Life is Good!

Michelle Curry

Michelle Curry has been in the business of food starting in the 6th grade when she was a student worker for her elementary school cafeteria. Later, she attended the California Culinary Academy, worked in several restaurants and managed a bakery, as well catering events. She returned to college and received her BS in Food, Nutrition and Consumer Science as a young mom. She has been in school food for eight years and has been lucky enough to work with some exceptional directors including Geri Dee and Wanda Grant. She was the director at Glendora for one year before returning to her alma mater, South Pasadena, to take over after Sodexo was let go. She is starting her fourth year there and enjoys working closely with the student body and her staff to create a successful program.

Nominating Committee

Stacy Johnson

Hello, my name is Stacy Johnson and I am the Food Service Director at Glendora Unified School District. I have enjoyed my time as Corresponding Secretary and I am very excited to be nominated again for the SCSNA Executive Board 2011- 2012 school year. I am a Michigan native and a graduate of Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Food Systems Economic and Management. I have 22 years of school food service experience and have managed college and university feeding as well as restaurants. I have found school food service to be the most rewarding area of my experience because our school programs make a difference for so many. As a member of SCSNA I have served on the Executive Board as Parliamentarian 1998-99, Nominating Committee 1999-2000, and Corresponding Secretary 2010-11. My affiliations with CASBO include Chairman, Southern Section Research and Development Committee 1996-98, and Co-Chairman, Southern Section Research and Development Committee 1995-96. Thank you again for the nomination.

Sara Maragni, RD

I am currently the Director of Food and Nutrition Services for Ontario-Montclair School District. My career in foodservices began as a cook in the U.S. Army National Guard. I earned a BS in Nutrition from Southern Illinois University and completed my dietetic internship at PHFE WIC program. In addition to the 10 years I have worked in School Foodservice I have worked 6 years for the WIC program in Texas and California. I have served on Executive Board for SCSNA as a member of the nominating committee and as Professional Development Chair. I have been married to my husband Paul for 16 years and we have one son Paul Jr. In my spare time I enjoy jogging and am preparing to run my third ½ marathon.

Suzanne Morales, RD

I have been the Food Services Director at Los Alamitos Unified School District for the past two and a half years, prior to that I was with Long Beach Unified School District as an area manager for 7 years. School nutrition has become a passion since leaving the hospital foodservice arena to come to school foodservice. I received my Bachelor of Science in Dietetics and Food service Administration from California State University Long Beach and completed studies to become a Registered Dietitian as well as a School Nutrition Specialist. I am currently working toward my Masters in Public Health as I learn what the public health arena and legislative processes can offer in terms of advancing school nutrition. I currently serve on the SCSNA-Chapter 1 Executive Board as the Bylaws Chair.

Carla Morton

Hello~ my name is Carla Morton and I'm very flattered to have been asked to run as a member of the Nominating Committee. Recently, I was the Editorial Chair and really enjoyed serving on the board. It was a great learning experience and a chance to get acquainted with some wonderful people. I've worked as the food service accountant at Santa Ana Unified for the past 10 years and most of my experience is on the "numbers" side of the house. Being involved with CSNA is a great opportunity to continue learning about the incredibly complex world of school food service and meet many inspiring people along the way. Thanks for the opportunity to serve!

Rosa Orosemane

I have worked in the School Food Service since 1995. I was an Area Supervisor for LA Unified School District for 6 years and held the position of Assistant Director for Glendale USD for 7 years. Currently I serve as the Director of Nutrition Services for Lowell Joint School District.

I have been a member of the School Nutrition Association for over 14 years. I have held the positions of Nominating committee, Membership Chair, and participated in the State Legislative Action Conferences. I have been a CASBO member for over 11 years and worked with the CASBO Research and Development team for several years.

I have worked in the food services field over 25 years working for the Sheriff's Department in a woman's correctional facility, Occidental College, La County Hospital and the United States Marine Corps.

I attended Cal State LA, East Carolina University and graduated from The Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandizing.

I love to spend time with my family, see the outdoors, watch movies, run, participate in races and cook. I have a wonderful son that loves to eat and enjoys school lunches. He will miss eating the school lunches when he graduates from High School.

I enjoy working in the schools and making a difference in young people's lives. It is truly a joy hearing the laughter and seeing the smiles on happy children. This is what makes my job so satisfying.

Riki Pollard, RD

I received my B.S. in Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Science from Cal Poly Pomona. I went on to complete my dietetic internship at the VA Healthcare System in San Diego. After the completion of my internship I worked as the Director of Patient Services at LAC + USC Medical Center for 3 years. I then accepted a position at Los Alamitos USD as the Food Service Manager. I remained in this position for 5 years. I am now the Director of Food Services at Saddleback USD and have been for the past 2 ½ years. I am married with 2 wonderful little girls, one is 3 and the other 11 months. I am a very busy working Mom but I love what I do in school food service and wouldn't change a thing!!!

Susan Venaas

I'm a native Californian. In March, I'll be married for 25 years to my husband, Mark. I have two kids, Kari, 23 and Max, 20. I began my food service career working in a cafeteria in elementary school. I have food service experience in a hospital, restaurants, catering, UCI, and hotels. I started my career at Westminster School District in 1993 and became Director in 1994 and I'm still here. I have a B.A. from CSULB. I love my family, friends, dog, two cats, camping, crafts, baking and diet cokes.

Industry Co-Advisor

Michael Borges

Education:

Year Abroad – Complutense University, Madrid, Spain
BS – Marketing; California State University at Long Beach
BA – Spanish; California State University at Long Beach
MBA – Marketing/Finance; University of California Irvine

Professional Experience:

I put myself through school while working in the Hospitality Industry having worked in just about every position available, everything from washing dishes to tossing pizzas, and waiting tables. I moved into management at Las Brisas Restaurant in Laguna Beach and then onward and upward to the Director of Operations for the Southern California specialty restaurant chain overseeing 10 restaurants, 32 million in sales, 900 employees, 55 managers and 11 chefs. My responsibilities included menu and drink development, vendor relations and purchasing, management and staff training, customer service, HACCP, HR, facilities maintenance, technology implementation, and profitability, profitability, profitability. During that time I also consulted for restaurants and hotels in Hawaii on technology and point of sale system options.

In 2001 I left my “corporate job” to start a business focused on facilitating technology systems implementation in School Food Service with an emphasis on customer service. Our services have traditionally focused on cafeteria management systems including nutritional analysis, menus, inventory, free and reduced, and Point-of-Sale. This also includes complementary technology solutions such as; online payments, vending, automated phone messaging systems, scanning, automated print-to-mail, money counters, hardware sourcing and onsite technical services.

I created and author School Nutrition and Fitness, custom websites for Nutrition Departments, with the goal of helping CN Directors to promote their Nutrition Program, increase participation, satisfy CRE's, and communicate Wellness throughout their district. The aim has been to help elevate the image of Child Nutrition Programs through nutrition education and a unique, customizable, image and content rich website directed at Students, Parents, and Teachers...

I also author a monthly e-newsletter sent nationwide for CN Directors called the *School Nutrition Network*. It is designed to share current news, views and best practices in School Nutrition to help directors build better Nutrition Programs.

When I not working...

I live in Laguna Beach and love to surf, sail and anything else that puts sand between my toes. I am an avid snow skier. I am married with two daughters, one is in her first year at Berkeley

and the other is 13 years old and enthusiastic volleyball club player...and now you know where I spent my weekends.

Gina Fero

I have been involved in the Southern California School Nutrition Association for over 15 years. Participating in many CSNA events:

Shows- 1993-2010

Industry Seminars-1994, 1997, 2000, 2001,2002,2008,2010

LAC Fundraisers-1993-2010

Currently I am employed with The Fischer Group as the Institutional Specialist. I have had the pleasure of working with The Fischer Group for the past 4 years. Prior to joining The Fischer Group she worked for PMG for over 17 years.

Gina has been married to her husband John for over 15 years and has two children Griffin 12, and Sophia 10. She graduated from California Lutheran University with a degree in Liberal Arts and majored in English Literature. I am very involved in the PTA and helped my children's school raise \$45,000 in 2005. I have worked with Child Help USA and Pediatric Aids foundation.

I truly enjoyed participating on the LAC committee last year, and helping raise money for the Legislation Efforts. I have a passion for legislation, and as Co Industry chair, I look forward to increasing participation and awareness to our Legislative needs. My company supports me in becoming your next Co Industry Advisor!