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## **President's Message**

By Denise Ohm, CSNA President



Marketing update: your Executive and Finance Committee (EFC) is hard at work on our website, targeting the look and feel, followed by making sure the content is always updated and relevant. If you haven't been to the <u>www.calsna.org</u> website lately, there are many new features. To name a couple, there is the news of the day and expanded Industry section.

We had a great time viewing and judging the marketing videos at our Fall Board Meeting in Burbank in mid-October. Everyone who submitted a video is to be commended for each artful creation showing how wonderful our programs are. First place went to Anna Apoian' s Hawthorne school district; they won one thousand dollars. So, who will be the next grand prize winner?

Thank you, again, to our Conference Committee, speakers, session trainers and the host of volunteers who filled many a blank spot. The weekend of training, networking and education was truly amazing. We look forward to Pasadena next fall!

our November conference in Sacramento was. The dates this year fell on Veteran's Day weekend and all stars aligned to make way for us to celebrate military and school nutrition heroes. Once again, our sustaining members made this all possible – and we thank you. Our program booklet was chock full of sponsors' ads.

By now you have had feedback on how wonderful

The one downside of having our conference during a holiday was that the NAC students could not join us as they were not in session on Friday. However, NAC scheduled a major event in Southern Cal in early December; look for that report back in an issue soon. Meanwhile, the visual and auditory sensations that our students project while learning, moving and shaking at our conference were missed.

News came the week after conference about some critical aspects of the HHFK Act funding. CSNA looks to the future to stay on target to improve the perceptions and nutrient analysis of our meals. Our focus continues to be the provision of insight and solutions to make all changes in regulations positive for our students.

This is about far more than pizza and potatoes; what we Californians might say is that, in short, much of the rest of the country has a lot of catching up to do when it comes to school meal standards. California school meals are healthy meals, thanks to state legislation such as SB12; SB965 and SB80. We are way ahead of the game when it comes to service and sales of reimbursable meals, ala carte and snack items.



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### **Cover Photo** By Sally Spero, SNS, *Poppy Seeds* Editor

## **D**<sub>ecisions</sub>, decisions!

I kept going back and forth in my mind between two wonderful photos I received for this issue. The first was a terrific group shot of CSNA members in front of the Temple of Heaven in Beijing. This impressive symbol of Chinese history was very tempting. On the other hand, there was another shot of CSNA members being honored at a White House event.

In the end, I decided to go American!

You can read the great articles and see photos about both of these activities in this issue of *Poppy Seeds*.





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DODDDDDD



**W** riting the article to recognize Tony Roberts as the School Nutrition Association's National Industry Member of the Year is one of the toughest assignments I've faced as the *Poppy Seeds* editor.

It's not because there is a lack of information. I could fill the page up with long lists of committees Tony has served on, offices he has held, contributions he has made and honors he has been given. You, as a reader, would be bored and would not truly learn the most important things about him. So instead, let me tell you about Tony from my point of view.

**Tony has a giving and generous heart.** One project that he has been especially involved in is nominating people for awards. He spends a lot of time putting them together and usually includes a personal onsite interview. By doing this, he has brought acclaim to our state and joy to the recipients. He has never received any profit or personal gain from all this work but has done it to help people receive recognition for their accomplishments.

**Tony loves people.** For the past seven years he has sponsored international school food service cultural exchange programs. He does all the planning for school visits, culinary training in the national cuisine of one of the countries visited and sets up local cultural events. He doesn't mention it in the articles he writes about his trips but I imagine he has sorted out more than his share of problems. I'm sure that if

## **Tony Roberts -National Industry Member of the Year**

By Sally Spero, SNS, Poppy Seeds Editor

I attempted even one of these I would return home exhausted and vowing never to take on such a thing again. But he does it again and again, making contacts and memories that people treasure.

He is a mentor to new school food service directors and helps bring more experienced directors to help them as they build their network of support and knowledge. Many new directors have benefitted from this activity.

**Tony inspires others.** When serving on the CSNA Public Policy and Legislation committee he proposed that we have a state legislative conference. I imagine proposing a conference and all the attendant work might have been an idea that fell flat in less-skilled hands. But his enthusiasm allowed the conference to occur and it has continued since then. He has also been a speaker, presenter and presider at numerous conferences, sharing his knowledge with others.

**Tony supports child nutrition, CSNA and SNA.** He has attended national LAC conferences and walked the halls of Congress to bring news about what we do to our legislators. He has testified at USDA hearings in support of our programs. He has written more letters than he can probably count. He has given generously to support NAC conferences for our students. His concern for children has expanded as he is also a supporter of the Global Child Nutrition Forum. For company promotions, he has often awarded SNA memberships as a premium instead of merchandise.

**Finally, Tony is a good friend.** No one is more fun or joyful at a party. He has a knack for keeping in touch and making each person feel special in his presence. With all his busy travels and tons of things on his mind, he has often remembered to bring me my favorite gift from overseas journeys, a ball of knitting yarn for my hobby. I'm sure others could tell of his thoughtfulness and generosity.

Please join me and all CSNA members in congratulating Tony Roberts as National Industry Member of the Year.







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### School Nutrition Representative's Message By Terri VanDerStouwe, CSNA School Nutrition Representative



year. It seems like we just started! This is a time to reflect on the powers you were given. Did you accomplish the goals you set out to do? Did you go to conference? Did you attend a breakout session that helped you to that next goal? Did you take the Servsafe or the SNS credentialing examination? Don't worry, there is still time left to get things done.

This is also a time of year to be thankful, I am thankful that you, the front-line employees, have allowed me to represent you. I am also thankful that an association like CSNA is there to help us achieve our goals, and provide us with information on new laws and anything school food related. CSNA also shows the good things that we are doing in school nutrition. The State of California has set the bar! Now let's see if the rest of the country can compete.

Well Super Hero's it's that time, see you in the next *Poppy Seeds*, same bat time, same bat channel. I am off! I am not going to try and fly this time so I will just walk away.....





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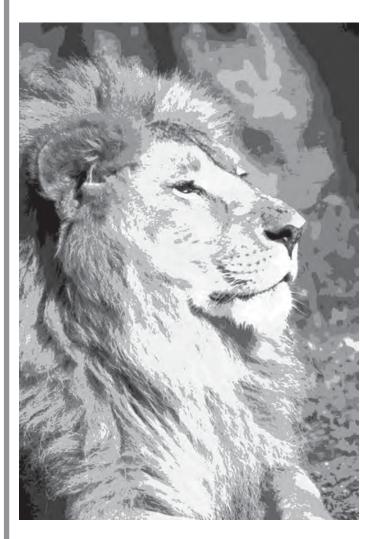
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### Editor's Message By Sally Spero, SNS, *Poppy Seeds* Editor

**P**ride has sometimes gotten a bad name over the years. It was listed in the Seven Deadly Sins and we were told the pride goes before a fall. But I'm not sure I agree.



Start by being proud of yourself. If you are reading this magazine, you have already shown pride in your career by choosing to be part CSNA. You have taken responsibility for learning more, networking more and participating more than those who haven't yet joined us.

Be proud of working in the child nutrition field. Feeding children is important, meaningful and useful work. Not everyone who has a job can say that! Be proud that ours is one of only a handful of nations that even offers this service to its children. Be proud that you have breakfast available, that you help provide meals to other groups in the community, that you make sure you have snacks for the students after school and that you don't forget about their need for meals in the summer. Be especially proud that you carry on in spite of media criticism that schools are full of sodas, fries and junk foods because you know the truth!

Be proud of your personal accomplishments. Not every project you may have tried in your career has worked out as you had dreamed. But be proud of giving projects your best efforts and the quality of work you put into them. Being successful is not about awards or financial rewards. We can all think of celebrities whose wealth and fame has not delivered anything to be proud of (Charlie Sheen anyone?) We can also think of many unsung members of our families, churches, community organizations and work places who never made headlines or bought a condo on the French Riviera but who inspired us to be our best.

Finally, be proud of your future. What would you like to do next? What is a dream you haven't yet tackled? What is the accomplishment you want to add to your life's work? And finally, remember that I am always proud of <u>you</u> CSNA members. You do so many great things and are such wonderful people. Would you like to get to know me better too? How about an article?

July Spen

Sally Spero, SNS *Poppy Seeds* Editor California School Nutrition Association 210 N Glenoaks Blvd, Ste. C, Burbank, CA 91502 (858)627-7306 ~ Editor@CalSNA.org

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## New Director's Course Heats Up Sacramento

By Linda Sweeney, MS, RD, San Jose State University Cal Pro NET Coordinator

**T**his past summer, the Child Nutrition Program Administration (CNPA) course delivered a full five days of great information at the Holiday Inn Capital Plaza in Sacramento. Despite record heat (and an air conditioning failure that the hotel quickly resolved), participants kept their cool and enjoyed a week of concentrated learning and fun. Sponsored by the California Department of Education (CDE), Nutrition Services Division (NSD) and coordinated by the California Professional Nutrition Education and Training Center (Cal-Pro-NET) at San Jose State University, the close proximity to the NSD offices offered a variety of state experts to present on a wide range of topics.

The CNPA, known as "The New Director's Course" is an overview course for child nutrition directors (CNDs) and nutrition education specialists. The course helps to ensure that child nutrition professionals start their new position with basic information on the importance of healthy meals and become familiar with applicable federal and state regulations, thereby decreasing the risk of sanctions that can result from noncompliance.

School nutrition program administration courses such as eligibility, verification, meal counting and claiming, financial management, school wellness, food safety, human resources management, and marketing practices are a few of the topics that comprise the curriculum. In addition to last year's topics of cafeteria funds, HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSSC), and competitive foods, this year's curriculum also included paid lunch equity, vegetarian meal planning, and the new federal water requirements. Course instructors included current and former CNDs, as well as NSD and Cal-Pro-NET staff.

The School Nutrition Association (SNA) approved the course for 32 hours of continuing education units. Students worked hard for these units both in class and through homework activities. Moreover, the course provided two semester units of optional university credit for an additional fee. Participants from large and small school districts, charter schools, County Offices of Education, and management companies from throughout the state attended sharing their experience and perspectives with each other.



Having some fun during an energizing break

Monday began with a warm welcome from Carol Chase, Nutrition Education Administrator, from NSD. Consultant Becky Bettencourt, formerly of Modesto Unified School District (USD) and the Modesto County Correctional Department, started the course material with a presentation on team building and leadership. Patty Page from Manteca USD covered Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HAACP) and emergency preparedness. The afternoon continued with a Child Nutrition Information and Payment System (CNIPS) overview provided by NSD's DJ Sandhu. Vegetarian meal planning presented by Louise Casias and Lisa Melhouse prompted many ideas for this increasing lifestyle practice.

Continued on Bottom of Page 13





Diligent students working on a project

Tuesday morning opened with a basic nutrition discussion and a presentation and food tasting from Kathy Streng with Harvest of the Month. Jackie Russum from the Healthy Kids Resource Center led us in an energizing physical activity break after explaining the many nutrition education resources available to schools through their center. After break, it was time to get to serious business and Chris Kavooras and other NSD staff members reviewed all the federal nutrition programs in small groups. After lunch, Chris, June Preston, and Amy Lins reviewed program requirements such as eligibility, verification, and meal counting and claiming. Amy Lins, retired Child Nutrition Consultant (CNC), finished the afternoon presentations with School Meals Initiative, Menu Planning Options, and Offer versus Serve.

Wednesday has traditionally been "state day" for CNPA but this year it took more than a day to present all the new information. Chris started "state day" on Tuesday, and Wednesday we continued with Special Dietary Needs and Milk Substitution presented by Stephanie Enright and Paid Lunch Equity by DJ Sandhu and Rosemary Willhite. Amy Bell and Sherry Tam explained the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) foods distribution program. Jenny Stultz

Continued on Page 14

and Jessica Gray followed up with USDA Foods processing. We ended the day on a high note as Elizabeth Moreno, Louise Casias, and Heather Reed led us through the HUSSC, the proposed Meal Patterns, and School Wellness Policy. Billy Reid from Salida Union Elementary School District encouraged all with his stories of how his nutrition professional team garnered numerous Gold Awards of Distinction this past year for schools at Salida Union Elementary School District, Paradise School District, Shiloh School District, and Stanislaus County Office of Education, Modesto.

Chris Kavooras again took the floor on Thursday morning to share her expertise on Cafeteria Funds. Mike Danzik and Karen King conducted an in-person rendition of their popular Webinar on competitive foods for the class to complete the morning. Thursday afternoon, Becky launched into financial management. Becky conducts Cal-Pro-NET's twoday Financial Management Level I course and presented a condensed version for the students. We all agreed on the need for more time next year on this important topic.

Our week concluded on Friday with Rene Yamashiro of Roseville City School District discussing ethics,

purchasing, and procurement. Becky returned later that morning to cover human resources management. Her experiences in correctional facilities led to some interesting discussions regarding employee management. The day ended with Mary Tolan-Davi, Retired Director from Manteca USD, sharing her expertise on communications and marketing. Mary inspired everyone with the consulting work she continues to do with Manteca USD that has resulted in a winning recipe for the Recipes for Healthy Kids national challenge. Sandip Kaur, Acting Director for NSD, concluded the week with words of congratulations and encouragement to the participants as they headed back home to apply the knowledge they gained during the course.

This yearly course, offered alternately between Northern and Southern California, will occur twice during the summer of 2012. The Southern California course will begin on June 18–22, 2012, in Ontario at the Embassy Suites Ontario Airport. The Northern California course will begin on July 23–27, 2012, in Sacramento at the Holiday Inn Capital Plaza. For more information visit the Cal-Pro-NET Web page at <u>http://www.nufs.sjsu.edu/calpronet/</u> (Outside Source).



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## 2011-12 Elk Grove's CSNA/Chapter 78 "Super Nutrition Hero" Lynne Haas

By Mary Ellen McIntyre, Secretary, Chapter 78

**T**o know Lynne Haas as a person and co-worker is to know why she was one of the chosen "Nutrition Heros" from Elk Grove's Chapter 78. She has been with the District for 25 years of service. To learn about Lynne and her accomplishments with the Elk Grove Unified School District we asked her a few heartfelt questions. We would like to introduce to you Lynne Haas and her story.

#### How did school food service become her career?

When her son started kindergarten at one of the EGUSD Elementary Schools, where there was no Food Service operation. The students brought their lunches to school and the PTA brought food in from a couple of fast food establishments three days a week. Lynne was a volunteer parent and helped out with the PTA lunch. A couple of years later EGUSD created the Food and Nutrition Services department. The Principal asked Lynne if she would be interested in running the program and being their "Lunch Lady". She loves kids and she loves food...it was a perfect fit for her! And 25 years later \* she still love's it!

## *How did school food service become something she is passionate about?*

She realized early on that for some children participating in School Meal Programs might be the only time the student had access to a healthy, wellbalanced meal. This helped Lynne realize that School Food Service not only provided a convenient service for families by providing quality hot meals, but also the importance the breakfast and lunch programs hold for all of the students. Lynne feels Food & Nutrition Services truly is a partner in education because of the service our department provides for the students.

## What does she feel is the most important aspect of school food service?

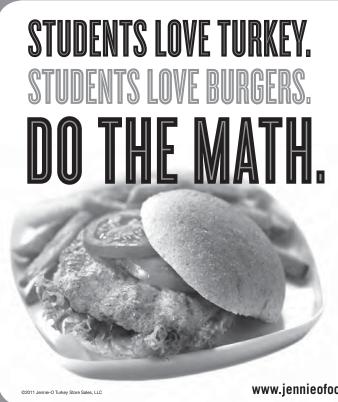
Nutrition and education are equally important. Food and Nutrition Services must offer well-balanced menus and educate the students why it is so important to make food selections based on good nutrition. Lynne is proud to work in a department where quality programs such as SHAPE (Shaping Health as Partners in Education), Junior Chef Academy, and Nutrition Olympics are offered as a part of nutrition education. It is also important to encourage and educate students about the benefits of an active lifestyle by incorporating exercise into their daily activities.

#### *How has working in school food services changed Lynne's life?*

Working in Food and Nutrition Services has afforded her the opportunity to be of service to a community of generations. She has also had the pleasure to work with a group of dedicated coworkers, always with the commitment and goal to feed and educate the future. As Lynne's career has moved forward she has become educated in customer service, nutrition and management. She has experienced tremendous professional and personal growth. She is thankful for all the opportunities that Food Services and CSNA have provided to her career.

#### How Lynne's experience in School/Food Services helped her in her own quest for better Health?

Even though Lynne has been involved in food and nutrition for many years, she has not always made nutritious choices and did not make time for exercise. Each year Lynne would gain a "little" weight. *Continued on Bottom of Page 17* 



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She was embarrassed with the fact that she was working in a field where nutrition education was big, and so was she! Lynne made a commitment to change. Within a year of making that commitment she had lost over 50 pounds by incorporating healthy food choices and exercise into her lifestyle. WAY TO GO LYNNE!

#### How has what Lynne has learned in her School/ Food Service Career has carried into her personal life?

Lynne has learned a great deal about nutrition which has helped her to understand how important good nutrition and exercise is for everyone's health. She has used the knowledge to improve her own health. As those changes have become evident, Lynne has been asked by co-workers, family and friends how to make changes in their lives to improve their health. Lynne loves sharing what she has learned to help others! She has also learned how to really listen, understand, and work through any situation life throws at you. Now that is what you would call a "Nutrition Hero!"

#### Lynne believes in CSNA

She recommends membership in CSNA to other food and nutrition Employees because CSNA provides an excellent opportunity for education and professional growth. It also is a great way to share ideas by networking with others, and to make connections with vendors to learn about the latest trends and technology. Throughout Lynne's career she has always encouraged other FNS employees to join CSNA for all of the reasons listed above. Lynne has also served as the local Chapter 78 President, Secretary and Professional Growth Chairperson because she truly believes in what CSNA has to offer.

Chapter 78 thanks Lynne for her time. It is truly our honor to share her story.



## **Michelle Drake, Food Service Director Interview**

Michelle Drake of Elk Grove USD was interviewed by Chapter 78 member Normi Rivas. This is her story.

#### How did school food service become her career?

Michelle's career in school food service was truly by accident. She decided after having her first child that she was going to try and be a stay-at-home mom. When her baby was three months old, she quit her previous job and started her new venture as a full-time mom. After staying home for a couple months, a family member invited her to join him in attending a job fair at Cal Expo. She went with him, her daughter in tow, and happened across a booth for Elk Grove Unified School District. They happened to have Operation Manager position posted so she applied. Two months later she was the newest member of the EGUSD school food service team. She also thought it's funny that she was offered the position on her 30th birthday, as if she were opening the door to a new chapter in life.

## *How did school food service become something she is passionate about?*

What makes her passionate about her job is the fact that every staff member has an impact on children's learning. She loves to see the look on a child's face who has just tried something new or who tells her about something they have learned.

## What does she feel is the most important aspect of school food service?

Michelle believes there are two important aspect of School Food Service. First, that we teach children the importance of eating a variety of different foods and then we back that up by serving children a variety of different foods. Second, that marketing the program is not only for children but also for their parents. Michelle think the media does a disservice to the school food service industry and parents often take the media's comments as gospel instead of joining their student for lunch to see what is available and the nutritional value of the choices.



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## Executive Director's Message

By Janine Nichols, IOM, CAE, CPL,CSNA Executive Director

I 'm sure that some of you ask yourself, "Why should I be part of CSNA?" I mean, your life is hectic enough as it is, so where will you find the space for something else on your plate? The truth of it is that time you spend improving yourself and/or your company is time that is well spent. Your membership dues are a small price to pay for what you get out of being a member of CSNA

With local, regional and state meetings throughout the year, CSNA is constantly providing you with opportunities to improve and educate yourself, meet with vendors to discuss the latest products and trends in school nutrition and the food service industry and to have a place to network with colleagues and friends in the industry. CSNA does not discriminate – our Association provides the same opportunities for all School Nutrition Professionals, be they Frontline workers, Managers, Supervisors, Directors or Salespeople. We are a team. We are a family.

Our outstanding educational and motivational sessions are indispensable to be sure, but networking is the key to successful CSNA membership. You can meet with individuals that share your interests and who can relate to your personal experiences. Many lifelong friendships are forged through participation in CSNA events.

I urge you to utilize all of the benefits of membership in CSNA, but most importantly, make it a point to take advantage of every opportunity to network at every level. Be out-going and be inclusive and you might just find that nugget that takes you to the next level of your professional development.

### Getting to Know Your CSNA Headquarters Staff

In an effort to better acquaint you with the staff at your CSNA Headquarters, in this installment we feature Charles Wenker. Charles is the IT Guy and handles the website and database design, management and execution. He has been working with us since 2003 and also runs webinars for various associations.

If you have been to conference in the past seven years, you are sure to have seen him at the Registration Desk, as well as setting up the audio visual in many of the breakout rooms.

Charles grew up all along the Western Coast of the United States but spent his formative years in the Central Coast of California where he gained a healthy appreciation for computers and technology. He attended the University of Southern California where he earned a degree in Computer Engineering and decided to plant roots in the Los Angeles area.

Charles counts family as his most important priority and spends as much time as possible with his brothers, a sister, aunts, uncles and dozens of cousins. He is also quite proud of his dog Maggie. He is a huge fan of movies and music and has an extensive library of both. He also loves sports and, for unknown reasons, follows the Kansas City Chiefs despite the ridicule of co-workers and friends.



Y ou will want to join us for CSNA Industry Seminar at the Silverado Resort and Spa, 1600 Atlas Peak Rd., Napa, CA 94558. This event is scheduled for May 20th - 22nd. The Silverado Resort offers special amenities for our group, so plan on arriving early or staying late to take advantage of everything the property has to offer. Our Group Rate will be honored 3 days after the Industry Seminar, subject to availability.

The Industry Seminar Committee is hard at work planning the details of the event. See the schedule on the web site for the most up-to-date and complete details. You may register for Industry Seminar on-line or, fill out the Registration Form on the next page.

In addition, what would Industry Seminar be without the opportunity for networking and camaraderie? The committee has organized a great program with the installation of officers slated for Sunday evening. In order for all registrants to enjoy the full extent of the seminar and to promote education and networking; the CSNA Industry Seminar committee is requesting that all members refrain from private entertaining on Sunday evening so that everyone can enjoy one another's presence. Monday evening has been set aside for attendees to explore the many opportunities that Napa has to offer, and private or industry entertaining should be planned for that evening. We thank you for your cooperation in advance. You will want to take care of the lodging details right away! Hotel Reservation Cut-Off date is Friday, April 27th but usually sell out early so don't delay!

Lodging at Silverado is \$150 per night, single/double resort guestroom plus tax & \$20 resort fee, or \$175 per night, single/ double one bedroom fireplace suite, plus tax & \$20 resort fee. Subject to availability, the rate will be honored 3 days post conference.

Reservations can be made online by visiting www.silverado.com, and you will want to make sure to enter group code CSNA2012 to get our conference rate. You can also reserve a room by calling 1-800-532-0500. You need to tell the reservation desk that you are booking a room within the California School Nutrition Association room block. The conference rate of \$150 or \$175 will be offered, based on space availability, 3 days after the group dates for you to enjoy Napa.

Remember the conference will start Sunday. You may plan to arrive on Saturday to get the most out of this conference and to have extra time to network with friends and colleagues.

See you all at the Silverado Resort & Spa in beautiful Napa, California May 20-22, 2012!

## **2012 CSNA Industry Seminar Registration Form** May 20-22, 2012 at Silverado Resort & Spa- Napa, California

Name							
District/Company							
Job Title							
Address							
City	State	Zip					
Phone F	FAX						
Email							
Seminar Registra	ation Fees						
<b>SUPER SAVER!! - Register and Pay in full On or Before Feb 1, 2012*</b> * Fee MUST be <u>paid in full</u> by Feb 1, 2012 to recieve this price	Feb 1 - April 20	After April 20	Total				
Director/Supervisor \$295	\$345	\$395					
Non-CSNA Member Dir./Sup. \$345	\$395	\$445					
Industry Representative \$345	\$395	\$445					
Non-CSNA Industry Representative \$395	\$445	\$495					
GUEST \$195 (Guest Fee Includes all CSNA meal events. Does NOT inc	\$245 clude Sessions)	\$295					
GUEST NAME							
	TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED						
Credit Card Number		Exp Date					
BillingAddress							
Billing Zip Code V-Code							
Signature							
If paying with a Credit Card, you may FAX Conception of the Please make checks payable to CSNA. Survey Seminar, 210 N. Glenoaks CSNA Industry Seminar, 210 N. Glenoaks This registration is for Seminar ONLY! Please conception Silverado Resort & Spa ~ 1600 Atla Direct Phone: 707.257.0200 To make Hotel Reservation Cut-Off Date SEMINAR REGISTRATION IS NON-REF	SORRY, NO PURC stration Form with I Blvd., Suite C, Bur ttact Hotel directly f as Peak Rd., Napa, Reservations call: 8 <b>is Friday, April 27,</b>	HASE ORDERS Fee to: bank, CA 91502 for Room Reservation CA 94558 800.532.0500 <b>2012</b>					

## The 2012 Legislative Action Conference

#### C ome to Sacramento and meet with California's top leaders on how to address the serious funding crisis and increasing regulations that exists so we can preserve funding for Child Nutrition.

March 2

CSNA has become a powerful voice in Sacramento. Building effective alliances with other organizations that share our vision and maintaining a credible presence with elected officials is fundamental to the success of Child Nutrition Programs. CSNA has made great strides in advancing Child Nutrition Program issues at the state legislative level. In this time of budget crisis, we need to work together to make sure the funding we have fought for is not cut and that new unfunded mandates are not put forward.

The members of the California School Nutrition Association Public Policy and Legislative Committee cordially invite you to attend the annual state Legislative Action Conference. This year's conference will be held March 25-26, at the Citizen Hotel. The committee is in the process of constructing an exciting program packed with informative speakers, great food, and visits with your legislators.

The conference will open at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 25th, and will conclude with legislative visits on Monday. (see detailed agenda below, and check back often for the most up-to-date information)

The PP&L Committee is working hard to construct a memorable conference. As a child nutrition professional, your voice is critical in shaping public policy. Don't miss this extraordinary event.

The Citizen Hotel

Sacramento, California

## 2012 CSNA State LAC Registration Form

- -	March 25-2 The Citizen Hotel - Sac			
Name	Tentative Schedule			
District/Company			Sunday, March 25th	
Job Title	10:30 – 11:00 Registration 11:00 Program			
Address			1:00 Lunch (included in registration)	
City			<ul><li>2:00 Program</li><li>6:00 Program adjourns</li></ul>	
Phone	FAX		6:00 Dinner on your ow <u>Monday, March 26th</u>	n
Email			8:00 - 3:00 Legislative Appointments	
	CSNA State LAC R			
*Registered an	Early Bird Price ad <u>paid in full</u> Prior to 2/1	On or Before 3/5/12 2/12	After 3/5/12 or at the Door	Total Cost
Director/Supervisor	\$149*	\$199	\$249	
Non-CSNA Member Dir./Sup.	\$199*	\$249	\$299	
Industry Representative	\$199*	\$249	\$299	
Non-CSNA Industry Representative	\$249*	\$299	\$349	
		TOTAL AMC	OUNT ENCLOSED	
Credit Card Number		Exp Date	V-Code	
Billing Address			Billing Zip Code	
Signature				
Please make chea Please CSNA 2012 This registration is for Co Citizen Hotel Cont Reservations m You can make reservations by ca Request for refund must be	send your completed Reg LAC, 210 N. Glenoaks Bl onference ONLY! Please 1 - 926 J Street, Sacrament ference Hotel Rate Single, ust be made by March 9th lling 916-492-4460 and as	SORRY, NO PURCH istration Form with Fe lvd., Suite C, Burbank contact Hotel directly to, CA 95814814 (916 /Double \$139 night + 1 n to take advantage of 1 sking for the Ca School 22/12. A \$50 cancella	ASE ORDERS ee to: , CA 91502 for Room Reservations 5) 447-2700 tax the rate above. ol Nutrition Assn. disco tion fee will be deducte	unt rate.
SLIMITAR				

For the most Up-to-Date Information visit www.calsna.org



By Monica Orta, Accounting Technician, Nutrition Services, Palm Springs Unified School District

**O**n October 26th The Desert Stars, Chapter 111 of Palm Springs held our October meeting in Spook-tacular fashion at Raymond Cree Middle School in Palm Springs. The Kitchen Staff did a freakishly fabulous job of decorating the Multi-Purpose Room, complete with spooky music and a punch bowl that percolated punch from the eyes of a ghoul. Now, that is appetizing.



Desert Stars Spook-tacular Meeting

Since this meeting was destined to be such a fun event, we invited some special guests. Local representatives from SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union and Horace Mann Insurance joined us to share how to get the most out of our money. Domino's Pizza donated some of their new school-friendly pizzas for us to sample. Our *fear*less Director, Wanda Grant, shared our new strategy to a healthier life style; Move on up to the Zip Code of Healthy Living, 90215. 9 hours of sleep, 0 sugary drinks, 2 hours *maximum* of screen time, 1 hour *minimum* of play, 5 fruits and veggies every day!

In support of our new café inside our Central Kitchen (scheduled to open in January 2012), we hosted a recipe contest. The café, named "Give Peas a Chance" gave the only requirement for any dish that was entered...it must contain *peas*. The judges sampled the 26 entries and came up with the top three winners. Those who scared up the winning recipes received an assortment of gift cards, gourmet foods and kitchen utensils. Everyone in attendance

Continued on Page 26

#### Continued from Page 25

then enjoyed selecting their own favorites, and going back for seconds and thirds. A book containing all of the recipes is being printed for distribution within our district.

What is a spook-tabulous party without a costume contest? We enjoyed almost 100% participation in this event where members and guests dressed like witches, musketeers, dust bunnies, and even a bunch of Peace-ful Peas. The winner of this contest was our frightfully scary President, Arla Provo.



After the business of the meeting, we had a raffle drawing where each attendee received a gift certificate. These gifts were graciously donated by local vendors and supporters of our Chapter. It was a great time, and this brought in the holiday spirit for the season. In addition to the fun and fellowship, our Chapter raised over \$270 in unsolicited donations, and there is nothing *scary* about that!



Give Peas a Chance!

Kitchen Staff/CSNA Members from the host school

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## Local Chapter Powers Up for Healthy Living

By Monica Orta, Accounting Technician, Nutrition Services, Palm Springs Unified School District

**O**n October 13, 2011, Palm Springs Unified School District hosted the second annual "Eat Smart Play Hard" Festival and Health Fair at James Workman Middle School in Cathedral City. The event was open to all District Staff members to introduce them to products and services available through local businesses and district partnerships. Services ranging from Dentistry, Bone Density Screening, health insurance options, peer support services for those affected by cancer and more were highlighted. Our resident farm-to-school farmer gave samples of oranges from a 100-year-old tree, yum.

Some members of our chapter dressed as various fruits joined the official mascot of the Eat Smart Play Hard Campaign, The Power Panther, in the Zumba and Karate demonstrations. Additional entertainment was provided by local High School Dance Teams, Red Dragon Karate (boasting the only female 5th-degree black belt who is the owner and instructor) and Zumba led by a district staff member. Participating members of our district have already lost over 3,000 pounds. And the winners for our Middle School Challenge for Got Milk were awarded. The Nutrition Services Department challenged middle schools to increase breakfast participation during a 3-week period. After qualifying, two winners were randomly selected from each of our 5 middle schools to win a 10-speed bicycle, lock and helmet. Winners for our Coachella Healthy Lifestyle Challenge were also awarded.

Our local CSNA Chapter 111 Desert Stars hosted a booth where we showcased fresh healthy fruits alongside valuable information about CSNA, the upcoming Conference in Sacramento, and membership applications. A slide show presentation of pictures from past events played in the background to further pique their interest and entice membership. We took this opportunity to educate our fellow staff members of the fabulous Nutrition Service Professionals on the district team, and how we are all working for the benefit of our students.

The entertainment was interrupted periodically by the door prize drawings. Vendors and supporters graciously donated many prizes, including gift certificates, movie theater tickets, massage, dental cleaning, small kitchen appliances, free services, free memberships and even a Wii fit and console.

We used this venue to kick off our 5<sup>th</sup> season of "Lighten Up" which is similar to televisions "Biggest Loser."



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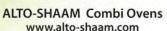
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## The 59th Annual Conference of the California School Nutrition Association



## Conference Wrap-Up & Highlights!







Gary Soiseth was the Opening Keynote Speaker for the 59th Annual Conference of the California School Nutrition Association in Sacramento. Gary spoke about his work in Afganistan as an Agribusiness Specialist and Agricultural Advisor for the USDA. Describing the challenges and opportunities of agricultural developement in a combat zone, Gary enthralled the crowd with tales of his exploits and the emotion of his words left most in the crowd reaching for a tissue. It was the perfect beginning to our School Nutrition Hero Conference! Gary was introduced by his proud father, Scott Soiseth.

ION HEROES







Maureen Mulvaney brought a bundle of energy and a wickedly funny sense of humor to the Second General Session of the 59th Annual Conference of the California School Nutrition Association. Using props, video clips, music and antidotes, Mulvaney entertained and motivated the Child Nutrition professionals that had congregated to hear MGM's session on *"Success Recipes--Scoops of Love."* As attendees made their way to the doors following the session, with sides aching and smiles on their faces, it is safe to say that Mulvaney's mission was accomplished!

OOL NUTR

Second General Session Keynote Speaker Maureen Mulvaney





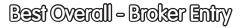


Best Overall - Single Entry

Best Keeping With the Theme - Single Entry





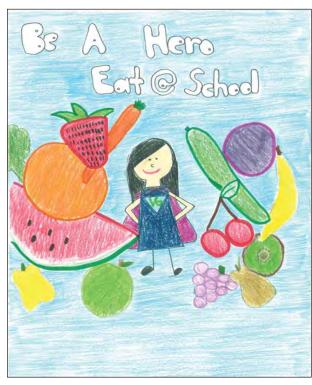




Best Keeping With the Theme - Broker Entry



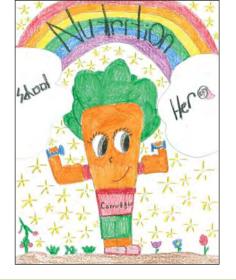
## Nutrition Advisory Council Art Winners!



Grand Prize Winner: Briana Stokes Bell Gardens High School Grade 10

1st Runner up: Cynthia Gastelum Eastmont Intermediate School Grade 6

2nd Runner-up: Kimberly Zaldana Bell Gardens High School Grade 10





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Official Conference Photographer, William Kidston was on hand to document the festivities. William is a regualr on the red carpets in Hollywood and around the country and has been a fixture at CSNA events for many years. Thank you William Kidston!

The great photos that you see on these pages and many more are available from William Kidston Photography.

Call him at (310)739-6904 or email him kidstonh7730@yahoo.com



CSNA - Poppy Seeds Magazine

# Photo & Video Contest Winners Announced!

U ur Sacramento 2011 Conference featured the Annual Photo Contest with the theme being School Nutrition Hero to represent CSNA President, Denise Ohm's vision! This year, the winner was CSNA School Nutrition Representative, Terri VanderStowe. It is fitting that Terri win this contest as she is tireless in her efforts to represent the Food Service membership of CSNA. You might say that she is a Child Nutrition Super Hero! As such, Terri was photographed as her alter-ego along with some of the students for whom she is passionate about prividing nutritious and healthy meals each day. Congratulations Terri!

Sacramento 2011was also the first time that we had a Video Contest. There was some outstanding competition with submissions from all over the state. When the dust settled and the votes were tabulated, the winning submission came from Anna Apoian, Director of Food Services from the Hawthorne School District. Look for the video on the CSNA website and maybe get some tips for your submission in 2012! Congratulations to Anna and the Hawthorne School District.

Next year's theme will be Producing Healthy Meals/ Healthy Minds. So, load those cameras with memory cards and start shooting!





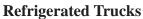






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## eee fresh, never frozen eee



New vegetarian foods are so NOW. The awesome thing is these foods taste great. They are packed with healthy nutrition everyone needs. What's more is they are made just for your students. **IT'S TIME TO BE COOL!** 



This winner is the classic chef salad with vinaigrette dressing, hard-boiled eggs, tomatoes, cucumbers and baby carrots over fresh mixed greens.

CHECK IT OUT... Tomatoes and romaine lettuce are great sources of vitamin A.\*



This salad rocks with black eyed peas, corn, tomato basil vinaigrette, red peppers, green peppers, red onions and celery.

# keen on VEGGIE SALAD

Looks, taste, this salad has it all with quinoa, couscous, reduced-calorie sun dried tomato aioli, portabella mushrooms, sun dried tomatoes, red peppers and green peppers.

SINCE 1998, Five Star Gourmet has truly tried to make a difference, not only by providing students with great-tasting, nutritious foods, but also by donating to local food banks. Five Star Gourmet has already delivered over one million free meals to residents in California. When it comes to vegetarian options, Five Star Gourmet is first class.



There's a fiesta in this bowl and you're invited. The VIP list includes iceberg and romaine lettuces, salsa ranch dressing, tortilla chips, kidney beans, corn, cheese, cabbage and red peppers. Tostada salad? You've just gotta!

# the freshly picked FARMER'S MARKET SALAD

The freshest salad around! Spring mix greens, reduced fat ranch dressing, edamame, egg, tomatoes and carrots.

# it's all **PFEK**to me

Look out Caesar, There's a new salad in town. The philosophy is if you mix fresh romaine lettuce with red balsamic vinaigrette dressing, tomatoes, white beans, reduced-fat feta cheese and olives, you'll have one smart tasting salad.

## Munchies never tasted so good:

 raisins, celery and apples with peanut butter green apples and cheese cubes with caramel sauce granola and red and green apples with yogurt dip

- snap peas, baby carrots, cheese cubes and
- reduced fat ranch dressing pretzels, baby carrots, red grapes and
- cheese cubes

## eee pick a great VEGGIE PLATE

Your choice of delicious hummus, sunflower seeds, baby carrots and celery or reduced fat ranch dressing, tomatoes, broccoli, baby carrots and celery. Both are vummv!

### CHECK IT OUT ... Other Veggie Foods that are cool this year...

- Vegetable Curry
- Garden Patch Potato Skins
- Vegetable Chow Mein with Egg
- Vegetable Tortellini with Butternut Squash Sauce
- Vegetable Manicotti with Tomato **Basil Marinara**
- Lentil Cutlet

- · Asian Pad Thai with Spicy Peanut Sauce
- Creole Chickpea and Veggie Stew
- Roasted Vegetable Quesadilla
- Hummus with Whole Wheat Pita
- Vegetable Bean Burger Vegetable Tamale
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## **Californian's Honored With White House Visit**

By Dr. Robert Lewis, Director of Nutrition Services, El Monte City School District

On October 17, 2011, the El Monte City School District was honored by First Lady Michelle Obama at a private reception at the White House. The event was a culmination of EMCSD's participation in the First Lady's Let's Move Initiative and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Healthier US Schools Challenge (HUSSC). Last school year, fourteen EMCSD schools received the silver honor bestowed by the USDA on HUSSC awardees. As a result of this status, the fourteen schools plus the Nutrition Services department were invited to the White House.



Nellie Garcia Hugs First Lady, Michelle Obama

In order to achieve the HUSSC silver designation, school sites made significant changes in student wellness policies, physical education, health education, competitive food sales, and employee wellness. As a major part of the Healthier US Schools Challenge, Dr. Robert Lewis, Director of Nutrition Services, set new high standards for school meals and nutrition education. Many common school foods were replaced with healthier options such as daily salads, whole- grain breads and pastas, lean proteins, and more fresh fruits and vegetables. In the area of nutrition education, Corina Ulloa, project coordinator of EMCSD's Network for a Healthy California, and her team helped the district implement new nutrition-related curricula into several grade levels.

At the White House visit, more than twenty-five El Monte CSD employees were led by Deputy Superintendent Kris Olafsson, School Board member Terry Parson, Dr. Lewis, Ms. Ulloa, Food Service Operations Coordinator Nellie Garcia, Registered Dietitian Donna Mitchell, and numerous school site principals, assistant principals, and teachers. Notes EMCSD Superintendent Jeff Seymour, "The healthy changes that our schools are now experiencing are the fruition of decades of wellness challenges being set and achieved. We are very proud of the USDA awards, our staff, but most of all, our students who actively engage in district wellness efforts throughout the school day. We look forward to the next wellness challenge."



Robert, Nellie, Corina and Donna are proud members of the California School Nutrition Association

## **Dr. Robert Lewis is Gold Level Champion**

By Sally Spero, SNS, Poppy Seeds Editor



**O**n October 19, 2011 Dr. Robert Lewis, Director of Nutrition Services at El Monte City School District was honored as a Gold Level Healthy Schools Champion by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. The ceremony was held at the Wyndham Blake hotel in Chicago.

Robert joins the Alliance Champion team as a national leader and advisor for a one-year term. He was appointed to the position by the Alliance because of his award-winning menus and work in coordinated school health policy. Under his leadership, eleven EMCSD schools have earned national recognition including one of only two gold schools in the USA this year.

Dr. Lewis is a proud member of the California School Nutrition Association and looks forward to the next awards challenge. Last school year, his team conducted student taste tests and provided input to Rachel Ray regarding her school recipes. El Monte was very excited to be featured in her *Everyday* magazine in the October 2011 issue. This year Robert's team will taste-test student recipes for entertainer Reed Alexander and provide feedback to him and the Alliance.



## CSNA Chapter 46 Santa Clarita, Fire Safety Workshop

By Gloria Carner, CSNA Chapter 46 Santa Clarita, SCVSFSA, Retired



Chapter President Mary Jo Kremer welcomed Captain. Ken Sotro, Engineer Specialist Joe Crocco, Firefighter Paramedic Jim Bracci and Firefighter Josh Knowles, all from Fire Station 156 in Santa Clarita.

Captain Sotro began the workshop stating that Smoke Alarms, in working condition, are a must in every home. A good reminder when to check the batteries in the smoke alarms is when the time changes, e.g. Daylight savings time. Do have carbon monoxide alarms also, because carbon monoxide poisoning has no odor.

Here are some Dos and Don'ts Captain Sotro suggested.

- One should have baking soda in the kitchen in case of a grease fire. Do not put water on a grease fire.
- Do not burn wood in a gas fireplace.
- For a cast iron stove fill with water so there is moisture in the air.
- One must be careful with candles, do not leave them unattended!
- Children are very curious. Matches and cigarette lighters must be kept out of their reach. Have plugs in all electrical outlets, so children cannot put their fingers, etc. in them. Put latches on all cabinet doors in both the kitchen and bathrooms.
- Outdoor fireplaces should be free standing, with a weather screen. Keep combustible items away.

- Do not use free standing fire places inside! And as Chapter Treasurer Susan Weiss stated, never use Barbecue grills in the home as a heating source.
- Check water heater filters and flutes. Call the gas company. to check your gas appliances.
- Vacuum behind washers and dryers and clean lint traps as lint in a dryer may cause a fire.
- Keep hood vents clean. Grease build-up may cause a fire,
- In mobile homes, appliances and heaters must be maintained properly.
- If there is a fire in your house, close the door to that room and call 911. Be sure to tell them location of the fire.
- Check outside of your home, making sure there are no fire hazards. In the Buck Wheat fire, flying embers traveled from Acton to the Santa Clarita Valley burning homes, and cars!

Other observations were:

- Chapter member Carol Stanley related that a cup of noodles, without water was put in a microwave and started a fire in the microwave. Luckily, the microwave was counter top, and was easily carried outside. For a built-in microwave, keep the door to the oven closed.
- Chapter member Julie Diamond mentioned that live Christmas trees should have fireretardant sprayed on them, be placed in water, trimmed near the bottom of the trunk so it will "drink" the water. It should and not be placed near a fireplace. A fire retardant tree cannot be recycled.
- Fire extinguishers in the home should be recharged. Call a service company to do this, there is a charge. Remember, on a fire extinguisher "PASS"- Pull (pin), <u>A</u>im, <u>S</u>queeze, and <u>S</u>weep.

Update: As of July 1, 2011 California Senate Bill 183 states the Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act of 2010 requires all residential properties be equipped with a Carbon Monoxide Detector when the property has a fossil-fuel burning heater, appliance, fireplace, or attached garage.

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# Cultural Exchange 2011 A Trip To The Middle Kingdom

## **By Tony Roberts**

Last April, an extremely large group of fifty intrepid school food service professionals went to China to learn about school meals in China and experience Chinese culture. In addition to a school visit, the group learned about various types of Chinese cuisine, attended cooking school, and visited markets and educational gardens. Of course, all of the important cultural sites were visited with plenty of time left for shopping.

The educational highlight of our trip was our school visit to one of Xi'an's (home city to the Terra Cotta Soldiers) most prestigious high schools, Gaoxin No 1 High School. The school is one of the top science and technology schools in China, sending many of its graduates onto the top universities in China as well as every one of the top one hundred universities of the world. The school's students actively participate in international cultural exchange programs; many go abroad, especially to the United States, but the school also hosts foreign students. One of our delegates, Leanne Frame from the William S Hart High School District, received quite a surprise when she walked into a classroom filled with students visiting China from her own district.

Since the outbreak of SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) and the bird flu, the Chinese government has been reluctant to allow groups from the "West" to visit schools. We felt very honored that our group was given permission to make a visit. We were even more honored by the reception we received at the school; a banner hung from the school that said, "Welcome California School Nutrition Members." A fancy conference room, a photographer, and government representatives from the city and region attended to make presentations. After a presentation on the school's educational achievements, the canteen director described the meal program to us.

Students that are admitted (through examination) to the Gaoxin No 1 High School come from many parts of the region and are unable to go home. The school is therefore set up as a boarding school and three meals daily are served. The menus are created using the recommended daily nutrition allowances for Chinese distributed as follows: 30% for breakfast, 40% for lunch, and 30% for dinner. The goal is a safe, science based diet that is fast and convenient. The school chef alters the menu to utilize seasonal ingredients and keep excitement among the students. His goal is "to inspire the tongue." Almost all foods are brought in daily because storage is limited. Suppliers undergo frequent inspections to ensure food safety. In addition to the nutrition component to health, all students are given medical exams prior to every term. Any student found to be overweight is put on a special exercise program.

Both Western and Chinese foods are served at breakfast. Western foods included eggs, milk, pastries, cereal, and sausages. Chinese foods included porridge, soybean milk, steamed bread and processed vegetables.

Lunch is defined as a transverse meal. The goal is to serve foods that are easily digestible, high in fiber and sufficient in energy. A typical lunch menu follows these guidelines:

- 125 grams of rice
- 75 grams of animal protein
- 70 grams of beans
- 200 grams of vegetables
- 70 grams of fruit

Dinner is a smaller version of lunch; however, menus attempt to be very light on fat for the evening meal. Students can also buy snacks from the canteen. The most popular snack is noodles. To try to increase vegetable consumption, flavors such as carrot and spinach are offered. Vegetables are also mixed into the entrée dishes as well, sometimes in a pureed form. Chefs find that dumpling filling is an excellent vehicle for "hidden vegetable delivery." It appears that one of the things Chinese kids have in common with American kids is that it is difficult to get them to eat their vegetables.

Meals are part of the tuition that students pay to attend the school. In the event that a student's family is unable to pay for the tuition, the regional government has a procedure for financial aid. The target costs for both food and labor for school meals are: 3 RMB for breakfast, 6 to 7 RMB for lunch, and 6 RMB for dinner. At today's exchange rate, that translates to approximately, 50 cents for breakfast, \$1.10 for lunch, and 95 cents for dinner.

In order to give us a a comprehensive sample of school lunch, the school gave us a multi-course meal that included many more choices than the standard daily offerings. The menu included: chicken cutlet, sautéed beef filet, dumplings, soup, and salad. It even included a dessert, something not frequently served in China. Fruit is usually the last course; we all learned very quickly that when the watermelon came out, it was time to depart. *Continued on Page 52* 

We also learned that in China, at both primary and secondary levels, the lunch break is two to two and one half hours. Nap time is part of the daily regimen; elementary students that eat at school take a nap after lunch and then continue school from 2:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. For students that are close enough to go home for lunch and have family at home (usually the grandparents), they take their lunches and naps at home and return to school. With the one child policy of the Chinese government, there are often grandparents available. Places known as boarding houses have opened near schools for those students that live near school but can't return home for lunch because both parents are working (and no other family The "boarding houses" contract with available). parents to provide lunch and a bed for students during the break. Each boarding house facility takes in four to six students.

During our school visit we also had the opportunity to tour the school with student guides. They were very candid about their opinions on a variety of topics. They also discussed that there is a lot of pressure on them to succeed at school. Advancement in China is based on testing results, but adding to the pressure from competition at school is pressure from home. Because of the one child policy in China, parents are putting tremendous pressure on their children to achieve at school. Because of these pressures, the students often study during their daily rest breaks and take supplemental classes on the weekends.

There were other educational activities during our two week tour of China. One highlight was handson culinary training at the Yangshou Cooking School. Each participant had his own wok and tools. Dishes we learned to prepare were Chinese eggplant Yangshou style, chicken with cashews, pork with vegetables and oyster sauce, and vegetables with garlic. At cooking school, we learned the standard measuring device was a spatula with a lip around two edges. For those of us that went to cooking school, it was more than just an educational experience; it was dinner. If it didn't taste right, you had no one to blame but yourself. The cooking school experience also included a trip to the local produce and meat market. It seemed like everything was sold there: snails, eels, fish, chickens, rabbits, and some of the largest vegetables I have ever seen. Most of the animals, except for cows and pigs, were sold live. We were very disappointed to learn that in Yangshou, dogs were still eaten.

Our final educational activity included a visit to a bilingual kindergarten in the city of Yichang, the home of the Three Gorges Dam. We were welcomed by the school with a band comprised of kindergartners. At the school we divided into groups to visit classrooms to observe both the teaching of English and the afternoon activity (we were too late for lunch). The activity of one classroom was creating two murals with the hands and feet of every student, one of the boys and one of the girls. The girls proceeded to follow instructions and placed paint on their hands and feet and neatly made impressions of their hands and feet on the paper. The boys on the other hand, created a total mess on their paper and it seemed like it took forever to get them to sit down and get cleaned up. Some things are universal.



Of course, the cultural exchange trip would not be complete without taking in some of the famous historical sights of China. In Beijing we saw the Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, took a rickshaw ride, and walked on the Great Wall of China. Some of us were even able to take the toboggan ride down from the top of the Great Wall. In Xian, in addition to our school visit, we went to see the Terra Cotta Soldiers. We had our share of water adventures too: we cruised down the Li River in Guilin to see the famous mountains that appear on the back of the Chinese money, took a three night cruise down the Yangtzee River, and a canal ride in Tongli, the Venice of China. After visiting the historical areas of Shanghai, we were turned loose to shop, shop, shop. It seemed like everyone took advantage of the free second suitcase policy of China Airlines on the trip home.

Next April, the cultural exchange will be visiting Africa from April 12 to 29 for a safari. A bonus one week trip during President's Day week in February will also be offered; we have received permission to travel to Cuba to see school food service there.



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# A Golden Apple Salute for Hort Elementary School



# By Brenda Robinson, Director of Food Services, Bakersfield City School District

**USDA** Food and Nutrition Service developed the HealthierUS School Challenge to recognize schools that create healthy school environments by promoting good nutrition, physical activity, and nutrition education. On October 12, USDA and CDE presented Bakersfield City School District's Hort Elementary School with the Gold Award of Distinction.



Bakersfield City School District demonstrated initiative, creativity and resourcefulness to meet the challenge to provide nutritious meals that include 51% whole grain products and more fresh fruits and vegetables. Additionally the students enjoyed the challenge of walking enough miles to reach the Statue of Liberty and back. Schools provide nutritious meals to help students be better prepared to meet academic challenges and families need to know that their children have access to healthy meals at school.

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January 2012		
12	NorCal SNA Chapter Meeting	<i>#02</i>
19	Far North SNA Educational Meeting	#20
25	MotherLode Chapter Meeting	#45
February 2012		
3	Southern Cal SNA Meeting	<i>#01</i>
4	CSNA Board Meeting	CSNA
16	Far North SNA Educational Meeting	#20
March 2012		
4-7	SNA Legislative Action Conference - Washington, D.C.	SNA
5-9	National School Breakfast Week - "Go For Gold"	SNA
15	NorCal Chapter Meeting	#02
15	Far North SNA Business Meeting	#20
25-26	CSNA Legislative Action Conference - Sacramento, California	CSNA
28	MotherLode Chapter Meeting	#45
29	Central Cal SNA Meeting	#10
30	Southern Cal SNA Meeting	#01
April 2012		
19	Far North SNA Educational Meeting	#20
May 2012		
4-8	ACDA Conference - Costa Mesa, California	ACDA
10	NorCal Installation of Officers	#02
18	MotherLode Legislative Fundraiser	#45
19	CSNA Leadership Workshop - Oakland, California	CSNA
20	CSNA Installation Dinner, Napa, California	CSNA
20-22	CSNA Industry Seminar - Silverado Resort, Napa, California	CSNA
June 2012		
1	Southern Cal SNA Installation Meeting	#01
July 2012		
15-18	SNA Annual National Conference - Denver, Colorado	SNA
November 2012		
8-11	CSNA 60th Annual Conference - Pasadena, California	CSNA
November 2013		
14-17	CSNA 61st Annual Conference - Palm Springs, California	CSNA
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Please note that are tentative and subject to change For further information on CSNA events, including Chapter events **www.CALSNA.org** or call (818)842-3040 For more information on SNA events, please visit www.schoolnutrition.org





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