

**'Tis the Season!**

Hello, My School Nutrition Friends!

As we finish up 2021 and prepare to move into 2022, I wanted to take a moment to talk about optimism. During these trying times when we feel overwhelmed just dealing with the day-to-day struggles of taking care of our customers and each other it is important to remain optimistic. Optimism serves many purposes in our lives.

**Optimism is a skill that gives you resilience and adaptability.** Optimism can be learned and isn't a thought that everything is perfect all the time. Optimists believe that bad things are produced by temporary causes that can be overcome. A good way to live this is to think of the phrase, "this too shall pass" on the days that seem especially tough.

**Achieving anything Together requires optimism.** Anything that requires collaboration and cooperation amongst a group requires trust. Assuming you can trust another won't cheat or take advantage of you is a form of optimism. How do you look at others? Do you have a pessimistic view where you think everyone is trying to get away with something?

Try shifting your view of others to see how it impacts how much more you can achieve as a result.

**Optimism shapes Tomorrow.** As with any goal or result we are trying to achieve you must first visualize what you want that future to look like and how we will get there.

Being optimistic and believing it is possible makes this vision of tomorrow more likely to happen.

My hope for you is that you maintain your optimism as we continue through this school year with the knowledge that ***Tomorrow*** will be better and that ***Together*** we will make that happen.

I hope you have a wonderful holiday season and a very happy new year!

Emily Hanlin

GSNA President 2021-2022



Support the Georgia School Nutrition Foundation this holiday season. Shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and donate to your FAVORITE school nutrition organization (GSNA!), at no cost to you.

Visit: [AmazonSmile: You shop. Amazon gives.](https://smile.amazon.com)

## 2021 – 2022 Calendar &amp; Events

**January 2022****12-14** GSNA Equipment Academy (Perry, GA)**16-18** SNA School Nutrition Industry Conference (San Antonio, TX)**21-22** GSNA Executive Committee & Executive Board Meetings (Macon Marriott Courtyard)**February 2022****1-2** GSNA Legislative Advocacy Conference (Decatur Marriott Courtyard)**18** SNAP Training: Macon (More information to come)**March 2022****6-8** SNA Legislative Action Conference (Washington, DC)**7-11** NSBW 2022: Take Off with School Breakfast**14** GSNA State Culinary Competition – Jackson High School (Butts County)**April 2022****20-23** GSNA Annual Conference (Savannah)**28-30** SNA National Leadership Conference (West Palm Beach, FL)**May 2022****6** School Lunch Hero Day**June 2022**

GSNA Leadership Training: TBD

**July 2022****10-12** SNA Annual Conference (Orlando, L)

## In Memory of Bobby Sharp

GSNA lost one of our long-time volunteers last month. Bobby Sharp of Dalton had been a GSNA fixture for decades. He served as our Ways & Means chair for over 30 years. Bobby enjoyed selling and he was good at it. You knew when you saw Bobby set up with his table you were going to go SHOPPING!

He was the ultimate fundraiser for GSFSA (Georgia School Food Service Association) as we were known until our name change in 2005 and was instrumental in raising funds for the GSNA headquarters building.

Bobby didn't like missing GSNA conferences and was always sad when he couldn't make it. His health in the past few years kept him from manning his post and setting up his tables "just so" like he liked, but he was always there in spirit and wanted to know EVERYTHING that went on.

Bobby considered GSNA a part of his family and we will miss his stories and general good nature.

Bobby will be missed.

GSNA thanks our Past Presidents for their donation to the GSN Foundation in memory of Mr. Bobby Sharp.

## Mission, Money &amp; Manpower

*Manpower*

GSFSA Ways & Means Chairman 1985-Present  
Bobby donated the first theme t-shirts  
Manager, Southeast High - Dalton, 11 years  
District President - 2 terms  
Gold Scroll District winner  
Special Recognition Plaque '87 and '94  
Presently Director of Food Services, Dalton First Baptist Church

Bobby Sharp (from the hills of North Georgia's Whitfield County) Hazel Florence was the President that first named Bobby Ways & Means chairman. During his tenure, Bobby's fundraising efforts raised thousands of dollars for the Building Fund. His largest tally was taking in \$16,000 at one conference! He wore out one van and is on his second personal vehicle hauling GSFSA merchandise. We all remember Bobby dressed in a teddy bear costume, in a hula skirt, and in his gold metallic suit with Jerry Cochran celebrating "50 years of School Meals" (anything to raise money for GSFSA)! Throughout the years Bobby has shared his musical talents with us through his singing and piano playing. A brass plate on the foyer table at the headquarters office honors Bobby.





## GSNA 2022 Equipment Academy - January 12-14 - Perry, GA

Give the gift of knowledge this holiday season! Gift YOURSELF a registration to the GSNA 2022 Equipment Academy.

This event promises to be full of information from experts in the field on combi ovens, walk-ins, and other kitchen equipment, latest small wares on display, learning sessions and many networking opportunities.

GSNA and our equipment vendors are looking **#TogetherTowardsTomorrow** with lots of NEW ideas and information.

**NEW THIS YEAR!** A maintenance track for maintenance Directors and team members. We have also added Wednesday Night Equipment Academy Bingo and we will still have our much-anticipated evening reception on Thursday.

You won't want to miss the demonstrations by factory certified chefs on the food products that were chosen with the guidance of GA school nutrition directors:

- Pizza
- Biscuits
- Commodity Chicken...new ideas
- BBQ
- The Infamous Crinkle Cut Fries!

Get your registration in TODAY! Visit <https://www.georgiaschoolnutrition.com/News-and-Events/Meetings/Equipment-Academy> for a registration form and more information.



## GSNA 2022 Annual Conference - April 21-21 - Savannah, GA

Get ready for GSNA's 2022 Annual Conference, April 21-23 in beautiful Savannah, GA.

Join us for the opportunity to get **#Together** to reconnect & rediscover your purpose in school nutrition and remember **WHY** you **#LoveWhatYouDo!**

Mark your calendars & make your plans to **"Learn.Link.Lead"** in Savannah as we work **#TogetherTowardsTomorrow**.

**Don't be the missing piece!**

Hotel reservations are open **NOW** and SN members conference registration will be available early January. Exhibitor registration will be available December 23, 2021.

**Conference Hotels:** [2022 GSNA Annual Conference - Start your reservation \(passkey.com\)](https://www.passkey.com)



## GSNA 2022 Elections

The GSNA 2021 Nominating Committee has completed the task of selecting the candidates for the 2022 GSNA Officers Election.

The following Candidates will appear on the ballot in the 2022 Election:

**President-elect candidate:**

Cathy Johnson, Richmond County

**System Level Chair candidate:**

April Cox, Hall County

**Treasurer candidates:**

Sandra Thrift, Ware County

Ken Yant, Gwinnett County

Voting will take place between January 3, 2022 - February 3, 2022 and will be done ONLINE ONLY.

Eligible voting members will receive an email with the election link in late December.

To be eligible to vote, your GSNA membership must be valid and current as of November 1, 2021.

View the candidate bios on the Election page of the GSNA website:

<https://www.georgiaschoolnutrition.com/Membership/GSNA-Elections>



## GSNA Legislative Advocacy Conference - February 1-2 - Decatur Marriott Courtyard

The GSNA Legislative Advocacy Conference is a great way to advocate for meaningful change and policy efforts that affect your local school nutritional programs.

Plan to attend our 2022 Advocacy Conference. This will an opportunity to visit our state capital and network with your peers, meet with your representatives and be a part of the movement that fuels Georgia's children.

Don't miss this excellent training and the chance to share "Your School Nutrition Story" with Georgia Legislators.

Registration and the 2022 GSNA Legislative Position Paper will be available soon.

**GSNA Thanks Our 2021-2022 Platinum Sponsor**

**GSNA Headquarters 2021 Holiday Schedule**



The GSNA headquarters will be closed for our Christmas and Winter break December 23<sup>rd</sup> to January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The office will open for the New Year on Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.