

September 2021

Georgia Gems

A publication of the Georgia School Nutrition Association

T Together

TOWARDS TOMORROW 



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**Georgia School
Nutrition Association**
*Building Healthy Children,
Ready to Learn*



From the President



Emily Hanlin– GSNA President 2021-2022

It's that time of year! For many of us we have been back to a more normal operation and some are continuing your new service models. What remains the same is the energy and excitement for a new year. I hope you all are doing well while balancing having the food, people, and items you need to serve your students.

I chose my theme for this year based on three main points: **Together**, **Towards** and **Tomorrow**. I always like to share inspirational stories as we start any school year but this year, I couldn't find anything more inspirational than what we've accomplished over the last year. And we did it **Together**!

Together: We took on the challenge of keeping our students, our communities fed.

Together: We forged new and lasting bonds with our teammates through shared struggles.

Together: We continued to bring light and hope to our students as shown by the smiles on their faces and their full bellies.

Together: We earned the respect of our communities, our state, our nation.

Together: We showed the importance of the valuable service we provide each and every day.

Together: We will build on our relationships across the state to strengthen our association to provide a valuable resource and connections for all members.

Together: As an association we will have our voices heard to provide valuable input on what the future of school nutrition will look like.

Helen Keller said it best "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." I know that **Together** this group, can do a lot.

We need to move into this school year as a unified group which leads me to my second point: **Towards**. I chose **Towards** to show our continued movement. We tried many new things over the past year, and we have a lot of items that we will take with us as we go forward. **Towards** is about moving to the next great thing, not away from the last thing. It's a subtle mindset shift that makes all the difference in the world. The goal of our **Towards** movement is to lead us into a fantastic **Tomorrow**.

Tomorrow is about the future which is a big part of what we've always been concerned with. We focus on fueling student success in everything we do. Our current **Tomorrow** will continue to keep us in a time of new opportunities as well as new challenges. And just like we did over the last 18 months, we will rise up and meet them both.

I encourage all our members to be active in your Local and District chapter activities in any way you can. The more you put into being a part of this Association the more you will get out of it. **Together** moving **Towards** a brighter **Tomorrow** we will continue to achieve the best for ourselves and our students.

Emily Hanlin



2021 – 2022 Calendar & Events

September 2021

- 7 GSNA Executive Committee Meeting (Virtual)
- 9 GSNA Committee Days (Macon)
- 9 GSNA Executive Board Meeting (Macon)

October 2021

- 11-15 National School Lunch Week: Wild About School Lunch
- GSNA Regional Expo
- 20 Macon
- 25 Tifton
- 29 Duluth (Gwinnett)

November 2021

- 4-5 GSNF Manager's Retreat & Training- FFA Camp Covington

January 2022

- 12-14 GSNA Equipment Academy (Perry, GA)
- 16-18 SNA School Nutrition Industry Conference (San Antonio, TX)

February 2022

- GSNA SNAP Training: TBD
- GSNA Legislative Advocacy Conference: TBD

March 2022

- 6-8 SNA Legislative Action Conference (Washington, DC)
- 7-11 NSBW 2022: Take Off with School Breakfast

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, FL)

Fall Scholarship & Grant-in-Aid Winners



GSNA congratulates our Fall 2021 Scholarship & Grant-in-Aid winners:

Scholarships

April Cox – Hall County
Ervin Watson – Douglas County

Grant-in-Aid

Darlene Dickerson - Richmond County

The GSN Foundation Winter scholarship and grant in aid deadline is December 15th.

GSNA members can submit their scholarship forms for the Winter deadline.

This deadline date applies to Members ONLY.

The deadline for Scholarship submissions for children of members is March 1, 2022. Applications and requirements are available here:

<https://www.georgiaschoolnutrition.com/GSN-Foundation/GSN-Foundation-Scholarships-Grant-in-Aid>

Seeking Leaders: GSNA 2022 Officer Nominations

It is time for GSNA to consider nominees for officer positions on the GSNA Executive Committee. This year we are seeking nominations for president-elect, treasurer and system level chair.

Please feel free to recommend fellow school nutrition members that you feel may be interested in being on the 2022 ballot and love the honor of serving as a GSNA Officer.

Click on each position to view specific duties of that position or visit <https://www.georgiaschoolnutrition.com/Membership/GSNA-Elections>

[President-elect](#)

[Treasurer](#)

[System Level Chair](#)

Nominations will be accepted through September 30th.

[2022 Nomination Form](#)



System Level Chair Message



Welcome to a new school year! I think we can all agree that after the last year, there is no doubt that as school nutrition professionals we can handle anything that comes our way. I personally look forward to a year where we are able to focus on what we do best, provide hot, nutritious meals to the students in our schools.

I do feel that there have been some positives to come out of the pandemic world. In my district, more principals than ever are on board with breakfast in the classroom. When I polled the administrators this summer to see which type of breakfast service they preferred, over 70% chose to continue with our cart service and breakfast in the classroom. We learned the magic of virtual meetings. This has been a godsend for our manager meetings! Now managers don't have to worry about being short staffed or getting back to their schools before meal service. Virtual meetings are also great when sharing a lot of information by email because you can ensure that everyone understands and is operating on the same page. System administrators have realized just how essential school nutrition is to the overall education and wellbeing of students. And finally, we have learned how to pivot and pivot some more to make things happen despite the financial hardships most of us are going through.

As we look towards tomorrow, together, I look forward to the continued creativity of GSNA to ensure engagement and professional training continues through both in person and virtual meetings, conference, and sessions. As your System Level Chair, my goal is to move forward on the proposal of offering virtual sessions for ONE and some TID courses. I will be working on the implementation of those sessions and plan to release a schedule after the Winter Break. In the meantime, please continue to use our Directors Listserve Email to share ideas and ask questions.

See you soon!

Cathy Johnson, GSNA System Level Chair 2021-2022 JohnsCa@BOE.Richmond.k12.ga.us



School Level Chair Message

As we begin a new year, I am looking forward to being your School Level Chair. We are planning exciting opportunities for the upcoming year for all GSNA members.

Together we are all working towards tomorrow. The Manager's Retreat is coming in November and we are planning a lot of fun things. This gives us the opportunity to grow, learn and network for school nutrition.

I am looking forward to seeing all the leaders we have for tomorrow. Here's to a great year to come.

Adina Tyre, GSNA School Level Chair atyre@wayne.k12.ga.us



GSNA Industry Advisory Board 2021-2022	Term Expires
Corey Ferger - CGA Reps - Chair 3157 Presidential Drive Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30340 Phone: 770-715-0053 E-mail: cferger@cgareps.com	2022
Claudia Harry - The Hansen Group – Vice Chair 1770 Breckinridge Pkwy Suite 500, Duluth, GA 30096 Phone: 404-895-7557 E-mail: charry@thehansengroup.net	2024
Joel Teachworth, Jr. - Kellogg's 404 Candler Trail, Canton, GA 30115 Phone: 678-641-2003 E-mail: joel.teachworth@kellogg.com	2022
Brannen Purdee - The Hansen Group 1770 Breckinridge Pkwy Suite 500, Duluth, GA 30096 Phone: 478-719-9009 E-mail: bpurdee@thehansengroup.net	2022
Robert Davis - Integrity Foods 4250 Keith Bridge Road, Cumming, GA 30041 Phone: 912-389-0339 E-mail: robert@integrity-foods.com	2023
Sheila Jennings – Prime Food Brokers 121 West Felton Road, Cartersville, GA 30120 Phone: 863-241-0215 E-mail: sheilaj@primefoodbrokers.com	2023
Donald May – Horizon Software International 2850 Premiere Parkway Suite #100 Duluth, GA 30097 Phone: 770-757-099 x 3367 E-mail: Dmay@horizonsoftware.com	2023
Jose Herrera – Pilgrim's – Gold Kist 2854 SW 176 Way, Miramar, FL 33029 Phone: 305-297-8564 E-mail: jose.herrera@pilgrims.com	2024
Tina Palumbo – Pace Reps 430 Senoia Road Fairburn, GA 30213 Phone: 678-920-0076 E-mail: tina@pacereps.com	2024

“An Honest & Open Love Letter”

Corey Ferger, GSNA Industry Advisory Chairman



Many of you know the expression, “Time flies when you are having fun, or when you are working to feed children during a Pandemic.” The last part might be a slightly new edition to an old expression.

As I sit here today, I am trying to take stock of where we have been over the past 18 months, where we currently are in the School Nutrition World and what is looming just over our horizon. There is excitement in the air, with students returning to classrooms and cafeterias. However, the wounds from the challenges we have fought during the past year and a half are not only still fresh, but in some cases, open. So, exactly, where are we?

Not quite the cheery way you were expecting this letter to open, *am I right?* Well, I think it would be a disservice to our Membership and Industry Partners to have this platform and not be honest. So, let’s be honest; last year was hard and this year might be even harder. There, I said it.

Now, are you ready for the really, really great news: The next 12 months may prove to be the Best Year in School Nutrition History. I am sure that has hit a few of you as odd, and I fully expect a few eyes to be rolled, but let me explain why I truly believe this and why I am completely Bullish on the 2021-2022 School Year.

The optimism starts with what I have seen us, the entire Georgia School Nutrition World, accomplish during the past year-plus. It was (and is) nothing short of remarkable! While this is not meant to steal anyone’s thunder, it needs to be pointed out that a true highlight of last year was watching new and lasting partnerships

develop across School Nutrition and many Industry Partners. Much of this was borne from necessity, but that would be a massive oversimplification. I witnessed people move mountains with a passion that burned so bright it could light up all of Atlanta.

And this was all during a time in our Country when we could not have been more divided. Our collective Worlds came together in a way seen so few times in my lifetime. It was truly inspiring! *Message continues on page 5*



Industry Advisory Board Chair Message Continued

District	Industry Advisory Board Partner
1	Brannen Purdee The Hansen Group
2	Tina Palumbo Pace Reps
3	Donald May Horizon Software
4	Corey Ferger CGA
5	Corey Ferger CGA
6	Claudia Harry The Hansen Group
7	Sheila Jennings Prime Food Brokers
8	Robert Davis Integrity Foods
9	Jose Herreria Pilgrim's
10	Joel Teachworth Kellogg's

So, how does that Optimism translate into action this year?

Well, it starts with a slight return to normalcy, as it relates to a Calendar of Events, but maybe with a little more grace sprinkled in. Instead of our usual Annual Conference, Industry will be supporting 3 smaller, Regional shows. Will they have the same energy and excitement as the usual Conference? Of course not, but nothing in our World is the same right now. But with a little understanding and that word “grace,” they will serve as the great learning and networking opportunities, we have so desperately missed. As we turn the page on 2021 and step into 2022, our World will be converging, once again, on Perry, GA for the Equipment Academy. I know the Committee has been working hard to bring even more excitement to this Calendar staple. This should set the stage for our return to Savannah for the 2022 Annual Conference! This will be a truly “Can’t Miss Experience!” I get goosebumps just thinking about how much fun we will have.

Ok, so those are some dates on a Calendar to be excited about, but is that it?

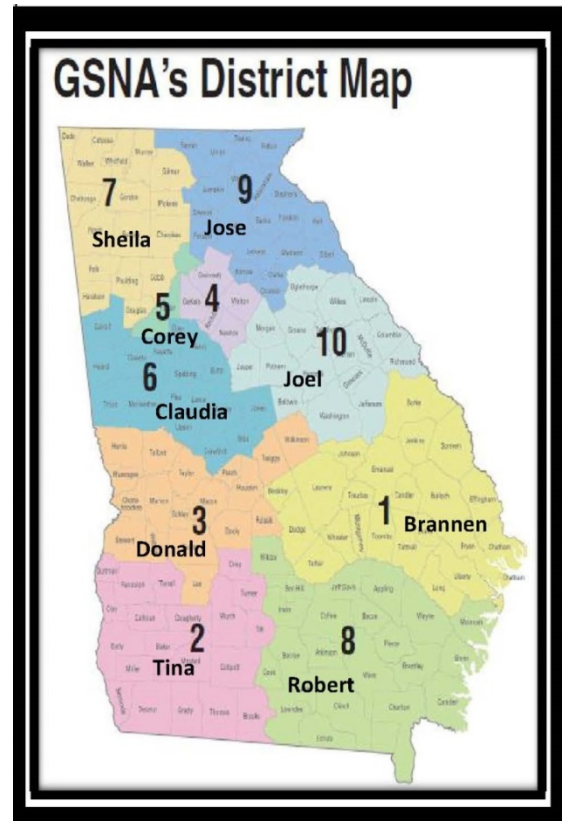
No. Brevity has never been my thing, so please allow me to elaborate. We are in the middle of a Labor Crisis, there are 3 COVID-19 variants set to attack our Country simultaneously and we are on the verge of a Supplies shortage, both on the food and equipment side. Gives you all the warm and fuzzies, right? Well, if I am being honest, what I see is more opportunities for us to come together and be the light for our communities. We have proven that these challenges are NOT too big for us. They are NOT too big for our partnerships and relationships. They are NOT too big for the incredible people in our School Nutrition World. What they present is the forum for us to continue to grow,

communicate and work together.

This is what I want to leave everyone with; **hard times can show us what we are capable of.** We saw remarkable things last year in our School Nutrition World and we will see even more amazing things in our World this coming year. But it will not come from us working alone or in our own little silos. It will come, arm-in-arm, hand-in-hand and alongside an Industry Partner or GSNA Member, or two. We, as Industry folks are here for that challenge and we are here to walk alongside you and your Teams.

Hopefully, our way of life starts to look a little like normal. For me, I hope it looks a little more like a slightly new edition of an old expression, just with a little more love and grace. Because it would be a shame to forget where we have come from as we walk towards where we are going.

Here’s to a great year!





MAINTENANCE TRACK

NEW

SAVE THE DATE

GSNA

EQUIPMENT ACADEMY

JAN 12-14, 2022

EQUIP DEMOS

ED SESSIONS

INNOVATION STATIONS

RECEPTION

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

SMALL WARES

BEST INTENSE TRAINING ON EQUIPMENT YOU'LL EVER EXPERIENCE!

Made with PosterMyWall.com



The Quartet SLAYERS Strike Again!

All of us have our own unique stories, but our backgrounds are similar in the way that we begin the journey into our school nutrition careers. This team has either worked together or we were a friend of a friend. From these relationships, The Quartet SLAYERS were born. Alyssia, Audrey, Kantrell and Kokeeta, four Directors on a mission to help others.

Our group's first presentation was in Las Vegas, NV in 2018. Each of us had just completed our School Nutrition Program's Administrative Review. The AR's were a success, so we decided to share our knowledge, skills and tips with others. **"How to SLAY an Administrative Review"**. To our surprise, the presentation was well received by school nutrition directors and colleagues across the country and it also became a best of webinar series for SNA.



From left: Kokeeta Wilder - Fayette County Schools ;
Alyssia Wright - Fulton County Schools; Audrey Hamilton
- Clayton County Schools and Kantrell Brown - Henry
County Schools.

The **SLAY Method**; **S**uccessful, **L**ogical, **A**ccurate and **Y**ielding Positive Results is the foundation of our presentations. It guides us through the development of our ideas and gives us the ability to share our experiences. Our training can be used to any size school district, and that is what makes the presentations so popular among colleagues.

The most recent presentation "How to SLAY Your Way Back from Covid" was born out of necessity. Every SNP across this country was affected by the Pandemic. SNP's had to pivot overnight to find ways to provide school meals to children. Many SNP's experienced financial losses, little to no student participation and administrative mandates. Many of them did not know how to bounce back from the pandemic to the "new normal". That is where the **SLAY Quartet** comes in.

In the **SLAY Your Way Back from Covid** presentation, we were able to share ideas and real-world experiences with SNP's using relatable techniques, in-house experiences and successful methods shared by others.

These are the specific highlights of our **SLAY Your Way Back from Covid Presentation**:

- The audience was given a blueprint to help them create their program goals and plans of actions that could be implemented in their school district.
- Strategies were provided on how to have "The Talk", which are critical conversations with district administrators about program finances. In order to be successful when requesting financial support "The Talk" must occur early and often.
- This year we introduced Directors' Cam, which was a unique way to include SNP Directors who asked questions about common problems in their school districts that related to COVID-19.
- All of the strategies, examples and goals provided gave SNP Directors the confidence to S.L.A.Y. their way back to pre-pandemic financial stability.

We will continue to share our knowledge and experiences to further assist other school nutrition programs as we all have the same mission, Fueling Georgia's Children.



Federal Legislation & Regulations

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) was established by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, while other federal child nutrition programs, including the School Breakfast Program (SBP), were created by the Child Nutrition Act of 1966.

Every five years, Congress reviews and amends these programs through Child Nutrition Reauthorization. The most recent reauthorization law, [The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, P.L. 111-296](#), was signed into law on December 13, 2010. Although the 114th Congress considered Child Nutrition Reauthorization legislation, Congress adjourned in 2016 without passing a final bill.

SNA's [2021 Position Paper](#) outlines SNA's advocacy goals in the absence of a Child Nutrition Reauthorization bill. SNA members can participate in SNA's advocacy effort by attending SNA's [Legislative Action Conference](#), utilizing [SNA's Policy Resources](#), and supporting [SNA's Political Action Committee](#).

Federal Register Updates:

Visit [SNA's Action Network](#) to find recent Rules, proposed changes to Rules, and notices of record collections and studies impacting school nutrition programs. SNA official comments and responses from the U.S. Government are also provided.

Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act Resources:

- [Administrative Review Final Rule Chart](#)
- [Administrative Review Final Rule Summary](#)
- [Community Eligibility Final Rule Summary](#)
- [Smart Snacks in Schools Final Rule Summary](#)
- [Wellness Policy Final Rule Summary](#)
- [The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act: A Baker's Dozen of Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Summary of Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act](#)

SNA Policy Updates:

As the USDA releases policy guidance updates on child nutrition programs, SNA tracks these updates in order to keep our members informed. Here are the [archived lists of USDA policy guidances](#).



2021 National School Lunch Week

October 11th -15th

“Wild About School Lunch”



[Click here for
Your “Georgia” Day Menu](#)

The 2021 NSLW theme **WILD About School Lunch** invites creative and fun new menu items while appealing to the universal popularity of animals and nature to appeal to students in all grade levels.

SNA’s #NSLW21 campaign offers an Amazonian-sized selection of tools and resources, including downloadable artwork and social media tips, to help you plan a successful celebration and promote your program to students, parents and the local community.

Recognizing NSLW in your school and district helps you:

Increase student participation

Spread the message to parents that you’re serving healthy, delicious lunch at school

Earn media coverage from local papers, TV stations and bloggers

Connect with teachers and administrators at your school or in your district to spread the word that school meals are healthy and delicious

What if the timing doesn’t work for us?

NSLW 2021 is scheduled for **October 11-15** by an act of Congress, but if your district is observing a holiday or teacher workday during that week you can celebrate the week before, the week after, or anytime—it’s up to you!

The [NSLW 2021 Infographic](#) contains key information for parents about the school lunch program and the healthy options available. [Download](#) and print copies to hand out or share the digital version. Also available in [Spanish](#).

Social Media

Social Media Graphics

[Download Now!](#)—*WILD About School Lunch* social media graphics for Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Sample Social Media Posts

[Download these 10 sample social media posts](#) available as a Word document that you can customize to promote your own WILD About School Lunch celebrations.

Customizable Press Release

Let your local media know that NSLW is a newsworthy story with our official, [fully customizable media release](#) (doc). Simply add your district’s information and send out to reporters and bloggers prior to NSLW.

Proclamation

Make it official! [Download the sample proclamation](#) (doc) and fill in your school or district’s specific information. You can also request that the mayor or city council proclaim it is National School Lunch Week in your city or town.





GSNA Celebrates the Memory of School Nutrition Icon Dr. Josephine Martin



School Nutrition lost one of our greatest advocates last month.

The memory and legacy of Dr. Josephine Martin will always be a part of the Georgia School Nutrition Association's DNA.

Dr. Martin began her career in 1950 at the Georgia Department of Education, serving in many positions, including State School Nutrition Director. Her knowledge and passion for the health of our nation's children can be witnessed in the tireless work that she put in for over 70 years.

Condolences may be sent to Mr. Michael Martin, 1532 Brianwood Rd., Decatur, GA 30033-1723.

Donations to the GSN Foundation in honor of Dr. Martin can be made using the linked form. [GSN Foundation Donation Form](#)

