

FOOD FOR THOUGHT NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2025

SNS Exam is Moving Online

When?

This Fall, the School Nutrition Specialist (SNS) credentialing exam is moving online and will be available at a network of testing centers across the US. The last paper-based exams will be held in July 2025.

Why?

The online exam format has many benefits for exam candidates including more flexible exam scheduling, potential for shorter travel times, and reduced time frame to obtain exam results. In addition to moving online, the exam blueprint is being revised to slightly reduce the number of questions while still retaining the exam reliability. Shortening the exam will reduce the testing time, which is preferable for online formats and a common practice within the credentialing field.

Stay tuned! More information and details about the new exam format including exam fees, policy updates and how to register for the exam will be shared in the coming months.

In the meantime, please email certsns@schoolnutrition.org with questions.



J.T.M. Food Group: Robert “Bob” Rybolt Memorial Scholarship

JTM Food Group will be funding one \$350 scholarship annually to support ISNA members to attend the ISNA Director Retreat. This scholarship will provide financial assistance for our members to attend both the ISNA Director Retreat this Spring and ISNA Annual Conference in the Fall. The ISNA Director Retreat will be held this Spring and is designed for those members who may not be able to attend without this financial contribution. This generous support will not only help members grow professionally but also carry forward Bob's commitment to school nutrition excellence. **Please complete the application below by April 1, 2025, to be considered.**



In memory of Robert “Bob” Rybolt, J.T.M. Food Group has established a scholarship fund in his name to continue Bob's legacy and dedication to the school districts of Indiana. Bob worked at J.T.M. Food Group for over thirty-eight years, and truly loved his customers. Bob was an advocate of feeding students not only in Indiana, but across the entire country.

In December of 2022, Bob was asked, “What do you like best about his work?” His reply simply was, “All the people, helping people.” Bob went on to say, “We try to help lunch ladies and lunch dudes... if I can make somebody else's life better, that is what really pleases me.”

Bob had a courageous, beautiful, and affectionate spirit, which resonated in all areas of his life. The Indiana School Nutrition Association is honored to offer this scholarship in memory of our beloved friend and colleague, Robert “Bob” Rybolt to a deserving Director level individual.

Application Prompt

In 500 words or less, describe how your professional attributes and role aligns with Bob's dedication to feeding Indiana's children.

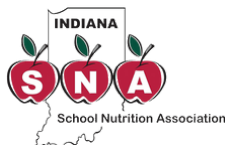
Award

- INSA Director's Retreat \$350 stipend towards registration and conference costs.

APPLY NOW

J.T.M.[®]
FOOD GROUP

Preference for this scholarship will be given to a Director level individual who demonstrates financial need.





2025 Legislative Action Conference

School nutrition professionals from across Indiana recently joined industry partners in Washington, D.C., for the School Nutrition Association's (SNA) Legislative Action Conference (LAC). This annual event, held March 9-11, brought together school food service leaders from across the country to advocate for policies that support healthy, affordable meals for students.

Indiana attendees participated in policy sessions, networking events, and Capitol Hill visits, where they met with legislators to discuss the challenges and successes of school meal programs. Key issues included increasing federal meal reimbursements, expanding access to school meals, and reducing administrative burdens on local districts.

"Our goal is to ensure that every child in Indiana has access to nutritious meals that fuel learning," said Amanda Worrick, ISNA President. "Meeting with our lawmakers gives us the opportunity to share real stories from our schools and highlight the importance of strong school nutrition funding and policies."

Industry partners also played a vital role in the conference, helping to showcase innovative solutions and trends shaping the future of school meal programs. Their collaboration with school districts strengthens the ability to serve students efficiently and effectively. Partners joined in hill visits to share their stories as well!

As our ISNA LAC attendees return home, their advocacy efforts continue. The Indiana delegation remains committed to working alongside policymakers and stakeholders to champion programs that benefit students, families, and communities across the state.

For more updates on school nutrition advocacy efforts, [visit here](#).



April 14th - 15th

2025 ISNA Director Retreat

Indianapolis, IN



A brand-new experience designed exclusively for director-level school nutrition professionals! A break from the day-to-day where you can enjoy meaningful networking and leave inspired and uplifted.



Why Attend?

- **A More Focused Gathering** – A chance to connect directly with industry partners and fellow director-level members.
- **A Fun, Engaging Experience** – Our keynote speaker, **Kim Hodous**, is known as the Happiness Speaker, bringing a message of positivity and fulfillment.
- **Exciting Evening Event** – We'll head to the **Game Show Battle Room** for a fun, interactive evening together. Check out the video below to see the excitement of this #1 new game show experience, where members will team up and compete in a live game show setting hosted by professional game show hosts!
- **A Focus on Professional Growth & Networking** – This retreat is designed to foster both professional development and meaningful connections. Attendees will earn 6 CEUs while engaging in valuable learning experiences, exchanging ideas, and building relationships in a relaxed setting.

REGISTER TODAY

Director-Level Members: **\$190**

Non-Members: **\$240**

INDIANASNA.ORG/DIRECTOR-RETREAT



Upcoming Events

ISNA/IDOE Certificate Courses

March

- March 26, 9:00 a.m.
Food Production and Operation
Management
Cost: \$90 for members, \$130 for
non-members
- March 26, 12:30 p.m.
Product and Inventory
Management
Cost: \$90 for members, \$130 for
non-members

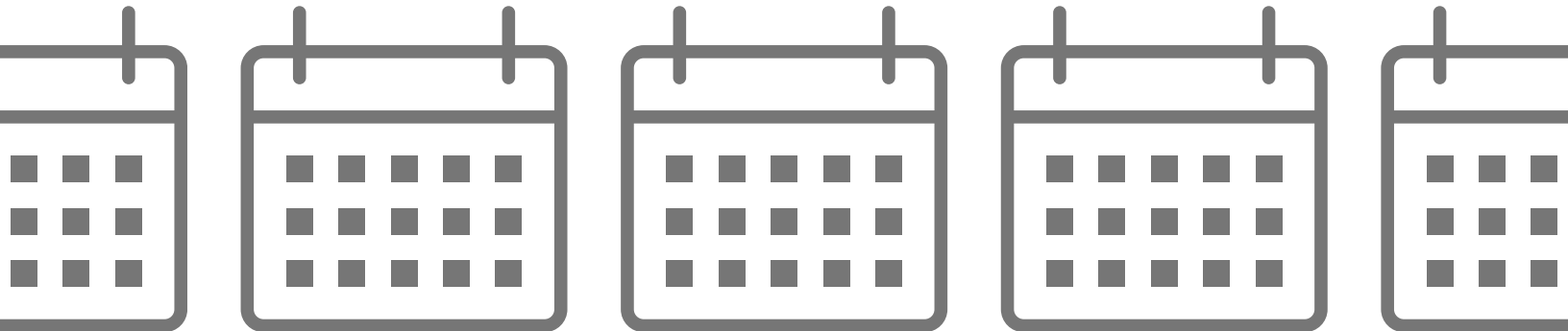
ISNA Annual Conference

November 5-7, 2025
French Lick, IN

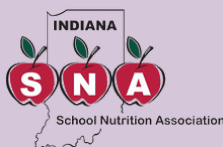
ISNA Director Retreat

April 14-15, 2025
Indianapolis, IN
\$195 for Director Level
Members
\$240 for non-members

Click Here to View
All Courses



Thank You Partners!



Del Real Foods
Harvest Hill Beverage Co.
Heartland FPG Java House Cold Brew
High Liner Foods
HPS
Idahoan Foods
Indiana Grown for Schools Network
J.M Smucker Co
JonnyPops
Maid-Rite Specialty Foods
Michael Foods
OMNIA Partners
Rebelloys Foods

Meet the Candidates

Vice President

Daniel Williams

Mooresville
Schools
Food Service
Director

Views on duties and obligations...

"As an ISNA Officer, I view the obligations as upholding the organization's mission by supporting school nutrition professionals, advocating for students, and fostering members' professional growth. This includes staying informed on industry trends, promoting educational opportunities, and ensuring transparency with members. I also see it as my duty to collaborate with leaders to benefit the membership and strengthen ISNA's statewide impact while serving as a resource, advocate, and leader in school nutrition."

Experience

- 12 years of experience in school nutrition
- 12 years of ISNA membership

Views on duties and obligations...

"As an ISNA Officer, my duties are to serve our membership with services that further their expertise in school nutrition to better serve their students and community. Regarding the Secretary/Treasurer position is overseeing that our reporting, record keeping and use of funds is used to serve our association mission and services that benefit our members as per our bylaws and policies."

Secretary/Treasurer
2 years

Valarie Miller

Center Grove
Community School
Corporation
Community School
Corporation
Director of Food &
Nutrition Services

Experience

- 6 years of experience in school nutrition
- 6 years of ISNA membership

Membership & PR Chair

Stephanie
Stuemke

Danville Community
School
Corporation
Food Service
Director

Views on duties and obligations...

"An ISNA officer should be active and involved within the association. They should share the mission of the association which is "to provide education, programs, and services for members which promote quality child nutrition." To be an officer requires someone to go above and beyond their normal job position and it requires more than a regular committee member. Officers should attend each meeting so that the association can run smoothly."

Experience

- 11 years of experience in school nutrition
- 6 years of ISNA membership

Why Raina should be considered...

Raina has worked for over 35 years in School Nutrition. She has worked at both the state and local level. She is a former board member and brings a lot to the table to share. Raina makes training her staff and treating them well a priority. This is very important in an often under appreciated profession. Raina has allowed her staff to attend State and National Conventions as well as bringing her Superintendent and Assist Superintendent with her. She is very passionate about child nutrition therefore making her a great candidate.

Membership & PR Chair

Raina Sission

Norwell Community
Schools
Food Service
Director

Experience

- 35 years of experience in school nutrition
- 12 years of ISNA membership

Meet the Candidates

*Public Policy & Legislative
Chair*

Amanda Worrick

South Madison
Community School
Corporation
Director of
Nutrition Services

Views on duties and obligations...

"I feel the duties and obligations of an ISNA Officer should align directly with ISNA's Strategic Plan and Mission to provide education, programs and services for members which promote quality child nutrition and to support the mission and values of the School Nutrition Association. ISNA will be the voice of the school nutrition industry. ISNA will be advocates for feeding Indiana's children."

Experience

- 10 years of experience in school nutrition
- 10 years of ISNA membership

Views on duties and obligations...

"An ISNA officer has to put aside their own wants and desires and look at the needs of the entire membership. We have a responsibility to our industry partners to give them opportunities to connect with ISNA members, whether in person or virtually. ISNA Officers have to keep the association current and viable so there is growth."

*Professional Development Co-
Chair*

Amanda Stout

Greenfield-Central
Community Schools
Director of
Nutrition Services

Experience

- 13 years of experience in school nutrition
- 13 years of ISNA membership

Meet the Candidates

*Professional Development Co-
Chair*

Amanda
Lambrechts

Perry Township
Assistant Director
of Nutrition
Services

Views on duties and obligations...

"I view the obligations and duties of an ISNA officer is to provide our membership with quality learning and networking opportunities."

Experience

- 5 years of experience in school nutrition
- 5 years of ISNA membership

Views on duties and obligations...

"To help members network and get ideas from each other. To put together events and assist in the professional development of members."

*Professional Development Co-
Chair*

Brittany Jointer

MSD of Wayne
Township
Director of Child
Nutrition Services

Experience

- 15 years of experience in school nutrition
- 15 years of ISNA membership

Meet the Candidates

Bylaws & Policy Chair

Erin Brattain

Noblesville
Community Schools
Director of
Nutrition & Food
Service

*How they will help
ISNA meet the needs of
its members. . .*

"Policy isn't usually something people jump on, it's the foundation to a successful organization. I want ISNA to be successful. That success shows in our work. The Knowledge I have in both child nutrition and ISNA will help me serve this position."

Experience

- 15 years of experience in school nutrition
- 15 years of ISNA membership

Why Leslie should be considered. . .

"Leslie Beach has demonstrated the Knowledge and the passion required to be impactful in the role of Southeast Region Representative. She also has innovative ideas to improve and grow the effectiveness of our region. Leslie is a great collaborator and would be a welcome addition to any team focused on improving our industry."

*Region Rep Chair
2 years*

Leslie Beach

New Albany Floyd
County Schools
Director of Food &
Nutrition Services

Experience

- 9 years of experience in school nutrition
- 4 years of ISNA membership

Meet the Candidates

Region Rep Chair
2 years

Jennifer Pope

MSD Warren
Township
Child Nutrition &
Wellness Director

Views on duties and obligations...

"It is essential to represent the diverse needs of the members, promote professional development opportunities, and support innovative initiatives that enhance nutrition programs."

Experience

- 31 years of experience in school nutrition
- 2 years of ISNA membership

Views on duties and obligations...

"By emphasizing financial responsibility, transparent decision-making, and efficient operations, I will help to maintain ISNA's organizational health with focus on sustainable growth to keep the association stable and prepared for future challenges."

Northwest Region
Ivan Balicky

West Lafayette
Community School
Corporation
Assistant Food
Service Director

Experience

- 15 years of experience in school nutrition
- 5 years of ISNA membership

Meet the Candidates

*Northeast Region
2 years*

Erika Horner

Mississinewa
Community Schools
Corporation
Director of
Nutrition Services

Views on duties and obligations...

"I feel being in leadership is a privilege and will do what it takes to get things done."

Experience

- 2 years of experience in school nutrition
- 2 years of ISNA membership

Views on duties and obligations...

"I believe duties should include: Assisting new members with registration and participation in ISNA events, providing educational support for all members, advocating for our programs on local, state, and national levels, and helping bring attention to our student and staff needs for the important services we provide."

*Northeast Region
2 years*

Anitra Pierson

Prairie Heights
Community School
Corporation
Food Service
Director

Experience

- 18 years of experience in school nutrition
- 3 years of ISNA membership

Meet the Candidates

Central Region

Elizabeth
Ziegenhorn

North West
Hendricks School
Corp
Food Service
Director

Views on duties and obligations...

"I am reading this question like, "how will this candidate", so I will say: I'm excited for this opportunity and I would value this position and take my role seriously. I still consider myself fairly new to Indianapolis and it will be great to make connections and have friendships outside of my organization."

Experience

- 4 years of experience in school nutrition
- 2 years of ISNA membership

Views on duties and obligations...

"I will demonstrate a strong sense of responsibility, dedication, and advocacy while serving the ISNA membership. I will focus on transparency, communication, and active member engagement, ultimately benefiting school nutrition professionals and the students we serve."

Central Region

Kurt Bodell

MSD of
Martinsville
Director of
Food Service

Experience

- 18 years of experience in school nutrition
- 17 years of ISNA membership

Southwest Region
2 years

Aliese Barron

Warrick County
Assistant Director
of Nutrition Services

Views on duties and obligations...

"As a region representative I am a connection between our members and non members alike and all things ISNA. Whether it be about conferences, programs, workshops. I will be here to answer any questions they may have, meet them at conferences to show them around, or simply be a person they can come to with questions about school nutrition, recipes, programs etc."

Experience

- 1.5 years of experience in school nutrition
- 1.5 years of ISNA membership

Views on duties and obligations...

"I am passionate about and invested in the future of school nutrition. I am ready to take on a more active role within ISNA and help to continue this amazing work that I have benefited from as a member. I am confident that I can fulfill the duties of a Region Representative to foster networking and communication within the Southeast IN area."

Southeast Region

Stacey Townsend

Seymour
Community School
Corporation
Director of Child
Nutrition
Programs

Experience

- 11 years of experience in school nutrition
- 10 years of ISNA membership

Meet the Candidates