

TASN ews

Spring 2024, Vol. 20, No. 3

A Publication of the Texas Association for School Nutrition



ABOUT TASN

The Texas Association for School Nutrition was founded in 1953 and incorporated on June 24, 1964. In the 70 years since its inception, TASN has grown to more than 4,700 members and has served as an advocate and resource for child nutrition professionals in Texas.

Training and Certification

For more than 30 years, TASN has undertaken a certification program to help school nutrition professionals continue their education and reach career goals. College courses, workshops sponsored by the Texas Department of Agriculture, and TASN training seminars can be used toward certification. These programs not only improve the value of service to school children, but they enhance members' earning potential and career development.

Scholarships for Continuing Education

Texas Association for School Nutrition awards a number of scholarships annually to deserving members. These scholarships help pay for a variety of educational opportunities ranging from college courses to training towards certification.

Sharing Information Through Networking

One of the greatest benefits of membership in TASN is the abundance of opportunities to share ideas and experiences with other professionals in both structured and informal settings. The wealth of information and assistance available to all members helps raise the level of performance and service to children across the state.

TASN'S VISION STATEMENT

Positively impacting the health and education of Texas children through nutrition.

IT'S TEXAS YA'LL...



- Support Local Farmers
- Qualifies for Texas Farm to School Program
- Buy American

Dani Sheffield • 713.806.6378
danis@cool-tropics.com



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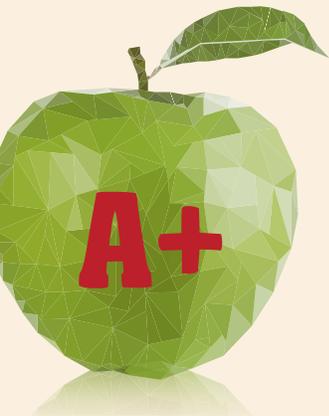
Area 12 Representative

Tina Brooks
Stratford ISD



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2024 Annual Conference
June 29 – July 2, 2024
San Antonio



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SPRING 2024



Greetings TASN members,

I sure hope everyone got some time off for Spring Break and are now ready to tackle the final few months of the 2023-2024 school year. We are almost there! Your TASN board continues to work very hard to improve our association and offer great benefits to our wonderful members and industry partners.

The **TASN 2024 PCS** held at Horseshoe Bay was a great event with breakout sessions, keynote speakers, great food and lots of networking with our peers. If you were unable to attend, please plan to join us next year as we continue to grow our influence. Location and dates should be announced soon so please check your emails.

Nearly 80 TASN members and industry partners descended on Washington D.C. for the **SNA Legislative Action Conference** in just a few days to advocate for the 40,000 child nutrition professionals in the State of Texas. Special thanks to our outstanding Public Policy and Legislative committee for making this happen for our students and our programs. This was the biggest TASN group ever at LAC and our goal was to make a difference for you.

We are headed to San Antonio for the **TASN Annual Conference** from June 29 - July 2, 2024. Don't miss this chance to celebrate TASN's 70th Annual Conference with your friends and colleagues. You can get more information and the schedule [here](#).

We are very excited to announce that TASN will be launching a new app in May 2024. This app will allow our members to manage their membership, see their certifications, sign up for events and connect with others. This will launch with a completely new website and mark significant work by our headquarters team. Please be on the lookout for the official announcement later this year.

I continue to be amazed and grateful for all you do for the students of Texas. Please let me know how I can help.

Doug Massey
Klein ISD
TASN 2023-24 President
dmassey@kleinisd.net



HEADQUARTERS HIGHLIGHTS

by Karen J. Andrasi,
TASN Executive Director
karena@tasn.net

In addition to warmer weather, flowers blooming, and sunny days, TASN has started this year with some exciting events and news.

- The **TASN 2024 PCS** was a success with 191 attendees, and we exceeded our budget for sponsorship income. A huge thank you to all who made this event a success.
- We hired a new audit firm, and the external audit is complete.
- The TASN February Committee/Board Meetings are complete.
- TASN hosted the Texas Delegation dinner on March 3, 2024, in Washington, DC. There were 81 representatives in attendance and we are thankful for our dinner, materials, and general sponsors. This event was a success due to their support.
- TASN sent nine people to **SNA LAC**.
- We are interviewing for the Administrative Assistant and Meeting/Events Coordinator positions.

As we near the **Annual Conference**, we are excited to announce that we received 46 scholarship and award applications. The Education Committee will be reviewing and determining who the recipients will be. These winners will be recognized at the TASN Award Ceremony in conjunction with the Conference. Thank you to all who participated. If you were not able to apply this year, please visit the TASN website for next year's **award** and **scholarship** opportunities.

We now have 10 of the 12 Area Representative positions filled. This is the most Area Representatives that TASN has had. The two remaining areas are Areas 8 and 9. If you are interested in representing your area or know someone who is, please reach out to me at karena@tasn.net or 512-371-0087 ext. 204.

We will be opening the 2025-2026 Call for Nomination in July, and the election will take place in March 2025. The available positions will be:

- Vice President
- Secretary/Treasurer
- Public Policy & Legislative Chair
- Area 1 Representative
- Area 3 Representative
- Area 5 Representative
- Area 7 Representative
- Area 9 Representative
- Area 11 Representative
- Industry Chair

TASN is looking for talented passionate people to serve on the board. We know that volunteering is a huge commitment. We appreciate members taking the time to be on the board and help make the decisions for the future of TASN. The Call for Nominations form will be posted on the **TASN website**.

Spring is far more than just a changing of seasons; it's a rebirth of the spirit."

—Toni Sorenson

Greetings from TASN President-Elect Lacy Willey



As the sun starts to linger a little longer in the sky and the air carries a hint of warmth, we can't help but feel the excitement building for our upcoming **Annual Conference** this summer! It's a time when we come together to celebrate our achievements, learn from one another, and strengthen the bonds that make our association a family.

This year's conference promises to be our best yet, with a lineup of engaging learning sessions designed to empower and inspire. From innovative teaching techniques to the latest trends in school nutrition, there's something for everyone. Our goal is to provide you with the tools and knowledge you need to excel in your profession and make a positive impact on the lives of students.

But it's not just about the learning sessions – it's also about the connections we make and the friendships we forge. Networking opportunities abound at the conference, whether you're chatting over coffee or participating in group activities. These connections often lead to collaborations and support networks that last a lifetime.



As we look forward to the summer conference, it's also important to reflect on the journey that has brought us to this point. Over the past 70 years, our association has worked tirelessly to support and advocate for school nutrition professionals. From shucking corn in the early days to perfecting hamburger patties, our members have always been at the forefront of ensuring that students have access to nutritious and delicious meals.

We've come a long way since those humble beginnings, but our commitment to excellence remains as strong as ever. Together we have overcome challenges and celebrated triumphs, and we continue to strive for a future where every student has the opportunity to thrive.

So as we prepare to gather for the summer conference, let's embrace the spirit of camaraderie and collaboration that defines our association. Let's seize this opportunity to learn, grow, and make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

See you at the conference!



Greetings from TASN Vice President Susan D'Amico



Happy springtime to you all. This is one of my favorite times of year because of the gorgeous weather, blooming foliage, and the feeling of renewed energy. As the saying goes, "spring is a lovely reminder of how beautiful change can truly be" (author unknown).

In late January, we had a very successful **Partnership Collaboration Summit** with many decision makers and industry partners at Horseshoe Bay in the Texas Hill Country. We had some outstanding education and teambuilding opportunities, while enjoying some good food, and a festive Mardi Gras theme.

We are looking forward to seeing you all in San Antonio this summer for the **TASN Annual Conference**. Not only is San Antonio a fun city to visit, we will have plenty of interesting classes, a large food and equipment show, and an industry party night with a 1970s theme. So pull out your bell-bottoms and groovy threads and get ready to have some fun!

As always, thank you for all you do to make a difference for Texas kids, school staff, and for TASN members.

SECRETARY / TREASURER CORNER

by Christie Lammers, Texarkana ISD



Spring is here! The school year is in full bloom with end of year events and planning for next year, and you are all very busy.

I know that everyone is looking forward to the **TASN Annual Conference** in San Antonio this

summer. The '70s theme is sure to be a blast for all! Please make plans to attend. It is sure to be an amazing time!

TASN has had a strong financial standing through January 2024. Expenses were \$553,812.75. Income was \$553,812.55.

I hope that you all wrap up this school year feeling energized, positive, and fulfilled for a job well done!



IMPORTANT DATES

<u>TASN 2024 Annual Conference</u>	June 29–July 2, 2024	San Antonio, Texas
<u>SNA 2024 Annual National Conference (ANC)</u>	July 14–16, 2024	Boston, Massachusetts
TASN 2024 Administrative Academy	October 21 -22, 2024	Austin, Texas
TASN 2024 Board/Committee Meetings	October 22-23, 2024	Austin, Texas
TASN 2025 Partnership Collaboration Summit (PCS)	TBD	TBD
TASN 2025 Administrative Academy	February 19-20, 2025	Austin, Texas
TASN 2025 Board/Committee Meetings	February 20-21, 2025	Austin, Texas
TASN 2025-2026 Election	March 2025	Online
SNA 2025 LAC	March 9–11, 2025	Washington, D.C.
TASN 2025 Annual Conference	June 22–25, 2025	Corpus Christi, Texas
SNA 2025 Annual National Conference (ANC)	July 13–15, 2025	San Antonio, Texas

Greetings from Area 5 Representative

Suellen Atteberry, Garland ISD



Greetings and happy spring from your Area 5 rep!

Mary, Mary, quite contrary, how does your garden grow?

How many times have we heard that line from the nursery rhyme? How many of us have always wanted to have a garden but found it overwhelming? Never fear! There are easy routes to take. Don't have the time? Make it small. Don't have the space? Make it small. It doesn't have to be big or fancy. It doesn't have to be in the ground. Consider raised beds or pots. Pots do not need to be fancy. One or five gallon buckets work.

Gardening is the ultimate in recycling. You can reuse the ground, buckets, and pots. For fertilizer, you can compost paper, yard clippings, food. Rain barrels – use collected run-off rain to water your plants.

Pest control – don't want to use a pesticide? Try working out some frustration! Pick the bugs off and move them to a more acceptable location (*or just squish them*). There are items available that work as bug deterrents, like diatomaceous earth.

It's time to start your garden. Decide what you want to grow, and decide how much you want to grow! Some plants are considerably easier than others. At our house we grow a lot of different vegetables and fruits. We grow them in the ground, in raised beds, pots, and even a cracked laundry basket or two.

Spring is the time of year to refresh and start clean. What else do you want to grow? How about your knowledge of food? How about how to keep your kitchen cleaner? How about gaining some more knowledge to help you retain those fabulous employees that you have? TASN conference is coming up and this is a great way to help your staff gain some knowledge and spring into action!





TASN 2024-2025 ELECTION RESULTS

Thank you to everyone who participated in the TASN 2024-2025 election.
Voting is now complete and the results have been certified.

Please welcome the newly elected members of the TASN Board of Directors!

VICE PRESIDENT



John Ceballos
Klein ISD

EDUCATION CHAIR



Kasandra Davis
Brenham ISD

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR



Brenda Rodriguez
Fort Sam Houston ISD

CHAIR OF AREA REPRESENTATIVES



Kimberly Blankenship
Pleasant Grove ISD

AREA 4 REPRESENTATIVE



Tanya Davis
Henderson ISD

AREA 6 REPRESENTATIVE



Norma Riojas
Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD

AREA 10 REPRESENTATIVE



Ramona Love
East Central ISD

AREA 12 REPRESENTATIVE



Tina Brooks
Stratford ISD



TASN 2024 PARTNERSHIP COLLABORATION SUMMIT



This year's Mardi Gras themed dinner at PCS was a blast! Many had the chance to perform karaoke with a live band which was so much fun. TASN Vice President, Susan D'Amico, added a networking game during lunch this year and we got a ton of positive feedback. We are glad that members enjoyed it and look forward to learning how we can implement similar activities in the future. Horseshoe Bay was a great experience and we look forward to next year's PCS!



TASN 2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



REGISTER NOW



SEE YOU IN SAN ANTONIO

Join TASN, ISD food service professionals, and industry partners as we come together to shape, build, and support K-12 child nutrition programs in Texas.

TASN 2024 Annual Conference sessions and exhibits will be located in the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, next door to the Grand Hyatt San Antonio River Walk host hotel.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

The TASN Annual Conference is a valuable educational and networking opportunity for all ISD K-12 food service employees, specialist, managers, directors, supervisors, superintendents, stakeholders, and industry partners. Registration is now open until May 15th. We hope to see you there!

[REGISTER NOW](#)

WHY SHOULD YOU ATTEND?

During this year's groovy four-day event, you will experience inspirational keynote speakers and attend sessions designed to generate ideas you can implement in your district. You will also have the opportunity to meet our exhibitors and explore the exhibit hall, network with like-minded professionals, and take some time to chill out and have fun.

**Join us in celebrating 70 years!
Register today!**

CONFERENCE HOTELS

La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham San Antonio Riverwalk

303 Blum | San Antonio, Texas 78205

Room Rate:

\$159 per night for 1 King or 2 Double Beds

[Reserve Room Now](#)



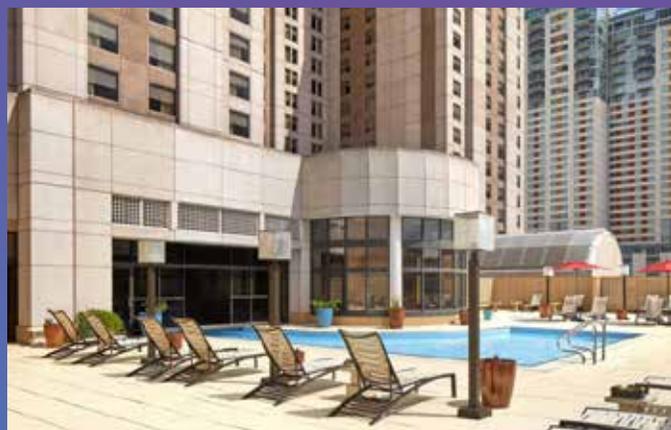
Marriott Rivercenter on the Riverwalk

101 Bowie | San Antonio, Texas 78205

Room Rate:

\$179 per night for 1 King or 2 Double Beds

[Reserve Room Now](#)



Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center

The TASN 2024 Annual Conference will be located in the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, located next to the Grand Hyatt in the heart of historic downtown San Antonio. Our conference offers attendees a huge opportunity to meet with exhibitors and learn about new products.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Alex Weber

Alex Weber is an American Ninja Warrior, Award-Winning Leader & Entertainer positively inspiring millions to achieve breakthrough success! Alex's greatest passion is championing your highest potential by helping you find your Edge, because success is about more than just knowing what to do, it's knowing how to do it. Alex shows top professionals and leaders how to bring their very best everyday, and to the most high-stakes situations that can make or break your success. With his contagious energy and passion, Alex shares his game-changing secrets to record-breaking success!



Lena Wilson

Lena Wilson is the Assistant Commissioner for the Food and Nutrition Division at the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). She oversees all activities related to compliance with regulations for the 12 federal nutrition programs administered by the agency. Lena, a registered dietitian, has more than 20 years of experience with federal nutrition programs. She is one of the few people who has worked at the state and local level with every U.S. Department of Agriculture nutrition assistance program including the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). This experience complements a background that includes 13 years as a director of school meal programs and allows a practical look at operations from differing perspectives to apply a common-sense approach for program oversight.



LEARNING SESSIONS

TASN is excited to continue providing learning sessions at the upcoming TASN 2024 Annual Conference! Please see below for learning session topics you can expect to see and attend at conference. More topics and details to come as conference dates get closer!

TOPIC:	USDA PROFESSIONAL CODE(S):	DESCRIPTION:
Leadership Skills	4000	This session will help attendees learn how to build credibility with others, define their team's purpose, and align it with the organizations goals, and encourage growth and responsibility of the unique talents of their team.
Food Safety	2600	From food refrigeration temperatures to danger zones and pathogenic bacteria, this learning session will familiarize and remind attendees of the everyday precautions that school nutrition staff must take.
School & Community	4150	School lunchrooms not only nourish the body, but they are the soul of the school. In today's environment, it is critical to make connections with all kids, especially those facing the challenges of living in poverty. This engaging workshop will inform you of the differences that causes gaps and struggles; encourage you with real tools to intentionally build meaningful relationships, and inspire you by sharing stories of success.
Customer Service	4130	Enhance your customers' experience through the art of customer service.
Special Diets	1160	This learning session will cover the importance of avoiding cross contamination, reading food labels, and special diet planning regarding food allergens and other special accommodations.
Kitchen Equipment	2140, 2430, 3520	This session will cover the importance of kitchen equipment such as: purchasing, maintenance, automation, and more.
Team Building	3440, 4140	Whether you are putting together, training, or maintaining a team it all requires team building. Learn different tactics on how to successfully team build with your school nutrition team.
Reimbursable Meals	2310	Learn how to recognize a reimbursable meal, meal pattern requirements, food components versus food items, portion sizes, and overview on claiming meals.
Menu Planning	1100	Get a better understanding on what goes into menu planning. Understanding your customers needs, resources available to you, operating within a budget, forecasting, and more.
Communication	4140	Improve your communication skills that will overall better convey and exchange information, news, and ideas with others in your work and personal life.

INDUSTRY EVENING EVENT

MONDAY, JULY 1, 2024 | 7 PM - 11 PM



**Do a little dance
Eat a little grub
at Industry Night!**



Join us for the always much-anticipated annual Industry Evening Event! This year's groovy shindig will be a '70s themed event in the Convention Center's Stars at Night Ballroom.

Can't wait to see you there as we boogie the night away and take part in '70s themed game shows!



COUNTER DECORATING CONTEST

TASN ANNUAL CONFERENCE PRESENTS:

Blast from the past!

Counter Decorating Contest



Monday
July 1st

Times will be provided
with a signup link!

One team per district.

Awards presented during the
general session!

Any questions contact

Aaron or Lezlie

281-686-7216

lezliedavis@tomballisd.net

CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

[Tentative & subject to change]

SATURDAY, JUNE 29

Registration – Stars at Night Ballroom – Foyer 3 rd Floor	12:00 PM – 5:00 PM
SNS Exam – Room 222 – 2 nd Floor	1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Rehearsals General Session /Award Ceremony – Stars at Night Ballroom – 3 rd Floor	2:00 PM – 3:30 PM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2:00 PM - General Session • 2:30 PM - Installation • 3:00 PM - Award Ceremony 	
Current Board Dinner (invitation only)	6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

SUNDAY, JUNE 30

Exhibitor Move-in – Exhibit Hall 1	7:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Registration – Stars at Night Ballroom – Foyer 3 rd Floor	7:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Annual Meeting – Stars at Night Ballroom – 3 rd Floor	8:30 AM – 9:30 AM
Color Guard / First General Session Alex Weber/ Award Ceremony/Lunch – Stars at Night Ballroom – 3 rd Floor	9:45 AM – 12:45 PM
Learning Sessions for All – 2 nd and 3 rd Floor	1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Learning Session: Maintenance / Operations Class for Decision Makers – 2 nd Floor	1:00 PM – 2:30 PM
Alex Weber Learning Session – Stars at Night Ballroom – 3 rd Floor	4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

MONDAY, JULY 1

Learning Sessions for Non-Decision Makers – 2 nd and 3 rd Floor	8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Counter Decorating Contest – 3 rd Floor	8:00 AM – 3:30 PM
Learning Session: Maintenance / Operations Class for Non-Decision Makers – 2 nd Floor	8:30 AM – 10:00 AM
Exhibits Open for Decision Makers ONLY – Exhibit Hall 1	9:30 AM – 3:30 PM
Lunch on Your Own	12:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Vendor/ Director Reception – Stars at Night Ballroom – 3 rd Floor	4:30 PM – 6:30 PM
Industry Evening Event / Dinner – Stars at Night Ballroom – 3 rd Floor	7:00 PM – 11:00 PM

TUESDAY, JULY 2

Exhibits Open for All – Exhibit Hall 1	8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Installation/General Session – Stars at Night Ballroom – 3 rd Floor	12:30 PM – 2:00 PM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TDA • USDA • SNA 	
First Executive Committee Meeting (Closed Meeting)	2:15 PM – 3:15 PM
First 2024-2025 Board of Directors Meeting / Board Photo	3:15 PM – 4:15 PM

*Please check the mobile app and TASN website for updates on these classes



REGISTRATION FORM
TASN 2024 Annual Conference
San Antonio, Texas | June 29 - July 2, 2024

Badges will be assigned per the paid TASN membership category. ID will be required to pick up badges.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
MAY 15, 2024

REGISTRATION TYPE & FEES:

REGULAR REGISTRATION: \$350
 (Ends May 15)

Includes learning sessions, exhibits, annual meeting, & general session

Circle if you will be attending:
 Sunday Lunch Monday Industry Event/Dinner

TOTAL \$ _____

RETIRED REGISTRATION: \$130
 (Ends May 15)

Includes learning sessions, exhibits, annual meeting, & general session

TOTAL \$ _____

REGISTRATION INFO: SELECT ONE: ISD TDA PROFESSIONAL SERVICE PROVIDER ESC PERSONNEL

Name:	Member Number:
ISD/Org/Service Provider:	Position:
Summer Address:	City/State/Zip:
Phone:	Fax:
Email:	
Special Accommodations/Allergies:	

Contact information will be given to exhibitors

PAYMENT INFORMATION: **Payment must be received by the deadline dates to receive package price**

<input type="checkbox"/> P.O. Number (P.O. paperwork must be attached):	<input type="checkbox"/> Check Number:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Card Number:	<input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MC <input type="checkbox"/> DISCOVER <input type="checkbox"/> AMEX		
Name on Card:	Exp. Date:	CVV Code:	Billing Zip:
Billing Address:			

Liability & Indemnification Agreement: Each form must be signed before registration can be processed. I, the undersigned, am employed in the child nutrition profession in conjunction with K-12 schools. I request that you accept me as a participant in the 2024 TASN Annual Conference in San Antonio, TX, June 29-July 2, 2024. I understand there is some inherent risk in traveling to and from and as a result of attending the conference. The undersigned hereby releases TASN and the committees, members, officers, employees, and directors from all liability for sickness, injury, death, and property damage that may be suffered in connection with such activities, whether due to negligence or otherwise, accepting such risks involved and waiving all rights of any kind that may otherwise arise. The undersigned agrees to indemnify TASN, its committees, members, officers, employees, and directors against all judgments obtained and against the cost of defense of such claims, including reasonable attorney's fees. Photo Release: I grant TASN, its representatives, and employees the right to take photographs of me and my property. I authorize TASN to copyright, use, and publish the same in print and/or electronically. I agree that TASN may use such photographs of me with or without my name and for any lawful purpose including such purposes as publicity, illustration, advertising, social networking, and web content. My registration application information will also be published for exhibitors. Badge changes will not be made onsite. **All cancellations must be received in writing no later than May 15, 2024. TASN will assess a \$50.00 administrative fee on all cancellations. No refunds will be made after May 15, 2024.**

REQUIRED:

Signature/Date: _____

Please send your completed registration form with either your purchase order form or full payment.
 If using a purchase order, payment is due by May 15, 2024.

MAIL TO:
TASN Headquarters
5910 Courtyard Drive Ste #230
Austin, TX 78731

NOTE: TASN will not accept any registrations in the office after **MAY 15, 2024**. We will have onsite registration forms at the onsite registration counter at the conference. **INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE RETURNED WITH PAYMENT.**



Help us make
this
conference
groovy, baby!

CONFERENCE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

email ericv@tasn.net
pre conference volunteer meeting: TBD



Call for Volunteers

TASN is working on making our '70s themed 70th Annual Conference a far-out experience, but we need your help! Sign up to be a volunteer and play a part in your association's Annual Conference.

Duties include, but are not limited to:

Registration counter • traffic control • moderating • ribbon booth
learning session assistance • prepping • handouts • general assistance and more!

See next page for form or click [here](#) for online form.
Sign up by emailing Eric Vicharelli at ericv@tasn.net.



Fillable form available **HERE**

**TASN Annual Conference
Volunteer Form
Deadline: April 15th, 2024**

Volunteer Information:

Name: _____

ISD/Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Select Availability: Select desired volunteer time frame(s)

Saturday:	_____ 1 PM – 2 PM	_____ 2 PM – 3 PM
Sunday:	_____ 7:30 AM – 8:30 AM	_____ 1 PM – 2 PM
	_____ 2 PM – 3 PM	_____ 3 PM – 4 PM
Monday:	_____ 8 AM – 10 AM	_____ 10 AM – 12 PM
	_____ 2 PM – 4 PM	_____ 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Tuesday:	_____ 8 AM – 9 AM	_____ 9 AM – 10 AM
	_____ 12 PM – 1 PM	

Send the requested information to:
TASN – Eric Vicharelli
5910 Courtyard Dr. #230
Austin, TX 78731
512.371.0087 ext. 207
512.371.0125 fax
ericv@tasn.net

Bring Farm Fresh Meals to Your District



School nutrition departments are working with Texas farmers, ranchers, and food producers to add Farm Fresh products to their menus.

Join us in cultivating
Homegrown and Healthy students.



Sign up today for the
Farm Fresh Challenge

[SQUAREMEALS.ORG/FARMFRESHCHALLENGE](https://squaremeals.org/farmfreshchallenge)



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

Fraud Hotline: 1-866-5-FRAUD-4 or 1-866-537-2834 | P.O. Box 12847 | Austin, TX 78711
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Food and Nutrition Division
Farm Fresh Initiative

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Updated 8/2023
www.SquareMeals.org

Chapter Flag Release Form

Chapter Name: _____

Contact Name (please print): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Alternate Phone Number: _____

School District: _____

Flag Representative: _____

By signing this form, I understand there is a \$25.00 fee for not picking up my flag. (This fee is to cover the cost of mailing the flag back to your chapter).

Note:

- There will be a sign out sheet to retrieve your flag at registration.
- You are not allowed to remove your flag from the flagpole, TASN has hired people that will handle this.
- You may pick your flag up in the Ballroom at 2:00 PM Tuesday, July 2, 2024.

Signature: _____

Please send flags to TASN Headquarters by May 15th

Texas Association for School Nutrition
5910 Courtyard Drive, Suite 230
Austin, TX 78731

Chapter News

Area 5

Copperas Cove ISD

Howdy from Copperas Cove ISD in TASN Area 5! Like in most school districts, it has been a whirlwind for us and I cannot believe that it is already April! Last year we traveled to elementary schools and put on a presentation called our Taste of Texas Traveling Tour where we showcased local Texas agriculture to the students. It was a huge success and the kids still talk about it.



This school year we have held several events for the students. Each month we have displayed TDA Harvest of the Month posters and building those items into our monthly menu. As kids come through the serving line, we encourage them to try the item. We track the students coming through the line with our POS and give away small prizes



to all the students at the end of the month, based on who picked up the Taste of Texas Harvest of the Month item each time it was served. This has been a huge success and we have had over 112,000 Taste of Texas Harvest of the Month items picked up and tasted by the students at CCISD.

We also took a Taste of Texas Pre-K Carnival to

the youngest kids in our district, the three and four year-old students! We put on a Taste of Texas Harvest of the Month carnival and showcased local Texas agriculture with them. They loved it! When you look at the smiling faces of the students, it totally makes all the extra effort worth it!



We definitely have been putting our SCA and

LFS Grants to good use for the kids at CCISD. Our district was one of many who were also recognized by TDA as a Farm Fresh Challenge



prime participant. Remember to reach out to TASN and TDA when you are in the planning portion of your event and invite them! It is a good thing for TASN and TDA to see all the exciting things that schools across the state of Texas

are doing every day...let them see the impact you are having on the student in your district!



continued on next page

Copperas Cove ISD continued

I took a group of five to the TASN Partnership Collaboration Summit. Those of you who couldn't attend event really missed out on a great meeting. Each person came back excited and eager to share all that they learned at PCS with other Child Nutrition staff in our district. We are already making plans for a huge group to attend the TASN Annual Conference in San Antonio. By the time Spring Break rolled around, we already had many who were excited and signed up to attend. I look forward to celebrating TASN's 70th year! That is hard to believe. See you all at the conference!



Remember, sometimes being a good leader means holding the ladder for others to climb it! Be the person who speaks about all the great things that Child Nutrition departments accomplish, be the person who invites others to attend the TASN Annual Conference, and be that person who volunteers and gets actively involved in YOUR organization.

Frisco ISD

Recently, Wakeland High School was one of three schools in the entire country (and the only school from the state of Texas) to receive \$2,000 in grant funding for the WHS cafeteria! A team of Wakeland



students put together a project proposal to promote National School Breakfast Week, and it was selected out of 60+

submissions nationwide as the grand prize winner by AdVenture Capital and the GENYOUth nonprofit group (affiliated with the same organization that sponsors "Fuel Up to Play 60" at the elementary school level).



We just got back from an all-expenses-paid trip to Domino's Pizza headquarters in Ann Arbor, Michigan, to collect our grant money and meet with the leadership team, and we were informed by Domino's executives that this event at Wakeland was set to be the biggest event solely focused on promoting a school breakfast program in the entire United States. We



recently finished our final day of the event, and we had an incredible turnout! We had raffle items that really got students excited, and we had five different "stations" located around the cafeteria: Pin the Tail on the Cow, Guess the Number of Breakfast Condiments, Spin-the-Wheel (School Breakfast Trivia), Bagel Ring Toss, and Try the Sample.



This was an entirely student-produced event and initiative. This was completely unprecedented for

our school, and it turned into one of the biggest events we've ever had in our school's 16+ year history.

Garland SNS

Garland ISD has been active the past couple of months! Student Nutrition Services celebrated Valentine’s Day with “SIP SIP HOORAY! It’s Valentine’s Day!” Elementary students who joined us for lunch received a special Valentine from our cafeteria staff! The curly straw fun was exciting to pass out and we received many smiles from our students.



Area 6

Eagle Mountain - Saginaw ISD

Eagle Mountain – Saginaw ISD Association is getting ready to choose our next recipients of our three \$500.00 dollar scholarships. We are grateful for the opportunity to give back to our students and make a difference in their educational goals. The association will choose one student from each high school in our district: W.E. Boswell, Saginaw, and Chisholm Trail high schools.



Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD is steadily growing, and we cannot wait to open our fourth high school, called Eagle Mountain High School, this August.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

by John Ceballos
TASN Membership Chair
Klein ISD



Hi everyone! What a journey it's been on our Facebook page these past weeks! As we introduced our Area Representatives and engaged with school nutrition professionals across Texas, I've been amazed at the sense of community we've built.

Our mission was straightforward: to create connections. We've been bringing you the faces behind the names – the hardworking individuals making a difference in school nutrition throughout our state.

Each week, we traveled across the Texas map, showcasing an Area Representative and sharing the unique stories from their region. This was all about getting personal, sharing real experiences, and strengthening our TASN family ties.

Your participation has been the real gem of this initiative. Every like, tag, comment, and share has woven a more inclusive and supportive network, brimming with chances to network and grow.

And we're not done yet! Throughout the month of May, we'll continue our weekly spotlights. I encourage you to keep the momentum going — like, comment, and share our posts. Let's show the world the strength of our community.

Even as this series concludes, the connections we've made remain. We've kick-started conversations and built relationships that will empower us in our roles and beyond.

I'm truly grateful for the camaraderie and energy you've brought to this campaign. Together, we've proven that our collective online efforts can have a real-world impact.

So, as we move through May, don't hold back. Keep engaging, keep sharing your stories, and help us keep the TASN spirit vibrant and alive.

Thank you for being an integral part of what makes TASN so special.



TASN MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

September 1 - May 31

How it works:

- For every three (3) people you recruit to be members, your name will be entered into a drawing that will take place on TASN Facebook Live.

Prizes:

- \$100.00 cash prize, free membership for the next year, and recognition at the 2024 TASN Annual Conference.

Rules:

- Must be a new member or a person that has had inactive member status with TASN for two (2) or more years.
- Must include email address to be eligible.
- Must use membership drive form, located in this issue and on the TASN website.
- Recruiter must be a Specialist, Manager, or Supervisor.
- Recruit at least three (3) members to be eligible.
- Membership application form must be completed and postmarked by May 31, 2024.

TASN Membership Application Form

Please check one of the following: New member _____ or Member Renewal _____

If you pay your TASN dues through SNA, Please do not also send a payment to TASN.

Personal Information:
Member #: _____

(Please print and complete the information on this form. TASN will use this address for all correspondence.) Only completed forms will be processed.

Name

Last: _____ First: _____ M.I.: _____

Street Address: _____ Apt/Ste. #: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Work Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

ISD: _____ Area: _____ Chapter: _____ County: _____

Position:	Category:	Individual:
Cooks, bakers, bookkeepers, technicians, assistants, equipment/ maintenance specialists.	Employee	\$23.00
Managers, head cooks, assistant managers, accounting dept., equipment/maintenance.	Manager	\$28.00
Please circle or check one: Working in the food service program at the school district level, Equipment/Maintenance.	Director or Supervisor Circle one	\$43.00
Working in the state office for child nutrition programs, including nutrition education.	TDA, ESC, TDH	\$43.00
Retired school food service workers.	Retired	\$18.00
Full-time students enrolled in college or university in the food service, nutrition, or dietary program.	Students	\$13.00
Persons involved in non-foodservice administrative duties of a school district, college/ university in Texas, or an allied non-profit organization.	Affiliate	\$18.00

If recruiting during TASN's Yearlong Membership Drive period, please fill out the following. **September 1st - May 31st**

Membership Drive Requirements: *Recruitment must be postmarked within membership drive dates.*

- Must be a new member or a person with an Inactive member status with TASN for two (2) or more years.
 - Must include email address.
 - Must use this Membership Drive Form.
 - Recruiter must be a Specialist, Manager, or Supervisor.
 - Recruit at least three (3) members for 1 entry.
- Prizes: \$100.00 Gift Card, Free TASN Membership for recruiter, and Recognition at the TASN Annual Conference.

Recruiter's Information:

Recruiter's Name: _____ Member #: _____ Recruiter's ISD: _____

Recruiter's Phone: _____ Recruiter's Email: _____

Payment Information: Check #: _____ Credit Card type: _____ Credit Card #: _____

Name on Card: _____ Billing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Total Amount: \$ _____

Please return payment and application form to: TASN, 5910 Courtyard Drive, Suite #230, Austin, Texas 78731
or by Fax: (512) 371-0125

 Do you make purchasing decisions for your district? Yes No Is your salary paid by a management company? Yes No

Member (ISD, TDA, ESC, TDH) Signature: _____ Date: _____

Education Update

by Kasandra Davis, MS, RD, LD
TASN Education Chair
Brenham ISD



Spring is in the air and we're looking forward to all of the summer events TASN has to offer!

TASN recently held our second **Administrative Academy** session in Corpus Christi with 23 attendees. This academy is designed to provide practical business skills for

school food service administration through a four-part series of comprehensive courses. Graduates of this academy are able to apply for their level 5 TASN certification.

In July, TASN held two successful **Manager Academies** in Klein and Texarkana. We will be announcing and recognizing 50 graduates at the **TASN 2024 Annual Conference**. In addition to the knowledge gained, these individuals are eligible to apply for their level 4 TASN certification.

What is the **TASN Certification Program**? Our program aligns with the four key areas required for USDA Professional Standards and follows a one-year renewal cycle with randomized audits. Many Texas school districts have chosen the TASN Certification Program as a basis for job placement, advancement, and pay increases. If you have ever been interested in a TASN certification, it's now easier than ever to apply.

If you're interested in attending one of our upcoming summer **Managers Academies** or **Administrative Academies**, head to the TASN website to learn more!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the conference and announcing our 2023-2024 Manager and Administrative graduates!

Certification Update

by Eric Vicharelli
TASN Education & Membership Manager



Hello TASN Familia, What a great kick off to 2024 the TASN Certification department has had! Over 50% of our certifications are in the new program that started in July 2022. Some of you out there are still grandfathered into the old program. Everyone will officially be in the new program after July of 2025 when the old program has cycled out.

Important Update: As we continue to work on an online database we are taking the steps to continue processing certifications in a secure and timely manner.

TASN Certification applications will need to be submitted by mailed to our office.
5910 Courtyard Drive #230, Austin, Texas 78731.

The **Partnership Collaboration Summit** ran successful learning sessions such as Emotional Intelligence, Personality Test, and Round Table Discussion.

We are working closely with the Texas Department of Agriculture for this year's upcoming TASN 2024 Conference. If you are interested in volunteering please reach out to me at ericv@tasn.net for further information.

Both our summer **Managers Academy** and **Administrative Academy** graduates will be recognized at the Award Ceremony in conjunction with the TASN Annual Conference. We look forward to seeing everyone there and to acknowledging the commitment to child nutrition our graduates have made.

As always, if you need any assistance please contact us! Thank you all!



LAC²⁰²⁴

LEGISLATIVE ACTION CONFERENCE

MARCH 3-5, 2024 | WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Legislative Action Conference was an enjoyable and rewarding experience, not only to visit Washington, D.C. where a lot of decisions are made, but to go with a purpose.

These were the three talking points on this year's SNA position paper, which we emphasized during our visits with Senators Ted Cruz and John Cornyn:

- Permanently increase federal reimbursement rates for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program (NSLP/SBP) by 40 cents per lunch and 15 cents per breakfast.

- Ensure USDA maintains the current, successful school nutrition standards, rather than implementing additional rules.
- Expand NSLP/SBP to offer healthy school meals for all students at no charge.

There were over 80 delegates representing Texas this year, and TASN hosted 81 attendees for the Texas delegates dinner at Carmine's! With all attendees showing up with the purpose of advocating for child nutrition, we were honored to have been a part of this process.





RESERVE YOUR BOOTH TODAY!

BOOTH RATES:

10 X 10 Booth	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
In-Line Booth	\$1,700.00	\$2,150.00
Premium Corner Booth	\$1,800.00	\$2,250.00

BOOTH INCLUDES:

- Post-conference attendee contact file
- Conference App listing with product description
- Eight-foot backdrops & three-foot side drapes
- Company ID sign
- Six-foot skirted table
- Two chairs
- Waste basket
- Five badges per 10 x10 booth

LEARN MORE & RESERVE

Planning drives success in school nutrition and I am sure your preparations for next year are well underway. As always, you can expect a mix of the familiar, the new, and the unknown in 2024-2025. The familiar could be menu planning and claiming meals, the new will include updated nutrition standards and new systems, unknowns start with things like supply chain and weather. The list for each could be long but I commend all of you for the resilience and determination you show every year as you embrace all three.

The best way to truly be prepared for a new school year is through technical training. If you know the program guidelines and how to follow them, that becomes familiar, allowing you to better resolve new challenges. The complement to that is the exploration of ideas and possibilities. That helps bring exciting new things to your program including the creativity needed to engage your students.

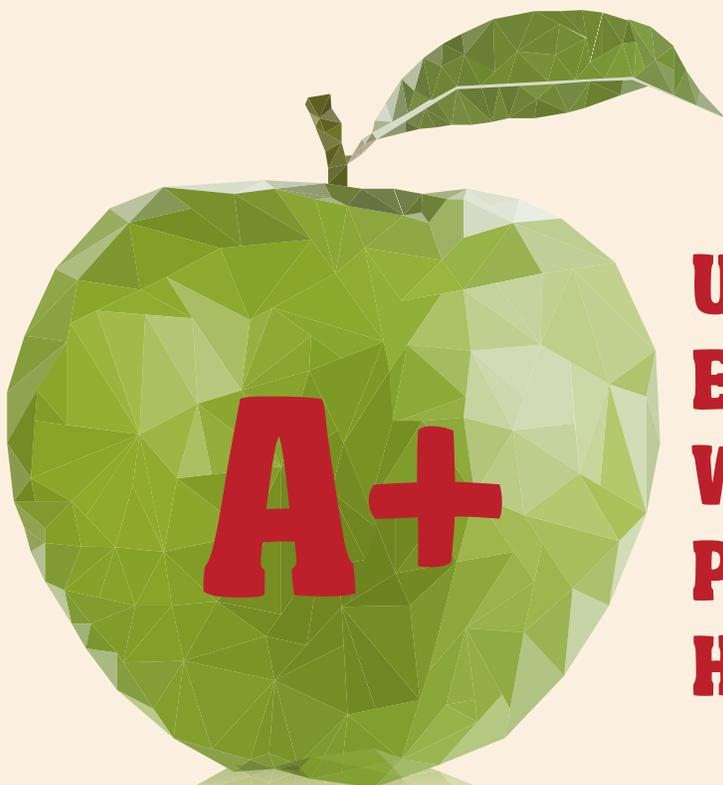
Your partners at TDA, the Education Service Centers (ESCs), and the Texas Association for School Nutrition (TASN) are making sure the

training you need is available and easy to access. Throughout the year, we provide training in person and online. As this school year nears its end, consider participating in the three important events that can lay the foundation for a successful 2024-2025.

MegaCon 2024

First up is the Texas Department of Agriculture's (TDA) MegaCon event in Austin, May 14-16. For learning about the regulatory side of nutrition program operation, this represents the gold standard in Texas. The TDA policy, program, and training teams will provide answers to your questions about U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) guidance. USDA representatives will also share their insight throughout MegaCon.

Educational sessions that encourage discussion will help MegaCon attendees uncover best practices for energizing their programs. TDA will honor outstanding school nutrition leaders at special recognition events. MegaCon also brings together leaders from other federal nutrition programs such as the Summer Food Service Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Emergency Food Assistance Program, which is operated by



**UPCOMING
EDUCATIONAL EVENTS
WILL PUT YOUR
PROGRAM AT THE
HEAD OF THE CLASS**

food banks. All this, combined with Austin fun, makes MegaCon an important occasion for school nutrition.

TASN Annual Conference

TDA will have a new expanded presence at this year's TASN Annual Conference, June 29 through July 2. Our training team will contribute to the educational offerings at the annual conference which is celebrating its 70th year. TDA plans to provide training that will guide school nutrition professionals in more effectively operating their programs.

Summer Workshops

Finally, throughout the summer, Texas school nutrition professionals can attend a Summer Workshop offered by their local ESC. This collaborative effort between TDA and the ESCs offers smaller-venue training and opportunities for one-on-one discussions about school nutrition. The hands-on experience provides invaluable

preparation for the new year. TDA will participate in each workshop to assist the ESC experts. Look for more information about when your ESC will have its workshop.

In addition to accessing education, you can contribute to the learning at all these training events. Sharing your knowledge with your peers can make a big difference. Also, you can tell TDA and the ESCs what you encounter in your operations to help us understand how we can assist Texas school nutrition teams. This kind of collaboration makes us all stronger.

Everyone at TDA, especially Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller, wants to see you succeed. We are working to ensure you have a robust training system that provides consistent, accurate, and supportive direction. The more you participate, the more you and TDA learn about what it takes to succeed. Please make all the available training opportunities part of your preparation for 2024-2025. As you do, I know we will continue to show that Texas is a leader in school nutrition.



**THANKS TO TDA FOR SPONSORING LEARNING SESSIONS AT
THE TASN 2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

There are so many kinds of poems – sonnets, haiku, free verse, even limericks! Here are some fun ideas for celebrating National Poetry Month in your district!

- Hang a poster of a different poem each week. Try something by Shel Silverstein, Roald Dahl, or even Robert Louis Stevenson. Or find out who your area's poet laureate is and post a poem and info about that person!
- Hold a nutrition-related poetry contest for students in your school and display the winners for everyone to enjoy!
- Come up with some silly food poems as a team and display them to make your students smile!

April is NATIONAL Poetry MONTH

However you celebrate it, National Poetry Month can show kids how creative, fun, and accessible poetry can be!

