

TASN ews

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TASN News

Fall 2024

A Publication of the Texas Association for School Nutrition

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FALL 2024



Dear Texas Association for School Nutrition members,

As we enter the fall season, I'm reminded of a powerful quote by Abraham Maslow: *"In any given moment, we have two options: to step forward into growth or to step back into safety."*

This quote resonates deeply with me as I reflect on the challenges and opportunities we face in school nutrition. Each day we make countless decisions that affect the health and well-being of students across Texas. Whether it's embracing new technologies in our kitchens, advocating for better policies, or implementing innovative meal programs, we have the choice to step forward into growth or remain in the comfort of what we already know.



A SEASON FOR GROWTH

This fall, I encourage all of us to choose growth. Growth requires us to be bold, explore new possibilities, and take on challenges that may seem daunting at first. It might be trying a new menu item that promotes fresh, local produce or incorporating student feedback to create meals they truly enjoy. It may also mean taking part in professional development to enhance our skills or stepping into leadership roles within your district or the association.

Our association, too, is committed to stepping forward. We are working diligently to provide you with the tools, training, and resources that will empower you to continue growing in your roles. From academies and conferences to new digital

resources, we want to ensure that you have every opportunity to succeed.



EMBRACING INNOVATION AND CHANGE

Growth often comes through innovation and embracing change. This year, many of us have faced rising food costs, supply chain issues, and increased demands on our programs. But with these challenges come opportunities to think creatively, collaborate with partners, and find new solutions. Stepping forward means not being afraid to adapt and try new approaches to keep providing high-quality meals to our students and finding professional growth opportunities.

Our advocacy efforts are another way we are stepping forward. We continue to engage with policymakers, making sure they understand the critical role school nutrition plays in education and student success. This spring, we will be pushing forward on issues such as increasing funding for school meals and supporting policies that make it easier for students to access nutritious food.

continued



A COMMUNITY COMMITTED TO GROWTH

Choosing to grow doesn't mean we have to do it alone. One of the greatest strengths of our association is the community we've built. We are a collective of passionate, dedicated professionals who can support each other through every step of the journey. As we move forward, I encourage you to lean on your peers, share your experiences, and be open to learning from others.

We are also growing together by expanding our membership and welcoming new voices into our discussions. Fresh perspectives will only strengthen our efforts as we continue to adapt to the evolving needs of school nutrition.



THE PATH FORWARD

As we look ahead to the remainder of this school year, I hope you will join me in stepping forward into growth. Let's challenge ourselves to take bold steps, embrace innovation, and work together to create a healthier, more nourishing future for Texas students.

Together, we are capable of extraordinary things. Let's choose growth over safety and continue moving our programs—and our association—forward.

With gratitude and excitement for the future,

Lacy Willey
Cleveland ISD
TASN President



IMPORTANT ASSOCIATION DATES

TASN 2024 Administrative Academy	October 22–23, 2024	Austin, Texas
TASN 2024 Board/Committee Meetings	October 22–23, 2024	Austin, Texas
TASN HQ Closed for Thanksgiving	November 25–29, 2024	
TASN HQ Closed for Holiday Break	Dec 23, 2024–Jan 2, 2025	
TASN 2025 PCS Registration Deadline	January 7, 2025	
TASN 2025 Partnership Collaboration Summit (PCS)	January 27–29, 2025	Rockwall, Texas
TASN Awards and Scholarships Registration Deadline	February 15, 2025	
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 1–31, 2025	
TASN 2025 Annual Conference	June 22–25, 2025	Corpus Christi, Texas

Greetings from TASN President-Elect Susan D'Amico



Dear TASN members,

It was fantastic to kick off the school year and reconnect with our staff and students. In child nutrition, we're fortunate to work with such a dedicated team who balances hard work with

fun. At our Aldine manager in-service, we were inspired by the Family Feud game from the TASN 2024 Annual Conference, so we enjoyed playing Family Feud and the Newly Fed Game with our managers. Everyone had a blast!

Our TASN leadership team is also hard at work, continuously finding ways to enhance your experience. We've been meeting regularly since early August to improve areas like membership, education, conference planning, and legislative action. Be sure to check out our new [TASN website](#) — it's now easier than ever to manage your membership.

Exciting news: The Annual Conference Committee

has booked The Spazmatics for the Industry Evening Event! If you haven't seen them before, you're in for a treat. Check them out on [page 16](#) and get ready for a night full of great music and dancing.

By the time you read this, Karen Andrasi, Eric Vicharelli, and I will have toured Corpus Christi facilities, including the convention center and the headquarters hotel, to ensure an exceptional experience for our June conference. Make plans to attend the [2025 TASN Annual Conference](#) as we celebrate *High Tides and Good Vibes* in Corpus Christi.

Thank you all for your incredible work making a difference in the lives of Texas children, school staff, and fellow TASN members. Your dedication is truly inspiring. Wishing you a wonderful fall season filled with joy, friends, and family.

Take care,
Susan D'Amico
Aldine ISD
TASN President-Elect





As we embark on the new school year, I am in awe of all that you do. TASN is a success because of your passion for feeding children, and the children are successful because of you and your passion. Thank you for going the extra mile to make sure the next generation of children are fueled in mind and body.

Just as you fuel the children of Texas, TASN wants to fuel you with our meetings, events, and educational opportunities. Below is a snapshot of the exciting educational events we are preparing.



Partnership Collaboration Summit (PCS) is being planned by TASN Vice President John Ceballos and his committee, and the theme is *WOW! Wealth of Wisdom*. The event will take place at the Rockwall Hilton Hotel in Rockwall, Texas January 27- 29, 2025.

A few highlights of the event will be:

- General Session speaker Diane Darling
- Closing General Session speaker Lena Wilson with TDA
- Breakout Sessions
- A fun evening networking event

Registration for the 2025 PCS is now open and sponsorship opportunities will be available very soon. Check out [page 30](#) for full details or click here to register!

Buckle up for an exciting event! President-Elect Susan D'Amico and her committee are planning a great time for the 2025 Annual Conference in Corpus Christi, Texas. This will be a time to connect with new people and reconnect with old friends all while earning CEUs and having fun. The Industry

Evening will be a night to remember with a performance by the entertaining and *highly* danceable [Spazmatics](#). Registration will open in early January. Your TASN membership must be current before registering for the conference. If renewing your membership or joining and paying your membership through SNA, please allow at least four weeks for SNA processing.



New for 2025! TASN will be offering an incentive to pay early: register for the Annual Conference and pay in full by March 1, 2025, to be entered into a drawing for a free 2026 conference registration.

Thank you for sharing your stories. I love hearing your success stories and seeing the look on your face when you attend a learning session, get certified, or complete one of the Academies. Education is key to your success, and I want to encourage you to apply for TASN awards and scholarships. The deadline for these opportunities is February 15, 2024. The information can be found on the [awards page](#) and the [scholarships page](#) of the TASN website. If you need additional information, please contact Eric Vicharelli at ericv@tasn.net.

Fall memories: the crispness of leaves, hot cider, and the anticipation of the holidays. As we head into the holiday season, I hope you have a safe, wonderful, memory-building, and relaxing holiday.

The TASN HQ office will be closed:

- November 25–29, 2024, for Thanksgiving
- December 23, 2024 – January 2, 2025, for the holiday break

Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day-in and day-out.
-- Robert Collier



Greetings from TASN Vice President John Ceballos



As we kick off another exciting school year, I want to extend a loud and heartfelt “Welcome back!” to all our dedicated TASN members. It’s been inspiring to see how districts across Texas have embraced the #tasnback2school hashtag on our Facebook page,

showcasing the incredible work being done to prepare for students’ return.

From Austin ISD, where Superintendent Matias Segura and Board Trustee Noelita Lugo stepped in to serve meals, to the team-building activities at Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD’s All Employee In-Service, the energy and commitment have been amazing. Splendora ISD welcomed students back with beautiful meals, Brenham ISD wrapped up their in-service, and Tomball ISD served meals with a smile! Here in Klein ISD, we had fun reminding our secondary students to bring their student IDs when coming through the serving lines.

It fills me with pride to witness the creativity and hard work of our members, whether through innovative training or the delicious variety of meals offered at breakfast and lunch. Thank you to everyone who has shared their stories with us. I encourage you all to continue showcasing your incredible teams and the efforts you put into fueling the success of our students. Who knows—you may even be featured in our next district spotlight or TASNnews!

John Ceballos
Klein ISD
TASN Vice President





EAGLE MOUNTAIN - SAGINAW ISD



SPLENDORA ISD



TOMBALL ISD



AUSTIN ISD

SECRETARY / TREASURER CORNER

by Christie Lammers, ESC Region 7



Hello TASN friends!

I hope that everyone has had an amazing start to the 2024–2025 school year. It was great to see everyone at the 70th TASN Annual Conference in San Antonio this summer. During the TASN Board of Directors meeting, the TASN board approved the 2024-2025 budget. The Finance Committee approved a budget that is aligned with the TASN Strategic Plan.

There are some exciting opportunities this fall to plug in, network, and connect with the TASN community. Add these dates to your calendar and get involved with your state professional organization:

October 22-23, 2024: part one of the Administrative Academy will be held in Austin.

February 19-20, 2025: part two of the Administrative Academy will be held in Austin.

TASN 2025 PCS will take place on **January 27-29, 2025**, at the Rockwall Hilton Hotel. Hope to see you all there!



Greetings from Area 5 Representative

Suellen Atteberry, Garland ISD



Hello from your Area 5 Representative!

We are all back at school now and hopefully making awesome food for our students. Hopefully your summer was great and you didn't melt! After attending Megacon, the TASN Annual Conference

in San Antonio, and ANC in Boston, I was glad to be home! I learned a lot, enjoyed some pretty

spectacular weather in Boston as well as a lobster roll or two, and made some wonderful contacts. Now that we are back in school let us know how your first few weeks have been! What have you done that you are proud of? Do you feel you have a need for more training? Would you like to start a new chapter or reorganize an older one? Let me know – I can help! You just never know where the next great idea may come from – it might be you!



TASN 2025-2026 ELECTION

Thank you to everyone who stepped up to offer nominations for the TASN 2025-2026 election. The progress of any association depends heavily on volunteers like you, and we are grateful to have such an engaged membership.

The election will be held in March 2025 for the following positions:

Vice President (1-year term)

Public Policy & Legislation (2-year term)

Secretary/Treasurer (2-year term)

Area 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, & 11 Representatives (2-year term)

Voting will take place by phone again this year.

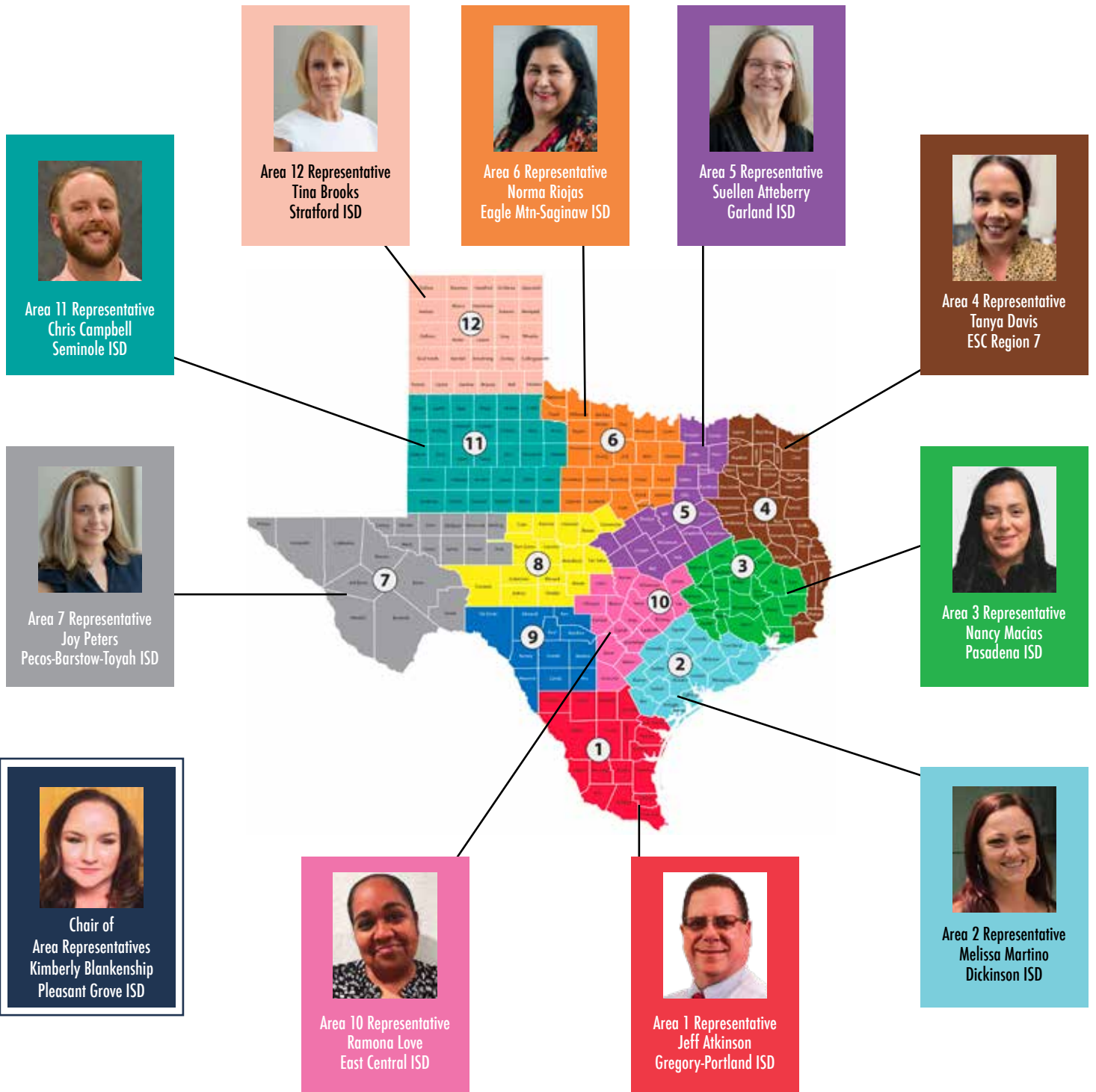
Keep an eye out for communications about the voting process in the spring.



KNOW YOUR AREA REPRESENTATIVE

Do you know who your TASN Area Representative is? TASN Area Representatives are there to help you grow your chapter, connect you with resources, and answer any questions you may have about the association, so don't hesitate to reach out to them anytime!

TASN 2024-2025 AREA REPRESENTATIVES





TASN 2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

JUNE 22-25, 2025 | CORPUS CHRISTI

Good Vibes in Corpus Christi

Registration
Opens in
January 2025



Join Us in Corpus!

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

2025 Annual Conference sessions and exhibits will be located in the American Bank Center.

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. We hope to see you there!

Why You Should Attend

During this four-day event, you'll 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 enjoy the good vibes!

American Bank Center

The American Bank Center will host the TASN 2025 Annual Conference exhibits and learning sessions.

The American Bank Center is the official convention center of Corpus Christi. This state-of-the-art convention center, featuring a total of 138,000 square feet of meeting and exhibit space, overlooks the sparkling Corpus Christi Bay.

The Selena Auditorium

The center also features the Selena Auditorium. In 1996, the auditorium was named for the late Tejano entertainer, Selena Quintanilla-Perez, known simply as “Selena” to her fans. With seating for over 2,500 and an outstanding acoustical rating, the Selena Auditorium has been one of the most attended venues for entertainment in the Coastal Bend area.



Host Hotels



OMNI CORPUS CHRISTI

Located near the beach and in the vibrant downtown Marina District, Omni Corpus Christi Hotel has a stylish rooftop restaurant, outdoor pool, and stunning views of Corpus Christi Bay. Discover upscale hotel rooms and suites with bay-view balconies along the Texas coast. Enjoy the hotel's salon, fitness center, racquetball courts, and an array of dining options.

**Hotel Reservations
Open in
January 2025**

HOLIDAY INN CORPUS CHRISTI DOWNTOWN MARINA

The Holiday Inn Corpus Christi Downtown offers a picturesque view overlooking the beauty of Corpus Christi Bay and marina. The hotel is across the street from the historic seawall and within an easy walk to local nightlife, restaurants, fishing, and more.



Keynote Speakers

JEFF JOINER FIRST GENERAL SESSION

Jeff doesn't give "speeches." He shares stories, experiences, and examples that capture the imagination and attention of the audience. Jeff takes a humorous approach to serious workplace challenges. His stories and energetic delivery style often has the audience roaring with laughter. Jeff has worked with hundreds of organizations in dozens of industries, and can bring a unique perspective to your organization's challenges and goals. This leads to breakthroughs in learning, growth, and performance.



LENA WILSON SECOND GENERAL SESSION

Lena 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 has worked at the state and local level with every USDA nutrition assistance program. Her background also includes 13 years as a director of school meal programs. Lena offers a practical look at operations from differing perspectives to apply a common-sense approach for program oversight.



Industry Evening Event

One of the most anticipated and memorable events at the TASN Annual Conference is the Industry Evening Event. The event will take place at the American Bank Center, where attendees will enjoy dinner followed by dancing the night away. We couldn't be more excited to be able to bring The Spazmatics as this year's entertainment. If you haven't yet experienced the energy, humor, and joy of the Spazmatics, you really don't want to miss this event. **The Spazmatics really know how to bring the good vibes!**

Spazmatics



There are two types of blueberries.

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Smoothie
Bowl



Overnight
Oats



* Source: 2021 USDA Food Buying Guide Additional Yield Information for School Meals.

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[WildBlueberries.com/schools](https://www.wildblueberries.com/schools)

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Chapter News

Area 3

Aldine SNA

As Aldine ISD prepared for the 2024-2025 school year, ASNA current President Maria Sanchez shared her TASN 2024 Annual Conference experience with child nutrition staff in the first manager meeting and yearly pep rally, in an effort to increase membership.

President Sanchez encouraged each staff member as well as ASNA active members to attend the TASN 2025 Annual Conference. She mentioned several powerful reasons for attending next year's TASN Annual Conference.



President Sanchez said, "At the TASN Annual Conference you learn, connect, form stronger bonds, make new friends, work together toward the same goal, win awards, and have fun. I warmly invite you to join the Aldine School Nutrition Association and work with me as one to attend next year's TASN Annual Conference in the magnificent Corpus Christi. Let's make this a memorable and impactful experience for us all!"



Area 5

Garland ISD

Garland ISD had a great summer with our bulk Grab and Go meal distribution. We also started serving at six apartments during the summer, in addition to meals at traditional summer schools. We learned a lot and had some fun in the process. We are now off and running for this school year!



Garland ISD Grab and Go Crew

We started with our back to school all-staff meeting. Yes, there are a lot of us!



First day back to school!





EAGLE MOUNTAIN SAGINAW ISD

**WE WISH ALL THE DISTRICTS
ACROSS TEXAS THE BEST
2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR**



At Eagle Mountain Saginaw ISD, we had the honor of hosting the Manager Academy. It was a wonderful experience. We encourage other school districts to host the Manager Academy!



WE WANT
TO HEAR
FROM YOU

Updates from our chapters are one of the best things about the TASNews. We'd love to hear what's happening in your district and chapter!

Not sure what to write about? The updates from chapters in this issue are wonderful examples of things you can include:

- Celebrations in your district
- Events (*like National School Lunch Week!*)
- Recipes
- Programs that you've introduced
- Meeting & officer updates
- TASN events you attended (*like the TASN Annual Conference!*)

Submit queries and articles to **communications@tasn.net** by December 1 to be included in the winter (January) TASNews issue!

TASN 2023-2024 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE WINNER

Congratulations to the winner of the
TASN 2023-2024 Membership Drive:

YURIDIA CARRASCO
WHITE SETTLEMENT ISD!

Yuridia recruited 11 new TASN members, and will receive a **\$100** cash prize along with a free TASN membership for the next year. Way to go, Yuridia!



MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

SUELLEN ATTEBERRY: THAT'S MY JAM!

Contest Winner Preserves Her Spot at the Top

Suellen Atteberry, Supervisor at Garland ISD and the TASN Area 5 Representative, has won many awards for her homemade jams and other culinary delights. We got the opportunity to chat with her about her creations and her many blue ribbon wins (and rare misses)!



You have amassed an impressive number of awards! How did all of this start?

About 40 years ago I was making peach jam. Someone said, “Hey – you should enter this in the state fair – you’ll win!” So, I entered and I won. That’s how it started. Over the next 30 years or so, I would periodically think about entering an item, and end up with a blue or red ribbon.

Once my daughter graduated high school, I had an enormous amount of time on my hands. I started canning again, starting slow then just going full force. I can most of what we eat. It became a challenge for me to see just what I could accomplish. I was shocked at how I truly could control what we ate. No, I am not a full-on homesteader, but I can pretty much guarantee that I won’t be purchasing vegetables at the grocery store. I don’t purchase much fruit either.



Suellen Atteberry with many of her award-winning culinary creations

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT: SUELLEN ATTEBERRY

Most of the items I can are things that we eat and I grow them myself. I am a Master Gardener and use several different avenues to grow my own. I enjoy it. Yes, it's a lot of work but the results are so worth it. This year, even after extensive pruning, I ended up with over 750 peaches from one tree. The peaches were not the biggest but, oh, they were so sweet, juicy and flavorful.



Wow. That's a lot of peaches. Do you have help with all this gardening, harvesting, and canning?

My husband helps a bit. He plants all of the jalapeños. I harvest, clean and can myself. I might holler for him to stir while I go get something but I do this mostly by myself.



Ok. So, back to the State Fair. What are your latest successes?

Back to the State Fair – once things became “full force” I would enter the maximum in the canning categories. At that time, you could enter much more than 12 items. I have entered in every canning category except the butter category (apple butter, peach butter, etc). I decided that each time, I would make a minimum of one thing that I had never made before and enter that. Oddly enough, those items have become my blue-ribbon winners.



This year I entered seven items. One didn't work out but I had fun working on the item. I have received the results for this year: five ribbons! And yes, the blue ribbon was earned for a recipe that I had never made before, a cranberry relish.



Five ribbons is really fantastic. I'd love to hear about the thing that didn't work out. What happened?

A cactus jelly. It is a long process and gets everything a neon pink but I have a lot of fun with it. I cannot emphasize neon pink enough, and it gets everywhere!



What other items do you like to create, aside from jams?

This is the first year that I have been chosen to compete in the State Fair Cobbler Cook-Off. There is room for 16 contestants. You compete in front of anyone who is there – a live audience! You make your product, cook it, present it to the judges and then wait for the results. You literally bring everything but the oven and a table to work on.

Normally, you may choose two of the three categories. I have chosen my two – one will be a peach cobbler, and the other a peach-blueberry cobbler. I was *told* that I will be making a peach cobbler. (I am thinking that might be a rather unique way of telling me that my peach cobbler is good!)



Over the years I have entered in the cakes, breads, cookies and pie competitions. These contests are highly competitive and can be somewhat brutal. Over the past two or three years the State Fair has held these competitions in April or May. Just as an example: each entry in cookies must present 18 of that cookie. The first year they had over 400 entries which in turn is over 8,000 cookies! Cakes is just as competitive – there were over 500 cakes this year. Yes, I competed. Nope, I did not win. I didn't expect to. I will openly admit to not being able to make cookies – usually I consider them to be the equivalent of hockey pucks. I don't enter in the

cookie category. I did enter in cakes but, while my cakes are pretty good, they are not spectacular. This year I have competed in three events during the State Fair. For the bread category, I made pear bread. Cooking with cheese, I made cheesecake. I didn't do squat in these events, but didn't really expect to. The next competition was Big Tex's Lunch Box. It was this past Monday. I won second!!

This Thursday I am competing in charcuterie board, one for breakfast and one *jarcuterie*. We shall see how that turns out.

I was "pushed" by my daughter to enter a bit more in the candy category and another category altogether. She asked the powers that be at the State Fair creative arts department if I could enter, even though it was past the deadline. I nearly fell over when they overwhelmingly said yes and appeared to be excited. So I will be entering my chicken salad, deviled eggs, and banana pudding in the Chicken or the Egg Contest. Also, she managed to get me entered in candy contest in divinity and pralines. I was already entered in chocolate fudge and fudge no chocolate. It should be an interesting week at my house next week.

Ok, so cookies are out and your cakes are 'pretty good.' I wonder if you're a little hard on yourself! What would you consider your specialty?

My specialty is pie and I am good at it. Last year when I went to take my pies in for judging I handed over my fruit pie, which was a tomato pie – remember, tomatoes are a fruit – and my berry pie, which was strawberry. I was just getting ready to hand over the key lime pie when it literally slid right off of my hand and on to the floor. None of the contents left the pan, oddly enough, so they let

me enter it. However, it did completely bend my metal pie pan in half. I have an awesome picture of my pie sitting on the table – bent. This year I entered in the citrus pie category – I placed second with Key Lime Pie. I felt completely vindicated from the year before.

I have a feeling I'd really enjoy this key lime pie, no matter the shape. Any other categories you enjoy competing in?

I have also competed in the World Food Championships **Biscuits & Jampionship**. It is

an incredibly challenging competition. It allows professional and amateurs to compete against each other. I did not win, but I didn't expect to. c or whatever meal I happen to be cooking for. I did



have a fabulous time and my daughter, Lauren, was my sous chef. I entered in round one of the competition for this year. I have made it through to round two.

Wow. I love that you were able to team up with your daughter for the event. What's next for the competition?

Round two happened in September, then final decisions and on to the next round. The competition is in Indianapolis in November. I can only hope...and drive my family absolutely bonkers with different biscuits and jams!

If you have questions for Suellen about how to get started with jam-making or canning, or would like some recipe hints, reach out to her at sattebe@garlandisd.net.

We would love to highlight more members in the TASNews. Please contact Shelley Livaudais at communications@tasn.net if you or another member you know should be featured!

OCTOBER IS FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH

During the month of October, the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) invites Texas schools to celebrate [Farm to School Month](#).

Farm to School Month is a time to highlight the connections across Texas between schools, food, and local farmers and ranchers. TDA recognizes school nutrition professionals as the Local Food Heroes they are for their extraordinary efforts to feed students. At the same time, these students can learn and be proud of the rich diversity of food grown and raised by the outstanding farmers and ranchers in the Lone Star State!

Check out the resources on this page for ways to highlight this important relationship.

FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH RESOURCES

- ➔ **TDA FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH PAGE**
- ➔ **TDA FARM FRESH NETWORK**
Find local Texas farmers, ranchers and distributors
- ➔ **FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH VIDEO PLAYER**
Help students learn more about Texas agriculture and the role of fresh, local food in a healthy and active lifestyle
- ➔ **COOKING FOR THE SEASONS COOKBOOK**



EDUCATION UPDATE

by **Kasandra Davis**
TASN Education Chair



October is here, bringing with it the delightful bonus of an extra hour of sleep—who doesn't love a little extra rest? I hope everyone is settling into their new school year routines smoothly and that everything is running seamlessly in your district. Here's to a fantastic fall filled

with progress and pumpkin spice!

Since our last meetup at the annual conference in June, the education committee has been buzzing with activity. We've been diving into your feedback from the 2024 Annual Conference sessions, and a big thanks to everyone who completed the evaluations! Both the education committee and the conference planning team have been working hard to turn your suggestions into even better conference experiences. Thanks for keeping the good vibes rolling!

In July, TASN had a blast hosting two Manager Academies at Gregory-Portland ISD and Eagle Mountain-Saginaw. We're thrilled to have educated 48 TASN members across both events. Not only did they gain valuable insights, but they're also on track to earn a Level 4 TASN certification.

Unfortunately, Hurricane Beryl led to the cancellation of the manager academy at Klein ISD. If you missed out this time, don't worry—there's always next year to join in! If you're excited about future academies, keep an eye out for TASN's member scholarships. Don't miss these fantastic opportunities!

This month, we're kicking off our first Administrative Academy session in Austin! This exciting program spans four days and is divided into two parts throughout the year, perfect for those ready to dive deep into the business side of child nutrition and master running a top-notch program.

Our instructors are handpicked for their expertise to ensure you receive the best learning experience. I can't wait to see the 2024-2025 class shine and make amazing strides!

Thinking about joining an academy, applying for a scholarship, or nominating someone for an award? It's never too early to check out the new TASN website for all the details. With application deadlines in February, now's the perfect time to seize these opportunities and advance your education!

If you have ideas for upcoming learning sessions, conferences, or academies, I'd love to hear them! Here's to a fantastic fall semester and a huge shoutout for all the incredible work you're doing. Keep up the awesome effort and stay tuned for more exciting opportunities ahead!

SNS CREDENTIALING EXAM

There is a SNS Credentialing Exam opportunity coming up at the Food Service Support Facility in Houston on Saturday, February 8, 2025, from 8:00 am - noon.

The SNS Credential is a mark of excellence and achievement that reflects what it takes to manage school nutrition programs in today's challenging climate. The SNS Credentialing Exam evaluates candidates' knowledge and skills required to perform specific job activities related to managing or directing school nutrition programs.

Registration for the exam is now open and closes on January 8, 2025. Registration is done through the [SNA website](#).

Click [here](#) for online resources on preparing for the SNS Exam.






TASN SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Deadline: February 15, 2025



TASN is excited to continue awarding members for their excellence in the child nutrition field and granting scholarships for those pursuing a higher education within the nutrition scope! Nominate someone or a district for one of the scholarships or awards below!

TASN SCHOLARSHIPS


-  General Scholarship
-  ESL Scholarship
-  GED Scholarship
-  College Scholarship
-  Administrative Academy Scholarship
-  Managers Academy Scholarship
-  Partnership Collaboration Summit Scholarship

 Click [HERE](#) for more info & to apply for a TASN scholarship

 **Deadline: February 15, 2025**

TASN AWARDS

-  TASN Membership Award
-  Local Plan of Action Award
-  School Nutrition Specialist of the Year
-  School Nutrition Manager of the Year
-  School Nutrition Director of the Year
-  Partnership in Nutrition
-  Nutrition Education Award
-  Breakfast Participation Award
-  Lunch Participation Award
-  Outstanding Achievement Award for Continuing Education
-  Certification Award

 Click [HERE](#) for more info & to apply for a TASN award

 **Deadline: February 15, 2025**



LAC 2025

LEGISLATIVE ACTION CONFERENCE

MARCH 9-11, 2025 | WASHINGTON, D.C.

CHANGE. CHALLENGE. OPPORTUNITY.

The Legislative Action Conference (LAC) is one of SNA's most highly anticipated and informative conferences. LAC allows attendees to experience firsthand the inner workings of the democratic process, learn about current legislative and regulatory challenges facing school nutrition and advocate directly with their legislators.

JOIN THE TEXAS DELEGATION

Join fellow TASN members in Washington, D.C. for the LAC. Help advocate for our Texas school children, learn, and network with like-minded individuals. LAC attendees are also invited to join TASN at the Texas Delegates dinner. More details will be released about the Texas Delegates Dinner in the coming months.

REGISTRATION OPENS IN MID-NOVEMBER

Check the [SNA LAC page](#) for updates!



TASN 2025 PARTNERSHIP COLLABORATION SUMMIT

JANUARY 27-29, 2025 **ROCKWALL, TEXAS**

The TASN Partnership Collaboration Summit (PCS) is a two-day, collaborative event connecting K-12 child nutrition decision makers with industry partners. This is a unique opportunity for in-depth discussions, training, and future planning. You will experience inspirational keynote speakers, breakout sessions, and activities designed to generate ideas you can implement in your district, and fun networking opportunities.

SPEAKERS & SESSIONS

We are excited to announce two great speakers at this year's PCS: Diane Darling, leadership coach, and Lena Wilson, Assistant Commissioner for Food and Nutrition at TDA.

VENUE

The 2025 PCS will take place at the Hilton Rockwall Hotel overlooking Lake Ray Hubbard, about 20 minutes from downtown Dallas.

REGISTRATION & HOTEL

PCS Registration and hotel block reservations are now open! Check the [TASN website](#) for full details and to register!

RESERVE YOUR BOOTH TODAY

TASN 2025
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE



JUNE 22-25
CORPUS
CHRISTI

146 BOOTHS
ALREADY SOLD!

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 and product description
- Company ID sign
- Two chairs
- Six-foot skirted table
- Eight-foot back drape
- Three-foot side drape
- Wastebasket

[LEARN MORE & RESERVE](#)

SCHOOL NUTRITION LEADING THE WAY IN IMPLEMENTING TDA'S NEW TEXAS AUTOMATED NUTRITION SYSTEM



IN 2010, two events dramatically changed school nutrition in Texas – Congress passed the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act (HHFKA) and the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) developed the Texas

Unified Nutrition Program System, better known as TXUNPS. Almost 15 years later we don't know if Congress will change school nutrition in 2025, but we know that TDA will replace TXUNPS with the [Texas Automated Nutrition System](#) (TANS), a new more user-friendly model for processing claims and applications and streamlining compliance.



ALL TDA-ADMINISTERED nutrition programs will migrate to TANS, but the [National School Lunch Program](#) (NSLP) will lead the way. The transition to TANS begins in 2025 with program year 2026 and all programs will be operated in TXUNPS and TANS simultaneously until

By Lena Wilson
*Assistant Commissioner
Food and Nutrition
Texas Department of Agriculture*

the transition is fully implemented in May 2026. Once completed, the new system will provide a robust web-based environment for collaborating with TDA on nutrition program business and compliance.

UNLIKE TXUNPS, TDA will control TANS in-house. TDA has a team of technology professionals who oversee training, enhancements, and bug fixes. This includes the TDA Information Technology team, TDA Food and Nutrition's Systems Team and Data Team, and specialized contractors. They will respond to service interruptions immediately and work to address user issues as soon as they arise.

TANS WILL HAVE a fresh look, new navigation, and a few process changes. On April 1, 2025, you can start using TANS to submit NSLP and Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) applications and on July 1, 2025, claims will be entered into TANS. TDA is developing a training plan and technical assistance resources to assist with the transition. Start planning now and be prepared to work in two systems.
THE ONGOING TRANSITION to the

Web-Based Supply Chain Management

(WBSCM) system has helped TDA prepare for the migration to TANS. WBSCM illustrates the extensive support and training necessary for a new system. Everyone is up and running with WBSCM, but continued training will help us streamline the use of WBSCM. To assist, TDA has introduced a comprehensive 7-part training series this school year. ESCs will help deliver the content. The series is called the USDA Foods Ordering for Success Series and is designed to provide continuous support and training in the effective ordering and receiving of USDA Foods for schools. The training aligns with the USDA Foods ordering season and includes both in-person and virtual WBSCM ordering labs; ESCs will hold the labs in early 2025. Visit SquareMeals.org/Systems to keep up with training schedules and get the latest information for TANS implementation and WBSCM operations.

TXUNPS HAS SERVED TEXAS WELL, but 15 years is like a million in today's technological environment. Your interpersonal relationships with staff and students are vital, but continuous innovation underpins everything else. TDA continues working to provide the resources you need at every level including the technical assistance that will help you transition to TANS. Thank you for joining us in this effort and please share your feedback so that we can continuously improve our support for your efforts.



