



## Nutrition & Research Committee Fact Sheet

### ***What is the Nutrition & Research Committee?***

The Nutrition & Research Committee is one of the School Nutrition Association's (SNA) Strategic Committees and supports SNA's mission and vision by evaluating, interpreting and formulating recommendations relative to initiatives and standards for school nutrition programs. In addition, the committee is responsible for identifying research opportunities, disseminating information on research activities, supporting the *Journal of Child Nutrition & Management*, and promoting research activities and professional development among members.

### ***What are the Committee Responsibilities?***

- Identify, evaluate and interpret nutrition and operational trends and developments impacting school nutrition programs in order to:
  - Inform and support advocacy positions for Public Policy/Legislative Committee.
  - Work with Public Policy/Legislative Committee in preparing official responses to USDA/FDA nutrition-related rules and regulations and submits to the Board of Directors for approval.
  - Articulate and translate evidence-based findings about school nutrition and related issues to SNA and practitioners.
  - Recommend applied research and nutrition topics needed to support school nutrition programs for which the School Nutrition Foundation can seek funding.
  - Assist in identifying appropriate nutrition and research related webinars and conference sessions for SNA to host in the coming year.
- Assist with nutrition and research-related grants being drafted by the School Nutrition Foundation by conceptualizing and drafting content and reviewing final documents.
- Advise and promote *The Journal of Child Nutrition & Management*.
- Identifies opportunities to advance careers in school nutrition on college campuses.
- Advise on relevant resources to include on SNA's website.
- Advise and assist the College Section Chair on SN Showcase and College Section meeting at ANC.

### ***How is the Committee's Work Planned Each Year?***

- Every committee is provided annual committee charge(s) based on the SNA Strategic Plan and the annual Plan of Action as well as other charges identified by the Board.
- The Committee receives the charges every year in mid to late September before the Fall Committee Days.

### ***How is the Committee Organized?***

- The committee is currently led by an appointed chair, Shannon Gleave, SNS, from Glendale ESD in Glendale, Arizona.
- Her appointment as Chair expires on July 31, 2019. Committee members represent nutrition and research expertise.
- Appointments are staggered and each appointment is a two-year term.
- The Committee is supported by a SNA staff liaison who works with the Chair and committee members.

### ***How Often Does the Committee Meet?***

- The Committee holds at least one in-person meeting each year in October at SNA Fall Committee Days. The in-person meeting this year will be held on October 25-26, 2019, in Alexandria, Virginia.
- Based on the workload in the Annual Committee Charge(s) and the progress in completing tasks in the charge(s), committees may or may not meet at the National Leadership Conference (NLC) in the spring. Committee members are notified in February whether or not they will be attending NLC. This year NLC will take place in Sarasota, Florida from May 9-11, 2019.
- In addition to the in-person meetings, committees meet via conference calls several times a year.

### ***What are My Responsibilities as a Committee Member?***

- SNA Board policy requires committee members to attend all meetings. The SNA President must be notified by email if you cannot attend a meeting. The President has the discretion, working with the Chair, to remove committee members from the Committee.
- Actively participate on the committee or work groups within the committee.
- Accepts and completes assignments as requested.
- Promotes volunteer involvement.
- Maintain an understanding of activities, discussions and programs.
- Responds promptly to correspondence and information requests from the Chair, staff liaison or other members within the committee.
- Represents SNA in other meetings, as requested.
- Maintain a current "in good standing" membership in SNA during the committee term.
- Inform the Chair and staff liaison if personal or professional circumstances change to the extent that you are unable to perform the duties and the responsibilities listed above.

### ***Who Pays My Expenses?***

#### **School Nutrition Members**

SNA pays all travel expenses for members to attend the in-person committee meetings. Before booking travel arrangements for a SNA meeting, members should carefully review the meeting

notice to determine travel dates. In particular, it is important to note the starting and ending times of required meetings to ensure travel arrangements are accurate and allow for timely arrivals and departures. An official meeting notice is sent to all committee members to advise when it is appropriate to book the travel. The official **SNA Travel Policy** is as follows:

#### **Air Travel**

- All airline tickets need to be purchased 21 days or more in advance in order to secure an affordable airfare. In an effort to control costs, the lowest coach fare is preferred. All airline ticket purchases less than 21 days out from a meeting need to be approved by SNA's Chief Executive Officer in consultation with the Executive Committee. The 21-day minimum purchase rule is not required when a SNA Officer is required to travel to attend a critical meeting, hearing or media event.
- Travel should be booked through SNA's travel agency, Corporate Traveler. Tickets can be booked online at <https://portal.fcm.travel/SNA> or by calling Corporate Travel at 571-302-7187. SNA provides Corporate Travel with a list of all members approved for SNA funded travel. If ordering by phone, members should identify themselves as an SNA member and purpose of travel. All tickets booked through the travel agency are billed to SNA's master account.
- To make traveling easier for volunteer members traveling to SNA meetings with spouses or significant others, members have the option to make airline reservations on their own for themselves and their travel companion. Airline tickets costing more than \$600 need to be approved by SNA in advance. Members who opt to do this need to:
  - Alert SNA's Executive Assistant that they are booking travel on their own for the SNA meeting they are scheduled to attend.
  - Submit a SNA expense report and copy of the airline reservation itinerary with airline fare to SNA's Staff Vice President of Finance and Technology in order to get reimbursed at the time of purchase rather than after they attend the meeting.

#### **Other Reimbursable Transportation Expenses:**

- Baggage fee for one piece of luggage; two pieces when traveling five days or more
- Airport economy parking
- Airport transfers (taxis, Uber, Lyft, etc.) or personal car mileage to drive to and from the airport.
- Mileage is reimbursed in accordance with the current Internal Revenue Service allowance.

**NOTE:** Rental cars are not eligible for reimbursement unless there are special circumstances that are approved in advance by the Chief Executive Officer or the Staff Vice President of Finance & Technology.

#### **Hotel**

- Hotel expenses will be charged to the SNA Master Account. Incidentals such as Internet access fees, mini bar charges, movies, games and other entertainment are not reimbursable and will be billed to member's personal credit card by the hotel.

### **Meals**

- Meals are reimbursed on a \$65.00 per day, per diem basis. No receipts are required.  
Breakfast - \$10.00  
Lunch - \$20.00  
Dinner - \$35.00
- If a meal is provided as part of a scheduled SNA meeting or function, there is no reimbursement for that meal.

### **Expense Report**

- SNA requires that all expense reports are completed and submitted with receipts (airfare, baggage, taxis) attached within 30 days of a meeting. Board and committee member travel expenses are budgeted in the annual operating budget which runs from August 1 thru July 31. All expense reports must be submitted to SNA by July 31 in order for a member to be reimbursed. Any expenses submitted after that date will not be reimbursed.

### **Industry Members**

- SNA's long-standing policy is that the association does not reimburse for travel expenses for industry members participating in committee meetings.
- SNA does, however, secure a hotel room for industry members during in-person committee meetings and if the meeting takes place at Committee Days or the National Leadership Conference, SNA Meeting staff will register the industry member for the conference.
- Before booking travel arrangements for a SNA meeting, members should carefully review the meeting notice to determine travel dates. In particular, it is important to note the starting and ending times of required meetings to ensure travel arrangements are accurate and allow for timely arrivals and departures. An official meeting notice is sent to all committee members to advise when it is appropriate to book the travel.

### ***What, if any, SNA Policies Do I Have to Adhere to as a Committee Member?***

Please review the new *SNA Standards of Business Conduct/Conflict of Interest Policy* and requirements for committee members. (See separate document) If any questions, please contact the following SNA staff.

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