



Wednesday, April 23

5:30pm – 7:30pm	Board of Directors Dinner
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Thursday, April 24

8:00am – 4:00pm	Board of Directors Meeting
1:00pm – 5:00pm	Attendee Registration
4:00pm – 5:00pm	SAE Meeting (Invite Only)
4:30pm – 5:30pm	First-Time Attendee Orientation
5:30pm – 7:00pm	Welcome Reception

Friday, April 25

7:00am – 8:00am	Continental Breakfast
7:30am – 5:00pm	Attendee Registration
8:15am – 5:00pm	Future Leaders Program
8:30am – 4:30pm	Headshot Lounge Open
8:15am – 9:45am	<p>Welcome/Leadership Journey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephanie Dillard, MS, SNS, President-Elect <p>Keynote Address – SPONSORED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be an EPIC Leader: How to Navigate Change & Challenge with Confidence <p><i>Marli Williams, M.Ed., Master Facilitator, Leadership Trainer & Joy Instigator</i></p> <p><i>Leadership in nonprofit associations, especially in the school nutrition industry, demands resilience, adaptability, and a strong sense of purpose. This engaging and interactive keynote will empower SNA State</i></p>

	<p><i>Association leaders with the tools to thrive in their unique roles. Together, we'll explore the four essential keys to being an EPIC leader, enabling you to navigate challenges with greater confidence, inspire others, and create a lasting impact in your organization. Leave this session equipped with actionable strategies to lead your association with clarity, courage, and renewed energy, driving meaningful change in the school nutrition community.</i></p>
9:45am -10:00 am	Break
10:00 am – 10:45 am	<p>Curated Education Sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>• Engaging with Congress & USDA <i>The communication triangle between the U.S. Congress, USDA and SNA is critically important, necessary, and extremely valuable for ensuring a positive outcome for your advocacy efforts and child nutrition program priorities. SNA's advocacy path will be highlighted step by step to demonstrate how you can be part of the discussions, the importance of being part of the process, and potential downsides if you are not. This session will share resources you can tap into, a timeline of how the regulatory and legislative process works, and pointers on how to establish a relationship with your legislators and USDA so that you are the first person they reach out to with questions on child nutrition. In addition, a new SNA advocacy platform will be unveiled which will provide you with the perfect tool for tracking and monitoring legislation at both the state and federal level.</i></p> <p>• Building Your Brand: Marketing Strategies for Growth and Impact <i>Marissa Dake, VP Brand and Partnerships, DNO Produce Associations thrive with a strong brand, clear messaging, and an engaged membership. This session will equip attendees with marketing and communication tools to build visibility, recruit and retain members, and position their association as the go-to resource for school nutrition professionals in their state. Attendees will learn how to develop a trusted brand identity, craft compelling messaging, and leverage marketing tools to increase engagement. The session will cover best practices for storytelling, demonstrating impact, and positioning the association as an essential network for professional growth and advocacy. Leaders will also learn how to build strong partnerships with stakeholders that enhance credibility, expand reach, and drive member recruitment. Attendees will leave with actionable strategies to grow membership, boost engagement, and amplify their presence in their community and state.</i></p> <p>• The Confidence Cure: How to Overcome Self-Doubt & Play Full Out <i>Marli Williams, M.Ed., Master Facilitator, Leadership Trainer & Joy Instigator</i></p>

	<p>One of the major things holding leaders back from what they really want is the confidence to believe in themselves and the courage to go after it. A universal challenge leaders face is self-doubt, fear, anxiety and overwhelm, confidence is the cure. Confidence is the medicine that gives people the ability to lead, innovate, and create positive change in the world. This interactive presentation is designed to inspire and empower the audience to overcome self-doubt so that they can play full out in every area of their lives.</p>
10:45am – 11:00am	Break
11:00 am-11:45 am	<p>Curated Education Sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MWSL Education Session <i>Session details coming soon.</i> • Duties and Responsibilities of Non-Profit Boards of Directors and Officers <i>Peter Spanos, Taylor English Duma LLP</i> <i>Non-profit Boards of Directors must fulfill their leadership responsibilities in an environment of high expectations and ever-intensifying scrutiny from a wide range of stakeholders. SNA’s General Counsel, Peter Spanos of the Taylor English law firm, provides a comprehensive review of the fiduciary obligations imposed on Directors and Officers by law, as well as critical guidance on conflicts of interest, confidentiality, powers exercised by the Board of Directors, guidelines for communications, and legal protections available to Directors and Officers.</i> • 5 Ways Your Networks Can Strengthen Your Stories and Impact <i>Mary Angela Miller, Owner/Founder, KeepSafe Food, LLC & Julie Jones, Director of Performance Learning, Ruck-Shockey Associates</i> <i>Stories are a powerful leadership tool—but are you leveraging your networks to make your stories stronger? In this session, you’ll learn how personal, operational, and strategic networks can enhance your narrative and amplify your influence. Using five powerful storytelling tactics—framing, brainstorming, opening, editing, and reviewing—you’ll discover how to build trust, deepen relationships, and craft a story that resonates. Explore how to use your networks for insight, feedback, and support while refining your story to reflect your leadership journey and aspirations. Through practical strategies and interactive practice, you’ll gain the tools to create a compelling narrative that inspires connection and drives impact. Leave equipped to tell your story with confidence and purpose, backed by the strength of your networks.</i>
11:45am – 12:00pm	Break
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch w/ SNA Update

	Shannon Gleave, RDN, SNS, SNA President, and Patricia Montague, FASAE, CAE, SNA Chief Executive Officer
1:15 pm – 1:45 pm	<p>“Hear from your Peers” Sessions</p> <p>The “Hear from Your Peers” sessions will provide a forum for attendees to share successful practices and knowledge from their state or national leadership experience. They will walk away with strategies for better collaboration while establishing relationships that will transcend the summit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future Leaders – Future Leaders Alumni Panel, <i>Shannon Gleave, RDN, SNS, SNA President; Stephanie Dillard, SNS, President-elect;</i> (Future Leaders Program Only) • Experienced Leaders – Building a Lasting Volunteer Culture <i>Jennifer Martin, MBA, CAE, CEO NYSNA</i> • Presiding Leaders –
1:45 pm – 2:00 pm	Break
2:00 pm – 2:45 pm	<p>Curated Education Sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert’s Rules Parliamentary session <i>Session details coming soon.</i> • Keys To Being A Great Association Leader <i>Craig Weidel, CEO, Speaking Dynamic Concepts, LLC.</i> <i>This class equips association leaders with essential skills to lead effectively, communicate vision, and foster inclusivity and growth. Learn to navigate leadership challenges, manage stakeholders, and keep your association adaptable.</i> <i>Beyond daily operations, you'll explore how to build a lasting leadership legacy and strengthen membership engagement. Discover strategies to recruit, retain, and empower members for a thriving community.</i> <i>By the end, you'll lead with confidence, inspire others, and drive long-term success. Perfect for current and aspiring leaders committed to making an impact.</i> • The Power of Purposeful Leadership <i>Mary Ellen Gilliam, Assistant Director of Child Nutrition, MSD of Wayne Township</i> <i>The traditional model of the leader who is the smartest person in the room, often driven by power and financial gain, isn't appropriate in today's environment. Leaders today must be insightful and purposeful from all aspects. This session, The Power of Purposeful Leadership, explores the #FabFive attributes needed to unleash leaders within your organization who are purposeful, resulting in high performing individuals and an organization.</i>
2:45 pm – 3:00pm	Break

3:00 pm – 3:45 pm	<p>Curated Education Sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Creating an Effective Plan of Action <i>Harmeet Singh, SNA Sr. State Relations Associate</i> This session provides a step-by-step walkthrough on building a clear and actionable plan. Learn how to set goals, outline strategies, and create a roadmap for success.</p> <p>Parliamentarian Conflict Resolution Session <i>Session details coming soon.</i></p> <p>In Good Company: Building Success Through Community <i>Andrew Mendez, Food Service Director, Kenston Local Schools</i> In our fast-paced world, we often overlook the power of togetherness. While personal achievement is emphasized, true success lies in the friendships and communities we nurture. In school nutrition, our support network is stronger than we realize. By prioritizing connections, listening, and problem-solving together, we create a foundation for growth and resilience. Invest in those around you, be the friend you wish you had, and watch how genuine connections build a thriving, supportive community.</p>
3:50 pm – 5:15 pm	State Planning Time
3:50 pm – 5:15pm	Introduction To DiSC[®] Profiles (Future Leaders Program Only)

Saturday, April 26

7:15 am – 8:15 am	Continental Breakfast
9:00 am -12:00 pm	Headshot Lounge Open
8:30am – 11:30am	Future Leaders Program
8:30 am – 9:30 am	<p>Keynote Address</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Building Resilient Leaders <i>Sean Douglas, U.S. Air Force Retired, TEDx Speaker, Founder of The Success Corps,</i> You will learn Mental, Social/Emotional, and Spiritual Resilience skills that are designed to empower you to withstand, recover, and grow through adversity, stress, and professional changing demands. Change, Growth, and Stress Management is exactly what building Resilience is all about. A framework of positive culture within the professional and board setting will be provided that you can easily implement that will reduce anxiety, stress, and depression. The audience will leave with actionable steps to implement that resilience lifestyle.</p>
9:30am – 9:45	Break

9:45 am – 10:30 am	<p>Curated Education Sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Board Financial Responsibility: Essentials for Effective Leadership <i>Tauna Batiste, MS, CEO, Drew Alexander Consulting</i> <i>This session highlights the key financial responsibilities of executive leaders and board members. Through real-life examples and case studies, participants will gain insights into fiscal engagement, industry best practices, and essential policies to support informed decision-making. Topics include financial literacy, key financial statements, interpreting reports, budgeting, financial stewardship, and risk management. This session equips board members with the knowledge and tools to fulfill their financial oversight duties effectively.</i></p> <p>Building Resilient Leaders: Continued <i>Sean Douglas, U.S. Air Force Retired, TEDx Speaker, Founder of The Success Corps,</i> <i>Teams with a strong culture of Resilience have 31% lower turnover and are 25% more productive in high-stress environments, according to current statistics. You will learn Mental, Social/Emotional, and Spiritual Resilience skills that are designed to empower you to withstand, recover, and grow through adversity, stress, and life's changing demands. Change, Growth, and Stress Management is exactly what building Resilience is all about. A framework of positive culture will be provided that you can easily implement that will reduce anxiety, stress, and depression in your personal and professional life. The audience will leave with actionable steps to implement a resilience lifestyle.</i></p> <p>The Beauty of Conflict? <i>Andrew Mendez, Food Service Director, Kenston Local Schools,</i> <i>Conflict is an inevitable part of life, often seen as negative, but it can be a powerful opportunity for growth. When approached with openness and empathy, conflict fosters understanding, strengthens relationships, and builds resilience. Instead of avoiding it, embracing conflict allows us to expand our perspectives and deepen connections. Rather than a hurdle, it is a catalyst for transformation and personal growth.</i></p>
10:30am – 10:45am	Break
10:45 am – 11:15 am	“Hear from your Peers” Sessions

	<p>The “Hear from Your Peers” sessions will provide a forum for attendees to share successful practices and knowledge from their state or national leadership experience. They will walk away with strategies for better collaboration while establishing relationships that will transcend the summit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future Leaders – Reflection on yourself using DiSC[®] Profiles - <i>Rhea Steele, FASAE, CAE, ODCP, SNA Chief of Staff and Vice President of Governance & Strategy (Future Leaders Program Only)</i> • Experienced Leaders – • Presiding Leaders –
11:30am	Conference Ends
1:00pm – 4:00pm	OPTIONAL – State Planning Time