Vote for your 2017 - 2018
FSNA Board of Directors

Here are the interviews with the candidates running for state office. Please read each profile carefully. Voting this year will be done electronically. Members will need to log on to the FSNA website using their FSNA username and password. Usernames and passwords will be provided by the FSNA office prior to the start of the voting period. Voting will begin January 23, 2017 and end February 24, 2017. Each ballot will be personalized to the member upon logging on to vote based on membership dues type, and the region in which the member resides. Remember: Your Vote Counts!

Candidates for President-Elect

Anita Carnahan

COUNTY: Broward
CURRENT SFS POSITION: Cafeteria Manager
FSNA/SNA MEMBER FOR: 10 years
OFFICES HELD: Local President, Local President-Elect, Local Secretary, Local Legislative Chair, Local Bylaws Chair, FSNA Bylaws Committee Chair, FSNA Region VII Director; FSNA Region Director Chair

What are the advantages of FSNA membership to school food service employees?

FSNA membership for employees gives members updated crucial information that affects their jobs through the magazine, and FSNA Tidbits. Membership gives an employee a sense of comradery and allows them to take advantage of networking with other professional food service workers. Also professional development opportunities are available for members to take advantage of continuing their education.

What do you believe the role of FSNA is/should be?

FSNA is an important one. It is necessary for FSNA to stay on top of all Congressional changes regarding food service issues pertaining to feeding the children. It is also responsible for obtaining professional development opportunities for its members.

What experiences have prepared you to run for President-Elect?

I served on the local board from 2005-2011 where I held numerous positions including President. Since 2011 I served on the state board as Resolution and Bylaws Chair, Region Director Elect, and Region Director. I feel it is a natural progression to continue my professional development to run for State President-Elect.

If elected President-Elect, what issues will you address on behalf of the Association’s members?

I would address leadership. It is important to have seasoned leaders continue the role of professionalism by mentoring, and training new members to follow in the footsteps of current leaders. I myself have been mentored and trained by other leaders of the association. It is the mentorship that has allowed me to prepare for my next adventure in FSNA.

Julie Hedine, SNS

COUNTY: Pasco
CURRENT SFS POSITION: Director
FSNA/SNA MEMBER FOR: 22 years
OFFICES HELD: Local Nutrition Chair, Local Legislative Chair; FSNA Public Policy and Legislative Committee Chair; FSNA Region V Director; FSNA Region Director Chair; SNA Resolutions & Bylaws Committee Member

What are the advantages of FSNA membership to school food service employees?

FSNA members are provided countless opportunities for growth. Conferences and seminars allow you to develop your professional skills, make new friends, check out new menu concepts, and take creative ideas back to your worksite. There are also numerous leadership opportunities, scholarships and awards available for members. In short, the more you get involved with FSNA, the more you’ll receive!

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What do you believe the role of FSNA is/should be?
As our professional organization, FSNA promotes Florida's child nutrition programs as well as our national organization's goals and objectives. The association provides educational opportunities to members and develops leadership skills for those willing to serve. FSNA is our voice on legislative issues and shares our concerns and/or successes with our legislators.

What experiences have prepared you to run for President-Elect?
As a FSNA member for over 20 years, I served on the Board as Region 5 Director and as Chair of the Legislative, Professional Development, and Nutrition committees. In addition, I served on SNA's Bylaws and Resolutions Committee. These experiences gave me the opportunity to learn how our association's important work is accomplished at both the state and national levels.

If elected President-Elect, what issues will you address on behalf of the Association's members?
As President-Elect, I would work with our Board to be the voice of our members, provide members professional growth opportunities, partner with our vendors, and promote our schools' nutrition programs. I believe it's important to continue our current President's mission to develop leaders at both the local and state level to keep our association's chapters relevant and vibrant.

Candidates for Employee/Manager Section Chair

Jennie Cheesman
- COUNTY: Brevard
- CURRENT SFS POSITION: Cafeteria Manager
- FSNA/SNA MEMBER FOR: 10 years
- OFFICES HELD: Local President, Local President-Elect, Local Scholarships & Awards Chair, Local Membership Chair, Local Legislative Chair, FSNA Region IV Director, FSNA Region Director Chair

What are the advantages of FSNA membership to school food service employees?
Not only do they provide us with professional educational sessions at conferences and seminars, the networking and friendships are priceless! Being a FSNA member also provides a lot of mentoring opportunities and experiences.

What do you believe the role of FSNA is/should be?
To support their members by providing information on the aspects of their career field. To work closely with SNA and filter down that information to benefit our members. I think FSNA does a wonderful job at providing information, educational opportunities and growth to its members.

What experiences have prepared you to run for Employee/Manager Section Chair?
Being very active and working closely with my local chapter. I had the great privilege of being on our FSNA state board as Region IV Director for 3 years. I have also attended leadership training at both the state and national levels.

If elected Employee/Manager Section Chair what issues will you address on behalf of the Association's members?
As always I think it is important to increase our membership, but along with that I would like to see educational sessions for those employees or managers that want to move up in our professional field. Sometimes all it takes is some sort of guidance to motivate others on.

Winnie Crockrell
- COUNTY: Volusia
- CURRENT SFS POSITION: Cafeteria Manager
- FSNA/SNA MEMBER FOR: 9 years
- OFFICES HELD: Local President, Local President-Elect, Local Secretary, FSNA Scholarship & Awards Chair

What are the advantages of FSNA membership to school food service employees?
The advantages of FSNA membership are many! My #1 perk is the FSNA “family” I have grown to love. With these relationships I have grown, been mentored, and learned so much from the many conferences with terrific breakout and general sessions. I have learned what it is to be a school nutrition “professional” and not just a lunch lady.

What do you believe the role of FSNA is/should be?
I believe FSNA is here to help us grow as school nutrition professionals. To help us learn how to deal with the challenges we face on our jobs. To better our relationships with those we come in contact with, administrators, teachers, fellow cafeteria workers and
What experiences have prepared you to run for Employee/Manager Section Chair?
I have a can do attitude. I get excited about helping others achieve all they can to better themselves personally and professionally. I want to be the voice for our employees, so their concerns and hopes and dreams will be heard and come to fruition. When our employer/managers do better, then “our kids” reap the benefit!

If elected Employee/Manager Section Chair, what issues will you address on behalf of the Association’s members?
I want our employee/managers to know that their opinion matters. I want them to know that they have an FSNA Board that wants to hear from them. And will do all they can to address concerns as ideas. New ideas are welcome and any chance to be better is always good for everyone, especially “our kids”!

Candidates for Region II Director-Elect

Marsha Nelson

COUNTY: Leon
CURRENT SFS POSITION: Cafeteria Manager
FSNA/SNA MEMBER FOR: 8 years
OFFICES HELD: Local President, Local President-Elect, Local Legislative Chair

What are the advantages of FSNA membership to school food service employees?
I believe that professional development and networking are great advantages of FSNA membership. Food service employees can learn why we do what we do (federal regulations), why we should lobby to make our voices heard and learn from other districts.

What do you believe the role of FSNA is/should be?
The role of FSNA is to educate, recognize food service employees for their hard work and dedication and to provide resources to better school meals.

What experiences have prepared you to run for Region Director-Elect?
I have been involved with FSNA for 9 years. I have held the local positions of LAC representative for two years, President-Elect for two years and President for two years. I am currently President Elect. I have attended FSNA’s yearly conference several years as well as FSNA’s Leadership Conference. I also attended the National LAC in 2015.

If elected Region Director-Elect, what issues will you address on behalf of the Association’s members?
I would like to address membership recruitment. There are districts that do not participate with FSNA and I would like to show them all the great resources that FSNA has to offer. I would explain to them that memberships can be district owned which could help districts that have large turnover rates.

Kathy Schmitt

COUNTY: Alachua
CURRENT SFS POSITION: Cafeteria Manager
FSNA/SNA MEMBER FOR: 7 years
OFFICES HELD: Local President, Local President-Elect, Local Treasurer, Local Nutrition Chair, Local Certification Chair, Local Silver Circle Chair; FSNA Scholarships & Awards Committee Member

What are the advantages of FSNA membership to school food service employees?
FSNA is a network of people that have the same common goal, it provides professional development opportunities through scholarships and grants. We also receive the FSNA magazine that gives us valuable information on what Florida is doing in the area of legislation and in other districts to help enhance the food service program.

What do you believe the role of FSNA is/should be?
FSNA is a group of individuals that lead us to a better understanding of what we can do to help improve our local chapters. They are our voice in addressing legislative changes for the betterment of our children in our schools and community.

What experiences have prepared you to run for Region Director-Elect?
I was responsible for organizing the Region 2 Seminar last year. I have attended leadership training in Tampa, and also attended the leadership conference in St. Louis. I received valuable information and training on how to be a leader and mentor.

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If elected Region Director-Elect, what issues will you address on behalf of the Association’s members?
If elected as Region Director-Elect I will support the local chapters with membership as well as State and National membership. I will also encourage certification in all chapters. I plan to work closely with the Region Director so that I can effectively coach and mentor the newly appointed Director-Elect during the following term.

Candidate for Region IV Director-Elect

Tony Jenkins
COUNTY: Orange
CURRENT SFS POSITION: Field Manager
FSNA/SNA MEMBER FOR: 3 years
OFFICES HELD: Local President, Local President-Elect, Local Scholarships & Awards Chair

What are the advantages of FSNA membership to school food service employees?
One advantage is the networking experience with other school nutrition employees throughout the state of Florida. This gives you an opportunity to share best practices and learn how others in your position deal with the ever changing world of school food service. Another great advantage in being a member of FSNA are the great educational sessions at state and region conferences.

What do you believe the role of FSNA is/should be?
I believe the role of FSNA is and should remain being the state advocate of all school food service employees. Members should be confident that FSNA stands behind them when it comes to legislation or any other barrier that prevents them from providing necessary meals to the students they serve.

What experiences have prepared you to run for Region Director-Elect?
I’ve served as our local chapter’s President-Elect and President, and I also worked directly with our Region IV Director when our county hosted the Region IV Seminar in 2015. I believe I have the leadership skills to continue the momentum wave Region IV is currently riding. If elected Region Director-Elect, what issues will you address on behalf of the Association’s members?
In speaking with members from my local chapter the one consensus is that everyone is interested in advancing their levels and certifications. Some members are not aware of how or what is needed to advance levels. I would assist members by helping define a clear path to get to their desired goals in FSNA.

Candidates for Region VI Director-Elect

Angelia Jean-Louis
COUNTY: Martin
CURRENT SFS POSITION: Food Nutrition Manager
FSNA/SNA MEMBER FOR: 18 years
OFFICES HELD: Local President, Local President-Elect, Local Certification Chair, Local Membership Chair; FSNA Employee/Manager Section Chair

What are the advantages of FSNA membership to school food service employees?
There are many advantages to name and 60 words is not enough. There are opportunities to grow, advance, explore and be the best employee there is. This is through education and opportunities to meet others and utilize resources available. As a member you are exposed to so many available ways to unite and operate our SN Programs.

What do you believe the role of FSNA is/should be?
The FSNA role should be to encourage, excite, listen and learn while sharing the exposure of both growth and advancement to its members. FSNA keeps its members up to date on all the issues and joys of our society. They truly never leave a member behind! FSNA is and should be available for members’ questions and concerns for guidance in the areas of child nutrition.

What experiences have prepared you to run for Region Director-Elect?
I have been a member since 1998. I’ve seen the changes through the CNP we’ve had to go to war for our children’s right to have a nutritious B/L. I’ve had the opportunity to lead at both state and local levels various areas, President, President-Elect, Ways and Means, Membership, Certification, bylaws committee. At the state level, Nutrition and Membership committees, and as a board member as E/ M Section Chair. I’m proud to be an FSNA member!
If elected Region Director-Elect, what issues will you address on behalf of the Association's members?
The issue I would address first is to reach out to the chapters in my region to get some feedback on whether they are participating or not and why. I will reach out to FSNA to find reasonable resources to either get them involved and ways to help stay involved. My goal would be to unite the counties to encourage support from each other through using the President’s vision and initiatives.

Cathy Uzar

**COUNTY:** Martin

**CURRENT SFS POSITION:** Food Nutrition Manager

**FSNA/SNA MEMBER FOR:** 16 years

**OFFICES HELD:** Local President, Local President-Elect, Local Nutrition Chair, Local Membership Chair; FSNA Nutrition Standards Committee Member

**What are the advantages of FSNA membership to school food service employees?**

FSNA membership allows us to be to advocates for our profession as well as for those children who depend on us for what may be the only nutritious meals that they will eat in a day. Being a member also allows us to further our education as well as mentor others who would like to do the same.

**What do you believe the role of FSNA is/should be?**

To enlighten and enable Food Nutrition Employees to reach their maximum potential while embracing Industry Standards, Best Practices and Professional Development.

**What experiences have prepared you to run for Region Director-Elect?**

I have served my local association as President and Membership Chair. Attended FSNA Conferences, Region VI Seminars, FSNA Leadership Trainings as well as traveled to Tallahassee to attend LAC. In addition, I hold a state level volunteer leadership position with the American Cancer Society.

**If elected Region Director-Elect, what issues will you address on behalf of the Association's members?**

I would encourage mentorship as well as education for our members, it is much easier climbing that ladder to a successful and meaningful work life when someone is guiding you in the right direction. We must all become lifelong learners in order to accomplish our goals!

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**Candidates for Sustaining Industry Partner (SIP) Representative**

Only SIP Member companies may vote for the SIP Representative. Each member company receives one vote.

**Lisa Douglas, KeyImpact Sales & Systems, Inc.**

**K-12 Education Segment Manager, KeyImpact Sales & Systems**

I have been an active member of FSNA since joining Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) foodservice in 2005. I was a Food Service Manager of an elementary school for 6 years where I received Manager of the Year from FSNA and OCPS. My team received OCPS Team of the Year two years in a row. During that time, I was president of the local association and received the FSNA Gold Award. After leaving OCPS I worked for a manufacturer, Food Service Charter Company, before joining KeyImpact as the K-12 Education Segment Manager. I have a passion for serving children healthy, well-balanced, nutritious meals. I believe we are here for the children – they are what is important. I would like to be considered for this position because I believe that partnering with vendors and districts creates opportunities to provide the best possible product for the children!

**Edward “Ned” Hawkins**

**Regional Sales Manager - Florida, AdvancePierre Foods**

Hello! I have been involved in the school food service industry since I first started selling CN seafood products into the Carolina schools through Biggers Brothers in the mid-1980s. Since then I worked primarily east of the Mississippi, constantly striving to increase participation and growing the seafood category by pioneering the USDA Commodity Pollock Program. I will never forget the overwhelmingly positive response we received when we first introduced the new items to the nation right here in Florida.

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at our state commodity show six years ago. Since then I have gone on to be the National K12 Director for a major manufacturer and have been on the ACDA processing board. Currently, however, I have “down-sized” and reside in Sarasota working as the Regional Manager, for a major food company.

So while I may not have the longest of ties to the Florida School Nutrition Association and the state itself, I can already tell you I have strong ties to the Sunshine State, its children and our group of dedicated school and manufacturing professionals. I can’t tell you the immense pride I have being in the trenches – and not behind a desk – crisscrossing the state to build belief in all our manufacturing efforts and providing solutions to those with needs.

As for Industry, I have complete confidence in my abilities to “promote the Association’s Plan of Action,” to collaborate with fellow SIP members and of course to meet all calendar requirements of the office.

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**Vicki Marchesi, Paramount Marketing Group**  
**K-12 Specialist, Paramount Marketing Group**  
I started my career in Child Nutrition in 1998. I worked as a cafeteria manager at several grade levels for Seminole and Orange County until 2013. In that time, I held several local and state positions:

- President of Seminole County School Nutrition Association 2003-2004
- President of Orange County School Nutrition Association 2007-2008
- Chair of Scholarships and Awards OCSNA 2009-2011
- Region IV Director of FSNA 2010-2012

In 2013, I moved to the manufacture side with Quick Cuisine, and then on to the broker side as a K-12 Specialist with Paramount in late 2015.

The Association has played a big part in developing my career in foodservice. I would like to be your SIP Representative because I feel it is important to give back to the association and the industry.

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**Mike Teders**  
**Senior Vice President New Business Development, AccuTemp Products**  
Having been involved with school food service for over 20 years, I’ve seen first-hand the struggles and victories that our Florida districts, Florida equipment dealers and manufacturers have experienced. It truly takes a partnership of all to successfully feed the students that rely on a hot, nutritious breakfast and lunch every day in our schools. It starts with listening; listening to our directors, equipment coordinators and kitchen staff, listening to our dealer partners, manufacturers and the local factory representatives.

It’s important that we also listen to our customers, the young people, those who we are trying to raise into the world leaders of tomorrow. This listening leads to understanding their needs and how we can exceed these needs. Only then can we all work together to put a plan in motion to serve the best meals possible. As your SIP Representative-Elect, I feel this approach will ensure our success with the FSNA and I hope to earn your vote.

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**Adriel Zahniser**  
**K12 Specialist, Waypoint**  
A graduate of Johnson & Wales University with degrees in Culinary Arts and Nutrition/Dietetics, Adriel Zahniser has worked as a Chef and/or Dietitian for nearly ten years. Adriel uncovered school foodservice as a viable career back in 2009 when she became a substitute food service professional for Sarasota County Schools. She quickly moved up the ranks as a five-hour employee, holding confidence that her commitment would grant a slot in the infamous Sarasota County FNS Dietetic Internship Program. In 2011, Adriel became a Dietetic Intern and accepted Beverly Girard’s offer to join her team as Nutrition Educator. Five years later, Adriel joined Waypoint where she works as a K12 Specialist. Happy to combine her talents in Culinary Arts and expertise as a Registered Dietitian, Adriel is a resource for Florida school foodservice operators. Her dedication to schools, knowledge of nutrition and meal programs, support for Florida school districts and desire to network and grow with School Nutrition Association members makes her a great candidate for the position of Sustaining Industry Partner Representative.