

# Headquarters' News February 2003

A monthly newsletter from GSFSA Headquarters especially prepared for:  
Executive Board, House of Delegates, Supervisors and State Staff



## ...From the President

Dear GSFSA Members:

It's February and for GSFSA members, 'tis the season to focus on our legislative priorities. Three years ago we tried a new plan for visiting our state legislators. Rather than all GSFSA members descending on the Capitol on the same day as we did in the past, we now assign a week to each district to make their presence felt under the Gold Dome. The plan has been a winner for us because it provides GSFSA with a consistent message for 10 weeks of the session, according to our legislative consultant, Mary Frances Williams. At a legislative planning session held this past fall, Mary Frances told us that we are one of the most organized groups that visits the Capitol.

Our efforts to ensure that our message is heard are paying off during this very tight budget year. We learned just days ago that Governor Sonny Perdue has earmarked \$3,129,178 in his budget to provide increased retirement benefits for our employees who are members of the Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS). This funding would allow for a \$.50 increase in the monthly retirement multiplier to increase the benefit from \$12.50 to \$13.00 per month per year of creditable service. This is a huge accomplishment! As Mary Frances said in an e-mail to us, "I cannot overstate what a step this is for Perdue given the AWFUL budget year we are in. Someone has been talking to him about retirement benefits for PSERS members!"

What do we need to do to try to ensure that this money stays in the state budget? We need to write thank-you letters to Governor Perdue, sending them to:

The Honorable Sonny Perdue  
Office of the Governor  
State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334

And we need to write, call and e-mail our members of the State House and Senate, asking them to see that this money stays in the budget. Please take some time to make these very important contacts.

We have three other important state legislative goals that we are working on and you'll also want to talk with your legislators about these:

1. Provide for a free breakfast program for all Georgia students in pre-K through third grade, building healthy children ready to learn, so "no child is left behind."
2. Support the recommendations of the 2001 Joint House-Senate Study Committee on *Obesity in School-Age Children*, to promote healthy food choices and physical activity.
3. Eliminate the age penalty in PSERS so a member of this retirement system can retire at any age after 30 years of service. The Teacher Retirement System already allows this.

Changing gears from legislative issues to our GSFSA Plan of Action, 'tis also the season for ensuring that action steps in the plan are completed and that documentation is in order for the scrolls your local chapters and districts hope to earn. Here is the last offering of **BONUS POINTS** for this year's scrolls: A local chapter or district that contributes an item for the Silent Auction at the annual conference may claim an additional 20 points. For documentation, include a note of your intent to contribute an item to the Silent Auction with a brief description of the item. Hopefully, this will help generate some nice items for the auction, which benefits our Georgia School Food Service Foundation, the arm of our association that funds our annual Managers' Retreat as well as scholarships and grants-in-aid for our members and their children.

Good luck as you complete your work on your scrolls and do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

Your Friend and Bus Driver,

Gretchen Schulz, GSFSA President



The First  on the Journey to Learning

## A Message from the Executive Director

Happy New Year to all you GSFSA members!

We have just returned from the ASFSA Industry and Technology Conference held in Savannah, and I am so proud of our Georgia folks! Two of our members, Joyce Akins and Clela Long, won the Kitchen Design Contest and were recognized at the conference. Over forty other GSFSA members (including Industry) helped greet and guide attendees during the sessions and helped put together a “Georgia Welcome Bag” of wonderful pralines, pecan logs, Georgia peanuts, and Meridian bottled water. We used the paper lunch bags with the school bus logo, and they were a big hit! Thanks to Karen Green for coordinating this effort and to all who helped put “Georgia on THEIR Mind.” Although it was unusually cold in Savannah, everyone had a wonderful time and enjoyed excellent session speakers.

While we were in Savannah, the Conference Steering Committee made our second site visit to plan for our April conference there. Included in this newsletter is a partial list of the workshop sessions that will be offered on both Friday and Saturday at Conference. Remember that District Dinners are on Friday night at the Hyatt Hotel, and that the exhibit schedule has been changed to allow more time for workshops. Also, remember that the Saturday evening Awards and Installation Banquet will be at the Trade Center.

Another change in the conference agenda is that ALL activities on Thursday will take place at the Trade Center, not the Hyatt as indicated in the “conference at a glance” schedule that appears in Georgia Gems.

ASFSA is holding a “Going Global” training workshop in Savannah, just prior to our conference, and the announcement flyer is attached. ASFSA hopes to have people from all over the country at this training that focuses on global hunger. In addition, we are thrilled that past ASFSA President Gene White, Chair of the “Going Global” program, will stay over and speak to our System Level members on Friday, April 25, 2003. She will join our own Dr. Josephine Martin in reviewing the important highlights of the child nutrition program over the past twenty years. This is a unique opportunity to hear about the history of the program from two of our national leaders who have a wealth of knowledge to share.

Coming in March is the important Legislative Action Conference (LAC) sponsored by ASFSA in Washington, DC. We generally have about 25 people attending LAC and look forward to a productive visit to Washington to work on School Nutrition issues, under the leadership of Public Policy and Legislation co-chairs, Joyce Akins and Peggy Chaney. Of course, we have new members of Congress to visit and begin educating about the school nutrition program. YOU are the experts on this topic, and we need as many as possible to attend. Please let the GSFSA office know if you or someone from your system will be attending. Our state Legislative Chairs will make all the arrangements for our congressional visits, and we will also have a group breakfast for Georgia attendees to help prepare you for the visits.

Happy Valentine’s Day!  
Susan

## Dates & Deadlines

### March

- 1 Deadline for submitting applications for Scholarship or Grant-In-Aid to GSFSA Headquarters.
- 1 Deadline for sending names and addresses of new officers to GSFSA Headquarters Office for President's Handbook.
- 1 Deadline for sending list of members who have passed GED, received high school diploma or degree during the year to be sent to State Certification Chair.
- 1 Deadline for sending in Charitable Events Form
- 1 Deadline for sending applications for Gold, Silver, and Bronze Scroll and President's Awards to Headquarters.
- 1 Deadline for sending the names of deceased members during the year to the Memorial Chair.
- 1 Deadline for submitting applications and documentation for:
  - Ann C. Smith /Hall of Fame Award
  - Heart of the Program/Golden Leaf Award
  - Josephine Martin Award
  - Lucille T. Watson Award/ Louise Sublette Award
  - Central Office Support Award
  - Public Relations & Marketing Award
  - 3% or More Increase Awards
  - Certification Award
  - Consistently High Participation Award
  - Web Page Design Award
- 1 Deadline for Districts to submit District Culinary Arts winners to Headquarters
- 2-5 ASFSFA Legislative Action Conference, Washington, D.C.
- 3-7 National School Breakfast Week
- 10 Deadline for locals to send Public Relations Portfolio to District for judging.
- 15 Deadline for ALIRT applications to State Legislative Chair
- 25 Deadline for PR Portfolio and local winner from district to be submitted to Headquarters for judging.

### April

- 24-26 GSFSA Annual Conference, Savannah

## CONFERENCE HOTEL UPDATE

The Conference Headquarters Hotel, the Savannah Hyatt, is almost full. However, we have excellent rooms blocked at the Homewood Suites, which is a Hilton property just 3 miles from downtown Savannah. The Homewood Suites offers a complimentary breakfast in their upscale lobby, and all rooms are one or two bedroom suites with full size refrigerator, range top, microwave and dishwasher. These rooms are great for a group of four (or more), and it is an easy drive from Homewood to the Hyatt or Trade Center. Give them a call to make your reservations today.

## CONFERENCE BUS TRANSPORTATION

During our conference in Savannah, GSFSA will offer limited bus service between the historic district hotels and the Trade Center across the river. We are NOT offering the Water Taxi this year, although of course you may choose to purchase tickets on the water taxi. The Water Taxi is \$3 for one round trip ticket. Those who are staying at the Westin Resort may ride the Water Taxi at no additional charge.

## Membership Totals (as of 1/29/03)

<b>District 1</b>	<b>623</b>
<b>District 2</b>	<b>605</b>
<b>District 3</b>	<b>629</b>
<b>District 4</b>	<b>1168</b>
<b>District 5</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>District 6</b>	<b>626</b>
<b>District 7</b>	<b>984</b>
<b>District 8</b>	<b>840</b>
<b>District 9</b>	<b>619</b>
<b>District 10</b>	<b>283</b>

**Total - 6,429**

## 2003 NAC ART CONTEST WINNERS

**K - 4th Grade:** Rachel Morris, Smyrna, GA- Teasley Elementary, Cobb County

**5th - 8th Grade:** Dawud Humphrey, Albany, GA- Southside Middle School, Dougherty County

**9th - 12th Grade:** Anthony Ambroise, Augusta, GA - Butler High School, Richmond County

GSFSA will present each winner a certificate and \$25.00. The winners of the state NAC Art competition have been sent to ASFSA to participate in the national competition. Congratulations to the winners and their NAC advisors/cafeteria managers.

## WANT TO CONTINUE YOUR EDUCATION?

### **GSFSA offers:**

7 scholarships @\$600.00 each

1 scholarship @1,000.00

5 grants @ \$150.00

As a member, your children are eligible to apply as well.

Remember: you must be an active member of GSFSA, ASFSA, certified under ASFSA or the child of such a member. The funds are for those interested in child nutrition as a career.

***Applications are being accepted until March 1, 2003.*** Applications are found on the GSFSA web site [www.gsfsa.com](http://www.gsfsa.com), or contact me, Kathy Szotkiewicz at 912-764-7655.

### **ASFSA offers:**

GED scholarship @\$200.00

Industry sponsored scholarships ranging from \$150.00-\$2,500.00 each. (Schwan, Heinz, Lincoln, etc.).

Applications are found on the ASFSA web site [www.asfsa.org](http://www.asfsa.org) or call ASFSA service center (703-739-3900) and request information and forms.

## **SECOND DISTRICT NEWS**

**Marion Tharpe, President**

District two is planning our winter district meeting February 8, 2003 in Thomasville, Georgia at Thomas County Central High School. Great rotating session have been planned - Journey Through the Web, Travel to a Safe/Clean Kitchen, and Get in line: Great sandwiches. We will also be recognizing art contest winners at the district level and culinary winners. We are boarding the bus for winning a gold scoll this year.

## **SIXTH DISTRICT NEWS**

**Joan Williams, President**

Sixth District recently enjoyed a beautiful Christmas Tea at Rivers'Edge Elementary School in Clayton County with 200 members present. Santa Claus was a special guest and we were entertained by Mundy's Mill Food Service elves (employees) who sang "Santa Claus is Coming to Town."

Shirley Gillespie, a legislative aide from Representative Mac Collins's office, gave an update on federal issues pertaining to our program. Elaine Kirk, Clayton Co. manager, and Doris Earnhart, Carroll Co. manager, shared their creative ideas on decorating the serving line from items found in the kitchen.

Sixth District welcomes two new chapters who affiliated this year: Henry County and Pike County. We are very proud to have them on the bus with us as we continue our journey to provide nutritious meals to the students in the Sixth District.

## **Don't forget to submit applications and documentation for the following AWARDS by MARCH 1, 2003:**

Ann C. Smith/Hall of Fame Award  
ASFSA "Heart of the Program"/GSFSA Golden Leaf Award  
Josephine Martin Award of Excellence  
Lucille T. Watson/Louise Sublette Award of Excellence  
High Participation Awards (Breakfast and Lunch)  
Public Relations/Marketing Award  
Central Office Support Award

If you need assistance please call Josephine W. Mack at (706) 737-7174.

## **STATE CULINARY ARTS CONTEST**

Please remember to submit your district winners for the state Culinary Arts contest. All entries should be submitted by March 1, 2003. Please follow the guidelines listed in the Plan of Action handbook. If you have any questions please contact Culinary Arts Chair, Curley Nelson at 770-822-6437. E-mail: Curley\_Nelson@gwinnett.k12.ga.us.

## **We thank our Sponsors To Date (2/03):**

### **2003 Annual Conference Sponsors**

General Session Sponsor - Gilardi Foods  
Gold Sponsors - Mayfield Dairy Farms, Inc.  
Silver Sponsor - Meridian Beverage Company  
Bronze Sponsors - Prolunch A.T.I., True Foodservice  
First Timer's Breakfast - Super Bakery and Cal-Tex Citrus Juice

### **Nutrition Advisory Council Focus Award**

Innovative Concept Group, Inc.

### **Web Page Sponsors**

Gilardi Foods  
Harvest Share  
Horizon Software  
Prolunch by A.T.I.

### **2002 KickOff Luncheon Sponsor**

Georgia Beef Board  
Mayfield Dairy Farms, Inc.

### **Industry Seminar Luncheon**

Mayfield Dairy Farms, Inc.

### **Industry Seminar Break**

Gilardi Foods  
Meridian Beverage, Inc.

### **Industry Seminar Welcome Reception**

Colorpoint Division of Low Temp Industries  
Portion Pac Chemical Corporation  
Schwan's Food Service

### **Industry Seminar Auction Donations**

Admiral Craft Equipment, Atlanta Fixture, Cal-Tex Citrus Juice, Carman-Girard, Charles Pace & Associates, Chef America, Clorox Company, Cohen Food Brokerage, Dannon Company, East Side Entrees, Food Service Action, Foster Farms, Georgia Egg Commission, Gilaridi Pizza, Glover Foods, Good Harbor Fillet, The Hansen Group, Highliner, Horace Maddox Textiles, Innovative Concepts, King's Delight, Lance Inc., Meridian Beverage, Michael Foods, Milliken Packaging, Milton Foods, Naturally Fresh Products, PFG Milton's Foodservice, Pierre', Pilgrims Pride, Purdue Chicken, Quick to Fix Foods, Read Bake, Rich SeaPak, SFS Pac, Sara Lee, Schwan's Foodservice, SeaPak, Tabatchnick, Williams Institutional Foods