



Rhonda Motley Gold Success Award

Background

The Rhonda Motley Gold Success Award recognizes an MSNA member who has made a notable contribution to the success of the School Meals program in his/her school. The award is named in honor of Rhonda Motley, who initiated the award in 1978. The award was first known as the Silver Success Award. Rhonda Motley worked tirelessly to further the association's goals. This is a great opportunity for a local chapter member to earn a much-deserved recognition for a job well-done, and for others around the state to get ideas for their own programs.

MDSNA'S Recognition

MDSNA will provide FREE Full registration to MDSNA's Convention 2017 for one Gold Success candidate per chapter. In addition, the State Grand Award winner will receive \$1,000 toward registration and travel expenses for SNA's 2018 Annual National Conference.

Entries should highlight accomplishments in one or more of the following areas:

- increasing participation;
 - increasing food quality and/or acceptability;
 - public information and awareness;
 - legislation;
 - nutrition education;
 - professional growth; and
 - creative ways to implement the new USDA regulations to promote healthy eating by students.
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Who Can Apply

Candidates for the Rhonda Motley Gold Success Award must be current members of MDSNA and their local chapter and may or may not be currently employed.

Any past chapter Rhonda Motley Gold Success Award winner who did not win the State Grand Award can reapply in the chapter selection process after three years have passed.

What Should Each Chapter President Do?

- Chapter presidents should let chapter members know about the opportunity to enter. We are including a sample letter and Q-and-A sheet you can use to share with chapter members.
- Allow all interested members to submit applications to you, then conduct a selection process to determine who will represent your chapter in the state contest.
- Use the *Rhonda Motley Gold Success Award Application* to submit the name of your chapter's candidate to MDSNA no later than June 1 of each year.
- Your chapter's representative has until August 31 of each year to submit his/her entry to the MDSNA Awards Chair. The entry should contain the information requested on the application form, including letters of recommendation and descriptions of activities conducted.

The Rhonda Motley Gold Success Awards are an important part of our convention. We hope each chapter will participate. If you have questions, please contact Awards and Scholarship Co-Chair Kristen Sudzina at kristen.sudzina@hcps.org or 410-638- 4078.

RHONDA MOTLEY GOLD SUCCESS AWARD

Dear Chapter Member:

MDSNA is seeking a candidate from each chapter to participate in the Rhonda Motley Gold Success Award contest. Our chapter must select someone to represent us. Our chapter's representative will receive free full registration to MDSNA's 2017 Convention and will compete with other chapters for the State Gold Success Award. The State winner will also receive \$1,000 toward registration and expenses for SNA's 2018 Annual National Conference.

Candidates must be current members of the state and local associations to be considered for the award, and may or may not be currently employed. The areas of accomplishment recognized by this award include: increasing participation; increasing food quality and/or acceptability; public information and awareness; legislation; nutrition education; professional growth; and creative ways to implement the new USDA regulations to promote healthy eating by students. If you would like to be considered for this award, please complete the application below and return it to your chapter president no later than April 30, 2017. If you know someone else in the chapter you feel would be a good candidate, please encourage him/her to apply. We must submit our chapter's candidate to MDSNA no later than June 1, 2017.

A chapter Rhonda Motley Gold Success Award winner who has not won the State Award is eligible to reapply for the Gold Success Award after a three-year time period has passed. The Rhonda Motley Gold Success Awards are an important part of our convention. We hope you will apply.

RHONDA MOTLEY GOLD SUCCESS AWARD APPLICATION

Applicant's Name _____ Chapter _____

Position _____ School _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Number of Years in School Food Service _____ Number of Years Member of Local School Nutrition Association _____

Number of Years Member of MD School Nutrition Association _____

List Offices or Committee Chairmanships Held in Local Chapter:

List Offices or Committee Chairmanships Held in State Association:

Required Backup Information (Chapter winners must submit the following to MSNA no later than August 31, 2017):

1. Application form.
2. Describe on an additional page your accomplishments and why they deserve special recognition.
3. Letters of recommendation (minimum of three required).
4. Photographs of activities in cafeteria or classroom, displays, nutrition education materials or cooperative activities in food service with outside groups or community organizations.
5. Any other information, such as pertinent clippings (at least one) showing accomplishments in food service from school papers, PTA newsletters, city and county newspapers. Show name of paper and date published to support your application can be attached.

Applications and Supporting Documents should be mailed to:
MDSNA Rhonda Motley Awards, 21912 Goshen School Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20882
Applications may be emailed (admin@mdsna.org)

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT
RHONDA MOTLEY GOLD SUCCESS AWARD**

Q. *What is the Rhonda Motley Gold Success Contest?*

A. It is a contest sponsored by the Maryland School Nutrition Association (MDSNA) to honor people employed in school food service who “go that extra mile”. They are people who do more than their job requires. They are dedicated to serving the nutritional needs of school children and furthering the school lunch program.

Q. *Who may enter the Contest?*

A. Anyone who is currently, or has been in the past, employed in school food service. The contestant also must be a member of the state and local association.

Q. *Do I have to be a manager, a high school graduate or certified to enter the contest?*

A. No, no and no! A contestant can be a general worker, manager, area manager, or supervisor. You do not have to have any special educational level, and you do not need to be certified.

Q. *How do I enter the Contest?*

A. Ask for an application from your local chapter president and enter your chapter’s contest. The winner of the local contest enters the state contest. If your local chapter does not have a Gold Success competition, contact the MSNA Awards and Scholarship Chairs for an application. (see contact information below).

Those selected to represent their chapter will be required to prepare a booklet containing the information requested on the application form. This includes letters of recommendation and descriptions of some of the activities in which you have been involved.

Q. *What happens after I enter the MDSNA Rhonda Motley Gold Success Contest?*

A. The information contained in your booklet is reviewed by a judging committee. A point system is used to judge the activities described in the booklet. All contestants are honored at the MSNA Convention in October. The State Award Winner is also announced at this time.

Q. *What do I get for entering the Contest?*

A. Each chapter’s candidate will be recognized at the MDSNA convention and will receive free full registration to the convention. The State Award winner also will receive \$1000 toward registration and expenses for SNA’s Annual National Conference the following summer.

Q. *When must I have my booklet ready for the MSNA convention?*

A. The Rhonda Motley Gold Success Chairman must know who is going to be a contestant by June 1. Contestants do not have to actually submit their booklet until August 31. This gives you the whole summer to put the finishing touches on your booklet.

Q. *Is there a special way the booklet has to be put together?*

A. No! There is no special size or way the booklet has to be made. The application lists the various items that should be included, but how you do it is up to you. (Don’t forget to include the application itself.) Just remember, what you include in your booklet tells the judges about you and what you have done in your school food service career.