

June 2017



ASSURED LIFE
ASSOCIATION

the fraternal link

I hope you are all having a great beginning to your summer. I know many chapters take a break during the summer and do not meet again until August but wanted to touch base with you as we start our summer activities.

Fraternal Year In Review

The final 2016 Fraternal Year in Review is available on the Society website under the chapter leaders link. I reported on preliminary results in the last fraternal link. Take a look at this final report and see where you think your chapter can improve its activities.

Assured Life Website

As reported in the last fraternal link, we are currently updating the design of the Assured Life website. We are still in the development stages and will not be done with the project until the first of July. A notice will be sent via email when the new site is launched and live.

The new design will make the Society's website responsive to whatever device is used to visit the site; PC, laptop, tablet, smart phone, etc. Site navigation will change somewhat and I will provide a tutorial of some kind to direct you to the proper place online to access the information you are looking for. So watch for this announcement to arrive in your email.

Fraternalist of the Year

We did not receive any nominations for the 2017 Fraternalist of the Year. Admittedly, I forgot to send a reminder to chapters prior to the deadline, thus the reason, perhaps, for no nominations. If you have someone in your chapter that you would like us to consider, feel free to send in a nomination now. We will consider it even though we are well past the deadline. But do try to get the nomination to us by July 13, 2017.

Chapter Leader Newsletter

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Important Dates

- 07/13 Extended deadline to nominate one of your members for the Fraternalist of the Year
- 06/01 Official launch of 9th Annual National Member Food Drive

Free lunches do not have to end with School

Feeding America says “when school is out of session, community summer programs make up the majority of food distributed.

These programs typically receive reimbursement through the USDA Summer Food Service Program for meals provided to eligible children. Last year, the Feeding America network served 5.7 million meals to more than 178,000 hungry children through the Summer food Service Program, which represents a 15% growth in meals distributed from the previous year.”



Summer Food Drive Need

According to Feeding America, 22 million children receive free or reduced-priced meals during the school year through the National School Lunch Program. Now that school is out during the summer months, only 3.9 million of those kids continue to get free or reduced-price meals through the USDA Summer Food Service Program. But that leaves 18.1 million kids in need of a source of food; a huge gap.

Many Food Banks and Food Pantries operate some kind of summer food service programs to close down this gap. These programs help meet the needs of low-income children and their families who face hunger in the summer months.

So, please look up summer food programs in your area and consider a summer food drive to help. The Feeding America website and its network of 200 food banks and 60,000 food pantries can help you locate a local program; <http://www.feedingamerica.org/need-help-find-food/summer-meals.html>.

Food and Nutrition Service—USDA

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) and Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion (CNPP) are agencies of USDA’s Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services. According to the Food and Nutrition Service website, “FNS works to end hunger and obesity through the administration of 15 federal nutrition assistance programs including WIC, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and school meals. In partnership with State and Tribal governments, [its] programs serve one in four Americans during the course of a year. Working with [its] public, private and non-profit partners, our mission is to increase food security and reduce hunger by providing children and low-income people access to food, a healthful diet and nutrition education in a way that supports American agriculture and inspires public confidence. No American should have to go hungry.” They are a good resource. Find them at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/>.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN SUMMER MEALS



The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) **Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)**, also known as the **Summer Meals Program**, provides kids and teens in low-income areas free meals when school is out. There are a number of ways that local organizations can be a part of the Summer Meals Program.

What is the Summer Food Service Program?

The SFSP is a federally-funded, state-administered program. The SFSP reimburses providers who serve free healthy meals to children and teens in low-income areas during the summer months when school is not in session. Check out [our video](#) to learn more.

Who Does the Program Serve?

The SFSP serves children and teens age 18 and younger.

How Does It Work?

There are three main players involved: State agencies, sponsors, and sites.

- State agencies administer the program and communicate with USDA.
- Sponsors enter into agreements with State agencies to run the program. Schools, local government agencies, camps, faith-based and other non-profit community organizations that have the ability to manage a food service program may be SFSP sponsors. Sponsors get reimbursed by the Program and may manage multiple sites.
- Sites are places in the community where children receive meals in a safe and supervised environment. Sites may be located in a variety of settings, including schools, parks, community centers, health clinics, hospitals, apartment complexes, churches, and migrant centers. Sites work directly with sponsors.

How Can Your Organization Participate?

1. **Contact your State agency** to see if you can become a site that serves summer meals. The State agency will help to see if you are located in an eligible area that can serve summer meals and connect you with a sponsor organization.

2. **Promote the Summer Meals Programs** to your community. Put up flyers and door hangers with information on where free summer meals are being served to help families find a nearby Summer Meals site.
3. **Provide fun activities for the kids & teens at your site to keep them coming back and to keep them physically and mentally active.** Recruit teens to help at your site to give them responsibilities and new skills.
4. **Volunteer at other sites.** Help serve meals or transport meals for other organizations that are involved with the Summer Meals Program. Organize physical or learning activities for the kids & teens.

Resources:

- Check out the Summer Food Service Program website: www.summerfood.usda.gov
- Learn why organizations throughout the country serve Summer Meals: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_93W0U3E8U&index=5&list=PLBccton-6g0dp0d5YdliI3TtRcSDtCdmzH
- Contact your State agency to talk about how you can get involved: www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/sfsp-contacts
- Find Summer Meals promotional materials: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/raise-awareness>
- Discover ways to recruit teens: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5A5K0qsVels&list=PLBccton-6g0dp0d5YdliI3TtRcSDtCdmzH&index=2>
- Find Summer Meals sites close to you: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks>



Chapters IRS Form 990-N e-Postcards Have Been Filed

As reported, the home office files the required IRS Form 990-N e-Postcard on behalf of all of its chapters. This has been completed for the 2016 tax year and we will be mailing a copy of the filing for your records in the next couple of weeks.



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ingenuity and the
spirit of community
to create financial
security and value
for our members.

