



Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials

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Koser Receives 2011 Gary E. Reeser Memorial Award By Suzanne K. Yorty

John P. Koser, Director of Nutritional Services at Lower Merion SD, received PASBO's prestigious Gary E. Reeser Memorial Award on March 17 during the 56th Annual Conference and Exhibits in Pittsburgh.

In his 27 years at Lower Merion SD, Koser has become an icon of the food service department. His innovative thinking has transformed his ten cafeterias to resemble restaurants more than the typical school cafeteria. Fresh salads, soups and even sushi are a few items offered throughout the district. Despite the tight economy where many food service operations are losing money, because of Koser's knowledge in food purchasing and procurement, Lower Merion SD's Department of Nutritional Services made about \$150,000 last year. The district has taken a leadership role in promoting healthy food choices by lowering the fat and sugar content of foods and increasing fresh fruits and vegetables, therefore helping to combat the obesity program in school age students.

Outside the school walls, Koser has been very involved with PASBO having been a member since 1985. He was one of the founding members of the Food Service Committee and served as chairperson for many years. He has actively participated in fighting for the present state nutrition regulations and continues to be a part of legislative issues. Koser helped start the Delaware Valley School Food Service Directors (DVFS) regional chapter and served as president from 2002-2005. He was the first to initiate the DVFS Food Coupon Show and this past year they had 25 vendors/brokers present coupons or rebates to over 50 school food service directors at the show.

Koser has been an active member of the School Nutrition Association of PA (SNAPa), where he served as President twice as well as held several other board positions. He implemented the SNAPa Food Service Director of the Year Award and also expanded the organization's PSU summer educational series.

According to Charles E. Linderman, PRSBA, PASBO Past President and Director of Business Affairs at Great Valley SD, "Jack is one of the most respected and knowledgeable school business officials I know. His knowledge and expertise in food service is unparalleled in our industry. Jack is always willing to share his ideas and new techniques with anyone who will listen to him. He is selfless and very rarely will take credit for accomplishments rather he will just credit them as part of his job."

For more information on the Gary E. Reeser Memorial Award, please go to:

www.pasbo.org/awards.asp. If you know a worthy candidate for next year's award, please submit your by November 30.