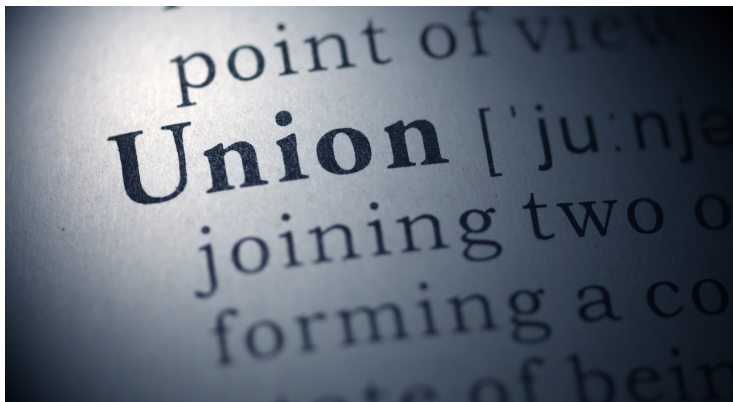


THE DEFENDER

San Marcos Educators Association Newsletter



<https://www.sanmarcosteachers.org/>

Message from our President~

What a year so far! SMEA has successfully negotiated a two-year deal with increases to our salary, benefits and the addition of paid maternity leave! We also were extremely successful in getting our two endorsed school board candidates, Stacy Carlson and Andres Martin elected. Our school board now has two current CTA members, a teacher (Dr. Carlos Ulloa) and a counselor (Andres Martin). I am excited to see what the future holds for our school district led by this new Board. On the Executive Board we added a second Elementary Rep at large position with the goal towards equity, combined the duties of our Secretary position, and added Sasha Stone as our newest Executive Board member.

SMEA will be looking to contact all non-members at each site and encourage them to join our union. Site reps will begin mapping out sites and contacting all non-members to aid in this task. SMEA also plans to have more outreach meetings in the future as we strive to increase our membership numbers.

Beginning in January, I will meet with administrators in all our district schools to discuss data trends from our recent climate survey.

Finally, SMEA's Labor Management team continues to meet monthly with members from CSEA and the District Office Management team. During our last two meetings we made a point to focus on the well-being of our staffs. Thanks to our brothers and sisters at CSEA, we recently had a meeting with our VEBA rep to see how we can work towards addressing the well-being of all our members. VEBA will be partnering with us to offer even more resources to our members.

~Yours in Solidarity, Dale Pluciennik

CTA Region Four Conference

Session: Moving Beyond Awareness: How Can Educators Take Action

Presented by: Monica Rice and Pia VanMeter

This session was a little uncomfy, and as I am learning to get comfortable in my discomfort, I am learning just how important that discomfort can be. In general, I'm not a sit down and shut up kind of person (#ADHD, baby!), so I am also learning and practicing the skill of listening without the pathological impulse to add to the conversation. So, without further commentary, here is a brief overview of the highlights, in the words of the presenters, of this important look into the path of moving beyond awareness.

As you continue your growth and knowledge regarding personal and professional social justice and equity, it is important that you identify where you are in terms of your work and commitment.

Ally vs. Accomplice vs. Co-Conspirator

Ally:

Allyship's purpose is to achieve equity, inclusion, and justice. It requires action; an understanding and self-awareness around power and privilege; to hold ourselves accountable to advancing marginalized people's needs.

Accomplices:

Accomplices aren't motivated by personal guilt or shame. They have their own agenda, but they are explicit. They listen with respect to the range of cultural practices and dynamics that exist within various communities.

Moving from Ally to Accomplice

Advocacy for an ally looks like: Attending meetings, hearings, and other public events to advocate in person on behalf of policies being put forth by racial justice organizations.

Advocacy for an accomplice looks like: Diversifying your social media and following radical/progressive BIPOC figureheads and leaders in the movement and doing your best to share and amplify their voices in your social circles.

Co-Conspirators:

Deliberately acknowledge that BIPOCs are criminalized for dismantling white supremacy. They also recognize the lack of social justice in the past as well as the racist, sexist, xenophobic, homophobic, and classist, practices that have kept education from being equitable. Working to overcome these issues and the barriers they have created, means taking a hard look at yourself and your own biases and how to overcome them. Co-Conspirators work towards making the field more equitable by working WITH communities that have been marginalized to make the field more inclusive AND finding out HOW they want you to be involved.

Submitted by Annie Kreger

CTA Region Four Conference continued

Beginning Site Rep Training Session:

I am so grateful for the opportunity to represent SMEA at the Fall CTA Leadership Conference. As a first-time site rep, I found all of the sessions I attended extremely valuable, especially those that were aligned to beginning site rep training and working with admin. In both of these sessions I learned information that I did not know, and perhaps would not have known, had I not attended the conference. One of the biggest takeaways from the beginning site rep training session was the role we play as site reps when asked to represent a member with admin. I learned the key responsibilities that I need to uphold as a site rep for our members. The second biggest takeaway was from the session that focused around working with admin, building positive, professional relationships and proper ways meetings should take place, especially those where site reps are asked to join by a union member.

My confidence as a site rep has definitely increased now that I have all of this new knowledge and understanding of my role as a site rep. I feel very strongly that all new site reps should have the opportunity to attend this conference, or at the least a beginning site rep training so that they are well prepared for the duties they are required to do.

Submitted by Vanessa Shreve

All Things Special Education Session:

I attended several workshops at the recent Leadership Conference, but a couple in particular resonated with me. The first pertained to all things Special Education, and at the end we were given a resource manual which can be shared at the site level. During the workshop, we broke into small groups to examine a particular part of the manual, and then report our findings to the whole group. Since we came from across the region, it was interesting to hear commonalities vs. what is specific to our area/district. During another interesting workshop, we went through various scenarios, discussing possible union representation as it related to the situation. As I am a relatively new site rep, I particularly enjoyed hearing input from the more seasoned reps. We rounded out our trip with a fabulous dinner together under the stars, along with late night karaoke. Given the opportunity, I would definitely attend another session in the future.

Submitted by Debra Stoermer

Resources



- CTA members have access to a variety of benefits and programs to enhance your life and career. From discounts and travel to financial planning, we've got the tools to help you thrive. CTA Access to Savings and NEA Member Benefits make saving money easy and convenient.
- The CTA 2022-2023 University Credit Program is a benefit to members attending CTA Conferences during the 2022-2023 school year. CTA Members, through attending in-person or watching CTA Virtual Pass sessions, will be given the opportunity to accumulate the professional growth hours needed to qualify for university credit units with CSU, Chico. As a benefit to members, CTA will cover the \$75/unit cost for up to SIX of the (9) university credit units available. The professional growth hours can be accumulated by attending conferences live and/or by watching recordings.

UC San Diego
EXTENDED STUDIES
SMEA
SAN MARCOS
EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

SMEA members receive a 20% discount

Opportunity + Innovation
UC San Diego Division of Extended Studies strengthens our regional economy.

Contact Amie Becker
Associate Director

University of California San Diego
Division of Extended Studies
Education & Community Outreach
9500 Gilman Drive, Dept. 0170-N La Jolla, CA 92093

albecker@ucsd.edu
(858) 534-9265 Tel | (858) 534-9256 Fax |
ecoextension.ucsd.edu
<https://ecoextension.ucsd.edu>

ChatGPT through an Education Lens

<http://bit.ly/ChatGPTinEdu>

 WHAT ARE AI CHATBOTS?	 WHAT IS ChatGPT?	 TRY ChatGPT	 DIVE DEEPER WITH CHATBOTS	 CURRICULUM IMPACT	 EDUCATOR USES
 ChatGPT CHALLENGES	 PODCASTS	 ARTICLES	 VIDEOS	 ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	 WILL ChatGPT REPLACE TEACHERS?

Credits: [Click to View a List of Resource Hub Collaborators](#)

WELCOME TO APPLIED DIGITAL SKILLS

Teach and learn practical digital skills

Teach and learn practical digital skills needed for the jobs of today and tomorrow with our video lessons that are free of charge

Google Applied Skills

Read Across America

“Kids should be able to be the main characters in their own lives. We want them to know that who they are matters...[but] some decision-makers are trying to ban books, dictate what teachers say, and block kids from learning our shared stories to confront injustice and build and more perfect union.”

—Marley Diaz, Read Across America Ambassador and Founder, #1000BlackGirlBooks