Above: SMEA’s leadership team led site rep trainings during January’s council meeting.

This issue, in a tweet: School Board Election, SMEA Scholarship, events calendar, TeachersTrainTeachers #unionstrong #SMEAteachers
Spring (Various Dates)
**Teachers Train Teachers:** Join us for high-quality professional development opportunities. Brought to you by your own respected colleagues.

**Saturday, April 11**
**SMEA Padres Night:** The Padres take on The Giants at 5:40pm. Discounted tickets available for SMEA members.

**Friday, May 29**
**SMEA End of Year Celebration:** Start the end-of-year countdown with your SMEA colleagues at Urge.

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**Get to Know Your CTA Staff-Person**

SMEA is happy to introduce Erin Clark, our CTA Field Staff who has been supporting us since last April. Prior to joining CTA, Erin worked with the San Diego Education Association for a decade. She is a National Board Certified Social Science teacher.

“I am excited and honored to work with the leaders and members of SMEA,” Erin says. “I came into your bargaining campaign mid-stream last spring, and was immediately impressed at the union strength you had built to win a strong contract. From your Executive Board to your site reps, the leadership in SMEA is incredibly talented and dedicated. I can’t wait to see where we go from here.”

Since Erin has started working with SMEA, she has supported many positive changes in our local union. This includes facilitating the creation of a year-long strategic plan with our Executive Board, helping to secure a membership engagement grant to support our new Ovation and Teachers Teaching Teachers programs, and supporting member leaders in offering union training to our site reps. Welcome, Erin!

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**SMEA Scholarship for Graduating Seniors**

The SMEA scholarship is available to those students planning to continue their education beyond high school. The following criteria must be met to apply:

- Applicant must be a graduating senior
- One letter of recommendation is required and it must be sealed in an envelope accompanying the application:
  - One reference from a faculty member OR
  - One reference on your personal character (i.e. employer, community member, etc.)
- Unofficial transcript in order to verify GPA.

Scholarships will be based on financial need, academics, community service, extracurricular activities, and letter of recommendation.

Applications are available in the high school guidance office through early May, 2020. Children of SMEA Members are highly encouraged to apply!
President's Message

Educators are the foundation of any successful school. The magic that happens in and out of the classroom, between students, teachers, and other educators is what makes a school thrive. In times of change and drama, this never rings truer. We have seen a lot of change in a short amount of time here in SMUSD. Some good, some bad, and some too early to tell. But the vast majority of our students are unaware of the changes and drama taking place. They come to school to learn and we succeed splendidly in that task, often times despite what's taking place around us.

As we continue working through the 2019/2020 school year, it's with an eye to the future, of what's yet to come. This year is the second year of a three-year contract. What will the state budget look like? Will there be an increase to school funding? Will our next negotiations be as contentious as the last ones? 2020 is obviously an election year, with question marks about our future leaders, all the way from the federal to the local level.

One thing is for certain, regardless of what the future brings, we remain the glue that holds our schools and even our district together. We are the constant for our students in a world full of uncertainty. We should all feel proud of our daily professionalism, passion, and dedication to our students. Thank for being amazing educators AND proud union members!

Yours in Solidarity,
Michael DeVries, President
San Marcos Educators Association

SMEA President Michael DeVries, pictured far right, with CTA President E. Toby Boyd (left).

SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES FIRST

would bring in:
$713 million San Diego County
$1.1 billion Orange County
$362 million Riverside County

Each county can expect a sizable financial benefit if SCF passes.

Who will be impacted by SCF?
A handful of the largest corporations and wealthy investors – like oil giant Chevron – that will no longer be able to take advantage of property tax loopholes to funnel money into their pockets and out of schools and local communities. This ballot measure does not affect homeowners, renters, or agricultural land.

Where does the money go?
Roughly 40% of the funds will go to education (K-12 and Community Colleges) and 60% will go to our local community services.

How will SCF impact property values?
Investing in roads, schools, parks, and local services helps homeowners by increasing their property values, particularly in areas with diminished public services.

California is already a high tax state.
Why do we need this change?
This is inaccurate: California’s state and local business taxes are lower than the national average, lower than New York and Texas, and 37th in the nation, according to the US Chamber of Commerce – and will stay that way when SCF is implemented. However, when corporations avoid property taxes, individuals and small businesses pay more.
SMEA Seeks Labor-Friendly School Board Representatives

- Area A incumbent Janet McCLean is not running.
- Area B appointed incumbent Pam Lindamood is undecided and will likely not receive SMEA endorsement.
- Area D incumbent Victor Graham is undecided, often anti-labor, and will likely not receive SMEA endorsement.

If you know of any potential candidates in areas A, B or D please contact:

MICHAEL DEVRIES
President, San Marcos Educators Association
760-846-1724 or president.smea@sanmarcosteachers.org

BRANDON MAZE
PAC Chair, San Marcos Teachers For Quality Education
760-525-7252 or brandonlmaze@gmail.com

DALE PLUCIENNIK
PAC Treasurer, San Marcos Teachers For Quality Education
760-215-2899 or daleplu@gmail.com