

THE ADVOCATE

Federal election poses threats to public schools

The good news is that on election night, SDEA won eight out of eight in our endorsed races. Our victories included the election of pro-education School Board member Sharon Whitehurst-Payne over a well-funded pro-charter opponent, as well as the passage of Prop. 55, which will protect school funding for 12 years.

However, the election of Donald Trump as President poses new threats for public education, which could have a great impact here in San Diego. Three key elements of Trump's published platform for his first 100 days in office could greatly destabilize our schools.

School Vouchers

Trump wants to pull \$20 billion of existing school funding and use it for grants for states that allow voucher programs and support charter expansion. This money will likely come from Title I funds since that represents the majority of federal K-12 funding. This could devastate our local district's funding.

Right to Work

"Right to work" sounds good, but isn't. It would do away with "Fair Share." Fair Share is the idea that everyone who enjoys the benefits and protections of the union contract should, in fairness, contribute to maintaining the contract even if they choose not to be a union member. The loss of Fair Share

would mean that while unions would still be required to provide services to all potential members, individuals would decide whether or not to pay for those services. These so-called "right to work" laws are designed to dismantle public unions, paving the way for privatization.

In states where such laws have already passed, we've seen public education unions weakened, leading to devastating cuts to educator pay, pensions, healthcare and working conditions. Michigan is a prime example of this. The campaign to gut unions, then public education, in Michigan was led in large part by Trump's pick for Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos. Read more about DeVos on page 2.

Decline in Enrollment

Our district already has declining enrollment every year due to charter schools. Trump's pledge to deport undocumented immigrants would include many students in our schools. When our schools lose students, our district loses money.

How can SDEA members face these threats? We can fight for our union and our schools with our wallets and our feet!

Fund the Fight

SDEA's election night success is because of our hard work, and our Political Action Committee (PAC). Our PAC is funded by SDEA members. If we want to continue to win our local

elections, we need to continue to collectively fund the fight. PAC forms are available in the "Membership Forms" section of the SDEA website.

Step Up and Lead

If you feel called to be more involved, now is the time to step up and lead. There are many leadership opportunities in our union!

Perhaps the most important leadership role in our union is the site Association Representative (AR). Democratically elected at the site level, the most effective ARs are both advocates and organizers. They educate union members about our rights, advocate for members, unite members around a common purpose or problem, help members find solutions, and motivate union members to take part in union actions to solve problems and improve the workplace. If your site does not have an AR, now is the time for a committed member to take on the roll! Visit the "Internal Elections" section of SDEA website, under "About SDEA," for information about AR elections.

Also, every site should be forming a Contract Action Team to prepare for our upcoming bargaining campaign. Make sure to attend your site's Bargaining Input Session in the next two months to learn more.

Serving on the SDEA Board is a powerful way to help shape

the vision and direction for our union. This year, the CTA Election Committee is requiring members who wish to run for SDEA Board to attend a meeting prior to the start of the election to learn about the process. The next Board election will take place this spring. The details for the meeting will be announced in an SDEA Union Notes email.

Finally, several SDEA Committees are actively seeking new members:

- Political Involvement Committee: Interview local candidates about issues important to educators, make endorsement recommendations, and hold School Board members accountable for their promises.
- Member Engagement Committee: Meet with new members and talk to them about the importance of our union, particularly as paying our fair share becomes optional.
- Community Outreach Committee: Build community alliances to protect our schools.
- Charter School Outreach Program: Stop the downward drag on our wage and benefit standards posed by charter schools.

We face uncertain times ahead, but we know through experience that when SDEA members stand together to protect public schools, *we win*.



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Letters in Solidarity

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DeVos: Wrong choice for schools

We hope you all had a restful Thanksgiving break! It is hard to believe we are only a few weeks away from 2017. In San Diego and across the state of California, we were very successful in the November election. We elected our three endorsed SDUSD School Board candidates, including Sharon Whitehurst-Payne in a highly contested race. We helped to pass Measure I to Save San Diego High School, and Measures K and L will increase voter participation in San Diego elections. Across California, educators and our allies successfully worked together to pass Prop. 55 to protect school funding and Prop. 58 to expand bilingual education opportunities for our students.

Election news on the national level, however, poses greater challenges for our schools. The National Council for Urban Education Associations had their Fall Conference Nov. 30-Dec. 3 in San Antonio, Texas. We were both able to attend, and received updates on the expected outcomes of the United States Presidential election.

The President-elect's decision last week to appoint Betsy DeVos to the post of Secretary of Education gives us great insight into how this new administration will choose to invest in and formulate its educational policy for the country. In a nutshell, DeVos' appointment to head the Department of Education is the equivalent of a layoff notice to our nation's hard working public school educators, a clear message from this new administration that they will focus on dismantling the public school education system all together.

You may ask why is DeVos not the right choice for Secretary of Education. DeVos has no training

or experience in education. Like the President-elect, DeVos is an ardent supporter of "school choice" privatization schemes, despite a complete lack of evidence that privatizing public schools produces better education. DeVos has invested millions lobbying for laws that drain resources from public schools. In her home state of Michigan, DeVos has fought against the regulation of charter schools. Finally, DeVos is not a good fit for a position overseeing the civil rights of all students.

In great contrast to the values that our nation's new secretary of education holds, San Diego Unified School District educators believe in upholding and fighting for a completely different set of values that put our students and educators first. NEA President Lily Eskelsen Garcia, said it best:

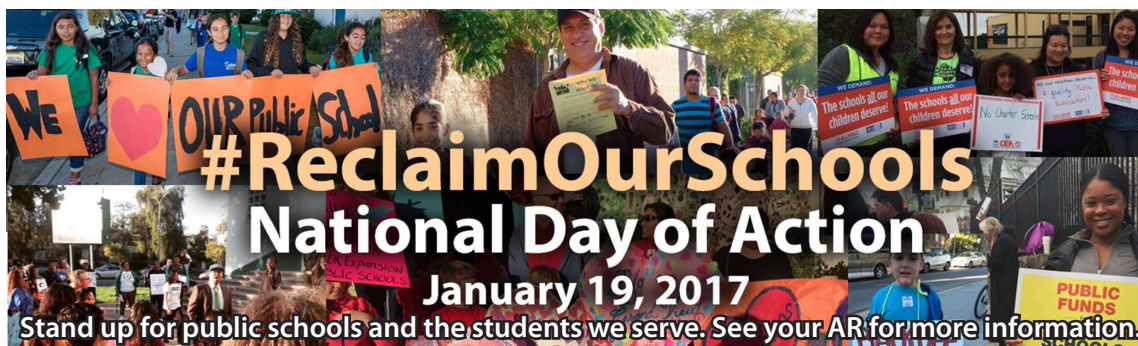
"Every day, educators use their voice to advocate for every student to reach his or her full potential. We believe that the chance for the success of a child should not depend on winning a charter lottery, being accepted by a private school, or living in the right ZIP code. We have, and will continue, to fight for all students to have a great public school in their community and the opportunity to succeed no matter their backgrounds or circumstances."

SDEA will continue to advocate for greater investment in our public schools, so that the path for both our students and educators to succeed is one that will build stronger, well educated communities in our nation.

Together we ARE stronger!

Lindsay Burningham Lindsay Burningham SDEA President

Kisha Borden SDEA Vice President



Bargaining Commission plans for a strong contract

Long before there was a *Fight for 5!*, there was an SDEA Bargaining Commission, a representative group of members from across the union, doing the work to make it happen. This year's Commission spent Nov. 30 planning how to build on the success of our last bargaining campaign as we launch our fight for an even stronger contract this spring.

Non-Economic Research Committee (below): Jim Achenbach, Viraj Ward, Kimberly Allard, Elaine Evins, Kristin Brown,* Mary Gantz*,

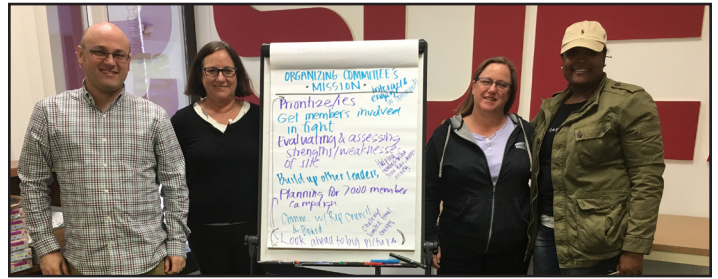
David Peterson* and Ronald Reese*.

Organizing Committee (top right): Adam Goldstein, Mary Jane Zappia, Trace Cimins, Theona Shields, Sara Holerud* and Patrick Schoettler*.

SPED Committee (center right): Gregory Nunn, Lynn Vogelgesang, Ronnie Berger, Angela Rieke, and Sherri Christy.

Economic Research Committee (bottom right): Jared Enyart, Matthew Schneck, Cheri Hays, Kandi Nieto and Bill Navickas*.

** Not pictured.*



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so you can focus on them.*

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Tips for a Healthy Holiday

Give yourself some tender loving care during the holidays. It will keep your energy up and your stress level down. Try these tips.

Eat Mindfully. Don't skip meals. Eat a healthy snack before you go out. Limit seconds.

Get Sleep. Aim for 8 hours a night. Take a 20-minute nap.

Do Exercise. Stretch when you wake. Do ten minutes of cardio. Increase your steps.

Schedule Alone Time. Recharge your batteries. Sit quietly. Take a walk. Write in a journal.

Have a Laugh. Play board games. Watch a funny movie. Put on music and dance.

Get Help.

Holiday Blues. Relationship Issues. Anxiety. Depression. Substance Abuse.

Contact the Employee Assistance Program.

- * Call 888-625-4809
- * 24 hours a day-7 days a week
- * All services are CONFIDENTIAL
- * 5 Free sessions with a licensed counselor



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