

Industry Reporter



Partners in Progress Conference 2026



2026 Sweethearts Ball



News and Events



Legislative Update

BUSY WINTER AND SPRING EVENTS FOR SMACNA SoCal

I am always pleased to share that the chapter and its committees are doing well, operating with strength and vision, and looking ahead to a positive year. The education committee is working hard at a long-term plan, and in the meantime, it has two excellent programs coming up that I hope everyone will consider attending. When we gain further education and understanding of our ever-changing trade, it makes the industry better for everyone.

The same can be said for connecting at industry events and making the most of social time and the opportunity to learn the skills and abilities we need to be the best business owners we can be. We just finished a great four days in Orlando, Florida, for the *Partners in Progress* Conference. It was the perfect opportunity to learn about what SMACNA and SMART National organizations are doing, learn from experts in the breakout sessions, and connect with our labor partners. See page 5 for more about our time at this important conference.

Next up, we are looking forward to the CAL SMACNA Conference in Kaua'i, Hawaii, this April. It will offer workshops on the multi-generational workforce and AI, as well as the annual business meeting, president's awards, and

plenty of social events—all with the backdrop of Hawaii's oldest and greenest island.

Coming up in May is the CAL SMACNA Day at the Capitol, another must-go event that brings contractor members face-to-face with our legislatures for a day of conversation, education, and advocacy. Don't miss out on your opportunity to help shape state policy on CAL SMACNA's top issues and help educate and influence the California Legislature on issues of importance to the health of our industry.

And finally, SMACNA SoCal has its highly anticipated roster of events coming up this spring and summer, starting with the Angels Game on May 2 and the Friends of the Industry Golf Tournament June 15. We look forward to seeing you at these and other events. ■



By / Gina Medel
SMACNA SoCal President

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STAY CONNECTED WITH SMACNA SOCAL

New Communication Platform

SMACNA SoCal is launching a new email communication platform to make it easier for the people working at our member contractor companies to stay informed about upcoming industry education seminars, training opportunities, and chapter events.

We encourage you to share the subscribe link or QR code below with your office staff, project managers, estimators, field leaders, and anyone in your organization who would benefit from staying connected to industry information.

By subscribing, your team can receive timely updates directly from the chapter and stay informed about programs designed to support your business and workforce.

Please share the link or QR code below with your team so they can sign up to receive these updates directly.



Membership Dues Increase

On behalf of the Board of Directors of SMACNA Southern California, I would like to include a note about an adjustment to the annual membership dues.

Effective January 1, the annual increased from \$400 to \$500. This change was carefully reviewed and approved by the SMACNA Southern California Board of Directors to ensure the continued strength and effectiveness of our local chapter.

By / Kristine Hammond
SMACNA SoCal Executive Director



Currently, of the \$400 annual dues, \$200 is allocated to the SMACNA National Office and \$100 is allocated to CAL SMACNA, the state chapter that represents our industry in legislative and regulatory lobbying efforts at the state level. The remaining \$100 supports the operations of the SMACNA Southern California chapter. Under the new dues structure, the additional \$100 will remain entirely with the local chapter, with no changes to the amounts allocated to the national or state organizations.

This adjustment will allow SMACNA Southern California to enhance member services, strengthen local advocacy, expand workforce development initiatives, and continue providing educational and industry-related programs that directly benefit our members.

The Board of Directors does not take dues increases lightly and believes this decision is necessary to maintain a strong and effective local chapter on behalf of its members. We sincerely appreciate your continued support and continued commitment to SMACNA Southern California.

If you have any questions regarding this change, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Thank you for your continued involvement and dedication to our association. ▪

Get Involved ► Committee Applications Now Open Year-Round!

SMACNA is pleased to announce that members may now apply for committees at any time. The application window is no longer limited to specific dates.

Committees play a vital role in supporting the Executive Board and guiding the association by sharing best practices across various subject areas.

Although not all committees have vacancies, a year-round application process allows SMACNA to respond quickly to unexpected openings. You are encouraged to apply for committee positions at any time. The main application review begins in May. Committee selections are made by the outgoing and incoming presidents after the July Board of Directors meeting. Applications received after the review has started may be considered in the next cycle. Appointment notifications are sent before the annual convention, typically in mid to late September. Terms begin on November 1 and last four years. For questions about the committee application process, contact Beth Thurston at bthurston@smacna.org



DON'T MISS SMACNA SOCAL'S SEMI-ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING/ LUNCHEON APRIL 22

LA's landmark winery, founded in 1917, is calling. Meet your SMACNA SoCal colleagues and guests at San Antonio Winery for the association's Semi-Annual Membership Meeting Luncheon. Los Angeles' original urban winery in the heart of the city is the perfect venue for gathering to learn more about the association's activities past and planned—all while exploring the history of winemaking in this last vestige of the city's rich viticultural legacy.



The reception begins at 11 am and lunch is served at noon. Please email info@smacna-socal.org to RSVP no later than April 6. RSVPs are limited to four guests per company, and additional guests will be \$100 per person.

When sending your RSVP, please also include your menu selection from the following choices:

- Italian braised sirloin tri-tip in a mushroom gravy with whipped potatoes and sauteed seasonal vegetables
- Maddalena lasagna bolognese with sauteed seasonal vegetables

Please reach out to the SMACNA SoCal office if you have any questions. ■

CAL SMACNA'S DAY AT THE CAPITOL May 13 & 14, 2026

Meet directly with your legislators in their Sacramento offices and help us educate and influence them on issues of importance to the health of California's construction industry.

Together we can make a difference. The Day at the Capitol event will begin on the evening of May 13, with a hosted legislative reception, dinner, and special guest speakers. On May 14, we will have a hosted breakfast and Capitol office meetings.

Get to know your legislators and help voters hold them accountable for the health of our state. Don't let others speak for you and your business!

Visit cal-smacna.org and click Events to register. ■

SMACNA SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS OPEN UNTIL MAY 31

The SMACNA Southern California Chapter Scholarship is open to college or university students pursuing undergraduate or graduate degrees in fields directly related to the sheet metal industry.

Scholarship Structure

- Awards are up to \$5,000 per academic year, with a lifetime maximum of \$10,000 per recipient.
- Scholarships are limited to a maximum of two academic years per recipient.
- Scholarship recipients must re-apply separately the following year to be considered for a second-year scholarship.

Qualifications

To qualify for a SMACNA Scholarship, applicants must be accepted or enrolled in a college or university program directly related to the sheet metal industry that leads to a degree.

Undergraduate applicants must be entering their junior or senior year, and graduate applicants must be enrolled or accepted into a graduate program related to the sheet metal industry.

Applicants must have and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher and provide transcripts of their college grades. Previous recipients may reapply for a second year by submitting updated transcripts demonstrating a 3.0 GPA or higher from the previous academic year and ongoing enrollment in coursework relevant to the sheet metal industry.

Selection Process

All qualified applications will be reviewed by the SMACNA Southern California Scholarship Committee. Final award decisions, including recipient selection and scholarship amounts, will be approved by the Board of Directors based on the committee's recommendations and available funding.

Applications

If you have an employee or an employee within your company with a son or daughter who qualifies for this scholarship, please reach out to the SMACNA SoCal office for an application. If you have more than one applicant whom you think might qualify, please advise the association's office.

Application Deadline: May 31, 2026

Submit applications to:

SMACNA Southern California Scholarship Committee

12070 Telegraph Road, Suite 350, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

Email: info@smacna-socal.org

Phone: (562) 944-6345

Electronic submissions are encouraged. ■

TOGETHER TO DELIVER RESULTS

2026 PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

Partners in Progress Conference 2026

There is only one conference event dedicated exclusively to facilitating positive relationships between labor and management in the signatory sheet metal industry. *Partners in Progress*, first held in 2002, is the event contractors and union representatives look forward to all year. Under the banner of cooperation and joint problem solving, *Partners in Progress* sets the tone and opens up space to tackle the big issues, learn new skills and abilities, and connect with labor or management partners.

SMACNA SoCal and Local 105 had a strong presence at the 2026 event, held in Disney World in Orlando, Florida. Executive Director Kristine Hammond and four board of directors members—Gina Medel, president; Richard Rivera, board member and trust funds co-chair; Mike Hilgert, board member and CAL SMACNA president; and David Lee, board member—represented the chapter. From Local 105, Al Hernandez, business manager; Anthony Campos, San Bernardino area rep; Donny Sappington, South Bay area rep, and Jordan Chechitelli, West Los Angeles area rep, attended.

The program comprised general sessions with SMACNA and SMART leadership, including SMACNA President Todd Hill, SMART General President Mike Coleman, and SMART Director of Organizing Jason Benson; and breakout sessions on leadership, AI, megaprojects, labor-management cooperation, recruitment and retention, and a host of other topics. Keynote addresses from veteran Melissa Stockwell and former astronaut Mike Massimino rounded out an exciting and informative three days. Following the *Partners in Progress* Conference, the JATC Conference brought training providers together for a day of collaboration and insight.

Medel enjoyed the open forum event with Todd Hill, president; Frank Wil, CEO; and Tom Martin, past-president, representing SMACNA National. General President Mike Coleman and John Daniel, General Secretary Treasurer, represented SMART International.

“This discussion was one of my favorites because seeing this interaction between labor and management at the highest level is so important,” says Medel. “That is what it is all about. Labor and management and setting a good example starts at

the top. When we see leaders have these conversations, it is inspiring and motivating.”

SMACNA SoCal and Local 105 had a chapter dinner at the event, inviting attendees from both organizations to sit down together in a social context.

“I really enjoyed the chapter dinner with our labor partners,” Medel says. “We usually see each other in meetings, so sitting down to a nice dinner was a good opportunity to get to know them and spend time away from negotiations and meetings. It is valuable because we have good fun and good conversations.”

This was the first *Partners in Progress* Conference for Hammond, and she found it valuable to continue to meet industry members, connect with business colleagues, and learn more about the industry and labor-management cooperation.

“The keynotes were great, especially Mike Massimino,” she said. “I enjoyed the AI presentation and benefitted from the breakout session on recruitment and retention.”

Hammond stayed for the JATC Conference, which was informative for her, especially being new to her role with SMACNA SoCal.

“It was good to learn about ITI and NEMI and how everything works together,” she said. “I also learned a lot about some of the grants available to JATCs.”

Both agree that the chance to bring labor and management together is valuable and having a conference dedicated to this is good for all facets of the industry.

“It’s all about the relationships,” Medel says. “That is why I look forward to *Partners in Progress*. We all get to connect on another level, so when things get tough, it helps to have this foundation of knowing each other to build from. It’s very important.”

Visit pinp.org for conference notes, presentation downloads, resources for building your labor-management partnership, and details to come about future conferences. ■

2026 Sweethearts Ball



The 2026 Sweethearts Ball was extra special with the highest attendance yet. It was held at the beautiful Pasea Hotel & Spa at Huntington Beach. Guests enjoyed a cocktail reception followed by dinner, but not before SMACNA SoCal Executive Director Kristine Hammond and SMACNA SoCal President Gina Medel welcomed members and guests.

Hammond opened the event with a welcome and a promise that she intends to continue reaching out to every member over the coming months. She acknowledged the importance of the Sweethearts Ball as one of the association's most meaningful traditions because it brings everyone together—members, spouses, partners, and families.



Hammond welcomed special guests to the event:

- Tani Poe (Former owner of Western Allied Corp.) and his wife Gretchen
- Fred Klein (Former owner of Graycon, Inc.) and his wife Carolyn
- Cody Neighbors and Jacob Gutierrez (Local 105 JATC)

She also thanked RG Business Insurance Agency, represented by Gerry Johnston, Sr. Vice President, and his wife Colleen for sponsoring the evening's wine; Kim Williams and Rubi Diaz, who planned the evening; and every member of the Board of Directors for being a warm, welcome presence as she settles into her new role.

"I truly have found my work home here with SMACNA Southern California," Hammond said.

Medel followed with excitement for a wonderful evening to come.

"Tonight is one of my favorite nights of the year," she said. "Not because of the décor, or the music, or even the tradition—although all of that is wonderful—but because tonight is about the people who stand beside us every single day. To the spouses, partners, families, and loved ones in this room—this evening is for you."

Medel shared empathy for the families and loved ones of contractor members who remain steady when early mornings, long days, weekend calls, tight deadlines, travel, and stress follow contractor members home.

"Through all of it, you are there," she said. "You listen. You encourage. You steady us when things get hectic. You celebrate the wins and help us navigate the challenges. You may not wear a hard hat. You may not step onto a jobsite. But you are absolutely part of the work that gets done."

Medel spoke about the community in SMACNA Southern California and the friendships, relationships built over the years, and shared experiences that are part of what makes the industry special.

After a spectacular dinner came dancing and a stunning set of diamond hoop earrings for all the ladies. ■



To view all the photos from the event please scan the QR code with your phone's camera.



ADVOCACY FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND IAQ LEGISLATION

SMACNA National is currently advocating for three important pieces of energy efficiency and IAQ legislation: *The American Energy Independence and Affordability Act* (H.R. 5862), *The Indoor Air Quality and Healthy Schools Act* (H.R. 5123), and *The Airborne Act* (H.R. 7460).

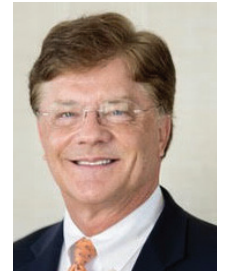
SMACNA is seeking to restore the residential and commercial energy efficiency tax incentives cut from the large tax package enacted July 4, 2025. For more than eight months, SMACNA has advocated boosting the tax incentives for homeowners and building owners to increase energy efficient retrofits and lower demand on the electric grid as well as cut overhead expenses. In SMACNA's comprehensive energy efficiency proposal to Congress and the White House, it seeks to increase public building indoor air quality (IAQ) and the operational efficiency of schools and public buildings.

H.R. 5862, The American Energy Independence and Affordability Act

H.R. 5862 would restore the key energy efficiency tax incentive provisions of the *Inflation Reduction Act* lost in the final days of negotiations during the rush to complete a budget reconciliation package by July 4. H.R. 5862 was introduced to ensure America continues supporting contractors, skilled labor, and building owners, as well as necessary infrastructure, construction, and residential efficiency markets. The economic impact of reviving and extending these impactful provisions would be immediate and positive to skilled construction employment, small businesses, and building equipment suppliers. The efficiency tax incentives would go to work quickly to stimulate efficient construction and retrofit activity across the nation, especially in the residential, industrial, and transportation sectors now seeing a lag following the early termination and restrictive changes found in the final version of H.R.1.

What the bill does:

- Extends incentives for energy efficient homes and commercial buildings, helping to boost retrofits by reducing bills through modern, efficient technologies.
- Restores the full clean electricity production and investment tax credits for wind, solar, and other zero-emission power sources to boost energy infrastructure.
- Reinstates clean-vehicle tax credits for businesses to accelerate America's transition to low-emission transportation, supporting battery and grid projects.
- Supports domestic manufacturing of clean energy components and strengthens the United States technology supply chains.
- Extends the clean hydrogen production credit, advancing next-generation clean fuel production and the industrial construction market.



By / Stan Kolbe, Executive Director of Legislative and Political Affairs, SMACNA National

“ *H.R. 5862 would deliver tangible economic and consumer relief by restoring incentives that make homes more efficient, lower energy bills, support clean and renewable power, and expand access to affordable clean business vehicles.* **”**

Businesses are already feeling the slowing investment and hiring impact from the phasing out of the residential equipment incentives at a time of higher energy costs. In addition, supply-chain shocks caused by uncertain but record tariffs on a long list of domestic and imported but essential sole sourced materials and parts is cooling construction and retrofit activity.

This legislation would deliver tangible economic and consumer relief by restoring incentives that make homes more efficient, lower energy bills, support clean and renewable power, and expand access to affordable clean business vehicles. Restoring these incentives will strengthen our energy grid by maximizing the efficient use of energy, thereby expanding energy independence, lowering utility bills, boosting domestic production. Importantly, H.R. 6258 would create thousands of highly skilled construction and maintenance jobs throughout the United States.

H.R. 5123, The Indoor Air Quality and Healthy Schools Act

H.R. 5123 is a bill to improve the indoor air of public schools throughout the United States. Co-sponsored by Representatives Paul Tonko (D-NY) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), the bill is pending in the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Poor indoor air is one of the nation's top public health challenges, especially post-COVID. SMACNA firms are leaders in designing and implementing IAQ mechanical systems in existing buildings and facilities and in new construction projects. They know that countless schools nationwide will benefit from such a valuable federal effort

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protecting the health and well-being of America's school children, teachers, and educational employees. Updating inadequate IAQ ventilation and filtration systems also limits the harmful and lethal impact of a wide variety of airborne pathogens threatening school children and those working in and entering public buildings of all kinds.

What the bill seeks to accomplish:

- Update, expand, and codify the work of EPA's Indoor Environments Division.
- Require the EPA to establish and regularly update a list of significant indoor contaminants and develop health-based, voluntary guidelines to reduce exposure risks to these contaminants.
- Direct the EPA to develop or recognize one or more voluntary certifications for buildings designed, built, operated, and maintained to prevent or minimize indoor air health risks.
- Establish a regularly updated national assessment of IAQ in schools and childcare facilities and support the development of technical assistance, guidelines, and best practices to improve the IAQ conditions of these facilities.

H.R. 7460, The Airborne Act

The Airborne Act (H.R. 7460), legislation that would incentivize non-residential building owners to conduct IAQ assessments and upgrade their ventilation and air filtration

systems. H.R. 7460, sponsored by Representative Don Beyer (D-VA), is pending in the Ways and Means Committee. SMACNA has enthusiastically endorsed this legislation and is working with House members to increase the number of cosponsors and the level of support of the important IAQ incentive initiative.

What the bill seeks to accomplish:

- Incentivize commercial building owners to conduct IAQ assessments of their properties by providing them with a \$1 per square foot tax credit, not to exceed the cost of conducting the assessment.
- Incentivize commercial building owners to upgrade their HVAC/air filter systems to reach the ASHRAE Standard 62.1-2022 and a Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV) rating of 13 or better for their properties. The tax credit for upgrades is equal to \$5 per square foot of property affected for air filters, and \$50 per square foot for HVAC systems and is limited to 50% of the total project cost.
- Create a Department of Energy & EPA voluntary certification program for property owners to certify that their properties follow the IAQ standards outlined above.

The three bills together or independently, would offer contractors, suppliers, manufacturers, and the construction industry a needed boost as jobs, economic growth, and construction all appear slowed to a threatening crawl with serious implications for all sectors of the construction market. ■

SMART Local 105 2026 Holidays

Holidays	LA/OE Commercial	Bakersfield Commercial	Orange Empire Residential	LA/OE S&M	Bakersfield S&M	LA/OE Residential	Bakersfield Residential
Good Friday Friday, April 3	✓	✓					✓
Memorial Day, Monday, May 25	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Friday Before Independence Day Friday, July 3		✓					✓
Labor Day Monday, September 7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Veteran's Day Wednesday, November 11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Thanksgiving Day Thursday, November 26	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Friday After Thanksgiving Friday, November 27	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Christmas Eve Thursday, December 24	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Christmas Day Friday, December 25	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
New Year's Day Friday, January 1, 2027	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓