

SMCSIG NEWSLETTER

JANUARY
2026



Welcome to the January newsletter. As we begin the new year, January is a time for fresh starts and renewed focus, and we look forward to continuing our work together in the months ahead.

Tom Ledda, Executive Director



Why Calling Company Nurse Matters in Workers' Compensation

SMCSIG encourages members to call Company Nurse immediately following a staff injury. Each member district is assigned a dedicated phone number for direct access to a nurse advisor. If you are unsure of your number, contact SMCSIG for assistance. Company Nurse connects injured employees and supervisors with registered nurses trained in occupational health. These nurses assess the injury in real time, provide clear guidance, and help determine whether self-care, first aid, or medical treatment is appropriate.



Benefits for the Injured Worker

Employees receive immediate professional support and reassurance during a stressful moment. Clear instructions and timely guidance help employees feel supported and confident in next steps, leading to faster and safer recovery.



WORKERS COMPENSATION

continued...

Benefits for the Employer

Districts benefit from early documentation and consistent injury reporting. Nurse triage reports capture key details at the outset, helping reduce disputes, improve claim accuracy, and prevent minor injuries from escalating into more costly claims.

Benefits for the Doctor's Office

Medical providers receive better-prepared patients and clearer injury histories, allowing for more efficient evaluations and treatment decisions.

Calling Company Nurse supports better communication, faster recovery, and improved outcomes for employees, districts, and providers alike.



Government AI Coalition

Checkout the resource template provided by the GovAi Coalition regarding the use of Ai. The Coalition is composed of government members from local, state and federal agencies united in the mission to promote responsible and purposeful Ai in the public sector. Here is a link to their website for more information.

[AI Governance Starter Guide](#)

[About the Gov AI Coalition](#)



SMCSIG Meeting Recaps

M&O Meeting

Thank you to everyone that attended the M&O meeting on 1/22. If you have any topics for the next meeting, please reach out.

Below is a link to the slides from today's meeting.

Ron Soper from SMCOE shared a water heater replacement program sponsored by PG&E.

The water heater replacement program (GK12) would potentially cover 100% of the equipment and installation costs with \$0 out of pocket costs to the districts. For more information, contact Ron Soper at SMCOE.

[Link to slides](#)



Ron Soper

(he, him)

Director, Sustainable Construction &

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rpsoper@smcoe.org



Executive Committee Meeting

[Link to meeting summary](#)
[\(SMCSIG website\)](#)





SMCSIG is hiring!


SMCSIG is currently hiring a **Property/Liability Claims Analyst I**. Check out the attached job description and help us spread the word.

Job Description




Exciting News: The New SMCSIG Website Is Coming Soon

Exciting news! The new SMCSIG website will be going live at the start of 2026. We're excited to share a refreshed, user-friendly experience with everyone and look forward to connecting with you in a new way.



San Mateo County Schools Insurance Group

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Upcoming Events

HCC Meeting

Wed, Jan 14 | Location is TBD

More info

RSVP

Executive Committee Meeting

Thu, Jan 15 | Location is TBD

More info

Learn more

M&O Meeting

Thu, Jan 22 | SMCOE

More info

Learn more

Chat with AI



OPTUM January Newsletter

Mind-Body Connection

To access this month's EAP newsletter, please go to the Optum Website ([Linked Here](#)) and use access code **SMCSIG**.

Optum is your Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provider.

Each benefit eligible employee and their family members have access to the program. EAP is available to help you help your employees and their families deal with life issues that may affect their ability to be productive in their jobs

Call toll-free: 1(866) 248-4094
Or log on to liveandworkwell.com
Access code: SMCSIG

Fitness Rewards

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Get Fit Rewards Program! The available funds have now been depleted, but we're excited to share that a new program will be launching soon—stay tuned for details!

Eligible Districts

Belmont-Redwood Shores SD
Cabrillo Unified School District
Jefferson Elementary School District
Jefferson Union High School District
Portola Valley School District
SMCSIG JPA
Bayshore Elementary School District
La Honda-Pescadero School District



Important Dates

M&O Meetings

- April 23, 2026

10:00-11:30

Location: SMCOE

101 Twin Dolphin Dr. Redwood City 94065

Executive Committee / JPA Board Meetings

- March 5, 2026
- May 21, 2026
- June 11, 2026

9:00 AM -12:00 PM

Location: ZOOM / SMCSIG
OFFICE

1791 Broadway, Redwood City
94063

