BTA’s Role in Organizing, Mobilizing and Bargaining

What Is Organizing? Organizing is people coming together to collectively create the change they want to achieve. It is people joining together to work toward common goals. In 2002, Marshall Ganz’s article in Social Policy, “What is Organizing?” described organizing this way: Organizers identify, recruit, and develop leadership, build community around leadership, and build power out of community.

BTA acts on behalf of members’ shared values and interests. We work on building relationships and gaining an understanding of our members’ needs to build capacity, and even though all members do not always agree, we recognize the power of our unity. It is our unity that fights against futility and division. Together we find out what our collective interests are and what we care about. We are not apathetic about salary and health-and-welfare benefits, learning and teaching conditions, school safety, and being respected and treated with dignity.

We have a strong base and that is certainly seen in the BTA Reps, Executive Board, and Negotiations team. As we go forward, it is our Organizing Committee who works as a team to set goals and mobilize our members when there is a need for action. Last year, we were effective in getting a 5% raise and a SPED article in our contract with enforceable language. We were able to secure a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for our nurses to receive a retention stipend because we have a hard time recruiting nurses. In another MOU we were able to donate sick days to a member before they have to go to half-days. There were other additions to contract language that benefit you, our members. Please make sure you always read News from the Table to get the latest update on current negotiations.

Knowing the state of our union empowers us. January 19, 2023 is our State of the Union all-member meeting at Huerta Middle School at 4:00 p.m. Save the date. Your reps will be asking you for an RSVP when we return in January 2023. We will go over the Governor’s Budget and talk about negotiations. This is also an opportunity for you to bring your questions or concerns to us. We will have refreshments and a few raffles to end the meeting. Two years ago, someone won a 55-inch screen TV that had been donated. This year there will be smaller but more items to raffle. Contact our office if you have any other questions.

Winter break will be here soon although it may feel like it is taking a long time. With my appreciation for your continued support, I want to wish you the happiest of holidays.

In unity,

Diana
SAVE THE DATE
STATE OF OUR UNION
ALL MEMBER MEETING
JANUARY 19, 2023
4:00pm Huerta MS

STRONGER TOGETHER
WELCOME TO BTA

Aurelie Kenfack (Disney)
Donald Pesicka (BHS)
Edgardo Geronimo (Huerta)
Ji Yoo Song (Emerson)
Joel Hernandez (Luther)
Joshua Perez (BHS)
Katrina Villareal (JBHS)
Kayla Dighero (JBHS)
Lorri Hubert (Edison)
Ryanne Meschkat (JBHS)
Shilpa Basu (Bret Harte)

BTA HAPPENINGS
Will Warren (Dolores Huerta Middle School) Wins $100 Grant to Promote Waste Reduction
The California Resource Recovery Association (CRAA) K-12 Technical Council awarded $100 mini-grants to sixteen (16) teachers in California. The CRRA K-12 Technical Council aims to minimize all forms of solid waste in K-12 Schools and provide education on how to change behavior and improve environmental literacy using best practices in waste reduction, recycling, reuse, food waste recovery and composting.

The grant will be used to create sustainability lessons and to work with the students to increase their awareness and knowledge surrounding recycling and composting and sustainability in general.

CTA CONFERENCE

By Hank Schmidt

I had the pleasure of attending the LGBTQIA+ conference in Palm Springs on .

As a second-year teacher and BTA member I was elated to have this opportunity to meet other union members who were interested in learning about a variety of topics that impact their teaching. At the first session, I learned some history on the LGBTQIA+ community in Los Angeles. I learned how my community earned and protected their rights. Although I am a dance teacher, this workshop made me see how much more I can do to include LGBTQIA+ in the study of hip hop and jazz. Both of these genres had a large impact on queer culture.

The second session I attended was for elementary school teachers. There was an emphasis on the incorporation of correct pronouns in order to create a physically safe learning environment. The presenters demonstrated lessons on how to do this, and it just amazed me how clearly, they were able to communicate the concepts to younger children. This informed my teaching by reminding me of the importance of asking and requiring correct usage of pronouns in the classroom.

The last session I attended was on how to incorporate curriculum for an LGBTQIA+ issues class in order to enrich school culture. This really excited me because I want to incorporate more history and culture into my own teaching whether it is dance or another discipline. I think it is important to take advantage of these opportunities that BTA/CTA gives members.

The CTA Good Teaching Conferences supports excellent teaching and learning practices for classroom teachers via peer-to-peer instruction. Offering a variety of diverse workshops focused on curriculum content areas for K-12 teachers, the conferences provide opportunities for professional development and offer time to network and share ideas with colleagues and experts in the field of education.

Your experience at the Good Teaching Conference is equal parts educational and transformational. You’ll learn new skills and find solutions to real-life challenges. You’ll leave the conference feeling inspired, motivated and with a knowledge of what you need to do to be even more successful on Monday morning in your classroom. Attendees will be chosen by raffle. If you are interested in attending, please email the BTA office office@burbankteachers.org by January 31st.

MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP

Are you working on getting your clear credential? Are you pursuing an advanced degree in your teaching area? Then we have a great deal for you!

Applications for BTA Member Scholarships are now being accepted. A total of eight (8) scholarships for $500 each will be awarded to members who are continuing their educational pursuits in their credential area to clear their credential, or who are pursuing an advanced
degree or credential in their area of education and are continuing in BUSD in 2023/2024. This
would not apply for any type of Administrative credential.

If you take classes June 2022 to December 2022, you can apply for one of 4 scholarships this
fall. Please return your application by January 31, 2023. You will be required to show proof of
attendance.

If you decide to take classes from January 2023 to May 2023, you can apply for one of 4
scholarships if you submit an application by June 1, 2023. You will be required to show proof of
attendance.

A drawing will be held if more than 4 (four) are applications turned in. Only one scholarship per
member per year.
Please contact the BTA office if you have any questions office@burbankteachers.org

MY RETIREMENT DECISIONS WORKSHOP

Are You Counting Down to Retirement?
Learn about your retirement decisions and more by attending the My Retirement
Decisions Workshop.

Location: Burbank Teachers Assn. Office
          3021 W. Burbank Blvd.
          Burbank CA 91505

Time: 4:00-5:30pm

Date: Monday, January 23, 2023

RSVP: office@burbankteachers.org

In this hour-and-a-half interactive workshop, you'll learn:
▶ How we calculate your CalSTRS monthly retirement benefit.
▶ The options you can choose if you want to provide a lifetime
  monthly benefit to your survivors—and how each option
  would affect your monthly benefit.
▶ Your choices for receiving the funds in your Defined Benefit
  Supplement account, if you have one.
▶ Ways to submit your Service Retirement Application.
▶ What you need to know if you return to work in the California
  public school system in retirement.

For a more personalized understanding of the information
covered, you're encouraged to bring your most recent
Retirement Progress Report, which you can print from your
myCalSTRS account. You're also encouraged to bring your
questions.

Go to myCalSTRS.com and log into your CalSTRS account to obtain a progress report or call the
contact center at (800) 228-5453 for assistance.
New To Our District?

Take advantage of your special enrollment opportunity

CTA members starting at a new school district have a special enrollment opportunity to apply for CTA-endorsed Disability and Life insurance without answering health questions within 270 days of starting work.

This enrollment opportunity offers you (effective July 1, 2022):

- CTA-endorsed Disability insurance to help protect your paycheck
- Up to $400,000 of CTA-endorsed Life insurance to help protect your loved ones
- Life insurance coverage options for your spouse/domestic partner and dependent children

Transferred districts this year? You must reapply for coverage at your new school district as coverage doesn’t automatically transfer to your new employer.

To learn more or apply, visit standard.com/cta/newhire.

1 Coverage reduces to 65% of the amount in force at age 70, 45% of the amount in force at age 75 and 30% of the amount in force at age 80. Offer not valid for retirees.

For costs and further details of the coverage, including exclusions, benefit waiting periods, any reductions or limitations and the terms under which the policy may be continued in force, please contact Standard Insurance Company at 800.522.0406.

Standard Insurance Company, 1100 SW Sixth Avenue, Portland, OR 97204

GP190-LTD/S399/CTA.1 GP190-LIFE/S399/CTA.3

Burbank Teachers Association

3021 W. Burbank Blvd, Burbank
California 91505

Unsubscribe