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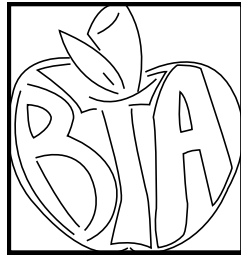
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BTA (formerly known as BEA) is

affiliated with CTA and NEA



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NO MONEY ! NO MONEY !! NO MONEY !!!

Aren't you so tired of it all?! We are all weathering this raging storm and hoping and praying for a brighter future. But until then, it is so imperative that we work together and do what we can to endure and fight the battles that we have a chance of winning. You are teachers and so I can assume your basic nature is caring for others and making a positive impact upon others' lives. And for that I am truly grateful to have spent my life career with colleagues such as yourselves.

Now, more than ever before, we need each other. As members of an organized union, we have the opportunity to be responsive to the needs of its members. BTA is what it is today because of CTA. CTA is what it is today because of NEA. NEA is what it is today, strong, organized, and powerful because of democracy.

Democracy, as difficult and exasperating as it can be, is strongly adhered to at the NEA-RA. Thank you for your vote of confidence in sending four of our members this summer to Washington, D.C., for seven days of intense discussion and debate. Our VP Colin Davis, Treasurer Linda Arndt, Organizing Committee Chair, Jackie Kimmell, and me, your president, will spend eight days of our summer representing Bellflower and California. We will participate in democracy. We will witness and take part in unionism and

solidarity. We will spend a week, getting up at the crack of dawn to meet for the 7:00 a.m. caucus, eat convention food, sit close and snugly in tight quarters, listening to so many teachers like you, that

that want our rights protected, want what's best for our students, and want people of all color, races, religions, gender and professions to be treated with respect, dignity, and equality.

It is through my experiences at the NEA-RAs that laid the ground work for my union involvement and trained me for union leadership. I was able to witness and experience democracy, witness and experience the power of union solidarity. I was also able to see how self-interests and personal vendettas can divide and breakdown solidarity and weaken the union. So it is with great anticipation that the four of us delegates you elected will fly to DC this summer with anxious anticipation for hope and renewed spirits after a tough school year of hard work and budget cuts.

At this time, I'd like to take this opportunity to remind us all our purpose as BTA members. We are an employee organization, not a religious sect or counseling service. Whatever we do or put what little energies we have remaining, after a long day of teaching, needs to be to promote solidarity, rather than undermine it. Below is a chart I came across in my training that is a good reminder of what we all need to refer to and live by as BTA members:

Promotes	Undermines
Seeks the common good	Seeks only what's good for you personally
Deal directly with fellow workers when problems arise	Goes to Management when problems arise
Supports fellow workers	"Backbiting"
Acts Collectively	Acts Individually
Concern for interests of fellow employees	Concern for the interests of management

Focus your energies, time, and commitment where you're going to get the most "bang for your buck".

Elections will be held for BTA Board of Directors. We need you "worker bees" out there that will help move our union towards effective change for BUSD. It takes many dedicated, caring teachers to provide the strong support base necessary to confront administration and the school board with the hard facts of life in BUSD.