Our Mission is Clear

TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE WELL-BEING OF ITS MEMBERS. TO IMPROVE THE CONDITIONS OF TEACHING AND LEARNING. TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF FREE, UNIVERSAL, AND QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR ALL STUDENTS. TO ENSURE THAT THE HUMAN DIGNITY AND CIVIL RIGHTS OF ALL CHILDREN, YOUTH AND ADULTS ARE PROTECTED. AND TO SECURE A MORE JUST, EQUITABLE AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY.

Outspoken and out to make a difference since 1863.

When CTA was founded in 1863, only a few hundred students attended public schools and teachers were poorly prepared and seriously underpaid. Within three years, CTA persuaded the state legislature to establish free public schools for all children.

We’ve had many victories since then—from preventing the firing of a female teacher because she was married; to sponsoring and campaigning for Proposition 98, the landmark state constitutional amendment that guarantees a certain amount of the state’s budget for K-14 schools; to advocating for and winning the establishment of the California Department of Education, community colleges, and the largest educator-only pension fund in the world.

Together, we have raised the stature and salaries of educators and expanded the opportunity for California’s students to receive a quality education. Today, we’re still going strong, because our students are counting on us.

LEARN MORE: CTA.org/History

#WeAreCTA
It’s worth it.

Thanks to CTA and your local association’s advocacy and bargaining power, your membership helps provide financial peace of mind.

From fair compensation, health care and retirement security, to exclusive member-only discounts at major retailers and on mortgages and car loans, the association offers services to help you and your family.

LEARN MORE: CTAMemberBenefits.org & CTAInvest.org

The value of membership.

Reach, teach and inspire.

You’re never on your own. Your membership gives you access to some of the most sought-after authorities who provide new and innovative programs you can use in your school or worksite. With resources that cover student behavior, child nutrition, school safety and classroom management along with many other career family specific supports, including more in-depth professional development provided by your local, state, and national affiliates—you have a team supporting you.

Make your voice heard.

As trusted education support professionals you are best equipped to inform school and worksite decisions. It’s our mission to ensure all employees have a seat at the table when policies impacting their work and the students and communities they serve are made. As members of the Association, you have a powerful voice in creating the policies that affect our students, our schools, and our classrooms.

Grow your network.

We’re a community of experienced professionals. Through a variety of online and off-line tools, you enjoy access to valuable resources on a variety of topics specific to your work. Plus, you’ll make connections with others at your school or worksite, in your state, and among our more than 3 million members.

Enjoy what matters most.

Membership means less worrying for you and more action from us. With representation at the bargaining table, liability insurance and so much more, NEA provides advice and professional advocacy on the range of issues you face: salary, working conditions, evaluation support, contract compliance and enforcement, and retirement.

Workers in a union have:

Higher Wages.
(11.2% more than what nonunion workers make);

Employer Provided Health Insurance.
(96% compared to 69%);

Access to Paid Sick Days.
(93% compared to 75%);

Retirement Benefits Through Private Employers.
(82% to 48%); and

Guaranteed Pensions Through Private Employers.
(54% to 8%).

From www.aflcio.org/foramunion/collective-voice

Mary Ambroz, Office Manager and 2022 CTA ESP of the Year

Having the opportunity to advocate for members is why being active in our union is so important. Strong unions level the playing field between management and labor. Standing with fellow members, setting goals, and achieving them reinforces our collective power.”

Stronger together.

We’re working together to provide a quality public education to every student, regardless of ZIP code.

Every student has a basic right to a great public education. That’s why our Association is about more than salary and benefits. It’s about creating schools and supporting the educators and support staff who are supporting tomorrow’s inventors, thinkers, artists and leaders.

There’s always a fellow member not far away who is willing to give a helping hand, some sage advice, or a shoulder when you need it. CTA offers a number of conferences and workshops that will keep you at the top of your game.

CHECK IT OUT: CTA.org/Events

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