SUMMER HAPPENINGS AND LUNAFEST SCHOLARSHIPS

By: MAYOR MADISON DAVIS, City of Brisbane, madison@briscane.ca.us, 415-706-5276

As summer approaches we have so many exciting events to look forward to. Our annual Concerts in the Park series will kick-off on Friday June 28th and continue on Fridays until August 9th. Concerts begin at 6PM and are a fantastic opportunity to enjoy live music, catch up with neighbors, and enjoy tasty hot-dogs BBQ’ed by the Brisbane Lions Club. To end the summer music season, Brisbane will host its third-annual Star City Music Festival on August 17th. This all day music festival features bands such as The Stone Foxes, Dead Winter Carpenters, Diggin Dirt, Eric McFadden, and the Star City All Stars. Please note, tickets are required for this event and available at an early bird discounted rate of $20 (kids under 10 are free). Tickets may be purchased at www.starycityfest.com. This year we can expect a variety of food and beverage offerings available for purchase.

If our recent heat wave is any indication of what we can expect this summer, you’ll want to visit the Brisbane Community Pool. Summer hours will begin on Saturday June 22nd with plenty of opportunities for recreational swim. In fact, our pool offers more rec swim opportunities than any other pool in the area. However, be advised that on hot days the pool may reach capacity and not all wishing to swim may be able to do so.

San Bruno Mountain Watch, Recology, South San Francisco Scavenger, and the City of Brisbane will partner on our upcoming summer Volunteer Habitat Restoration Day on June 29th from 9:30am-12:30pm. The group will meet at 149 Bayshore Drive.

Our guest speaker, Professor Juan Gonzales, was well received at the Annual Awards Reception. Professor Gonzales spoke about the importance of communication, writing, and journalism. He has served as the Journalism Department Chair for San Francisco City College since 1985. In 1970 he founded the bilingual newspaper El Tocotote in San Francisco’s Mission District. In 2000 he was honored by the attendees at the Excellence in Education reception. The Chairman’s Circle is a special group of members that have committed $25,000 in recognition of their support of the Brisbane Chamber of Commerce. The Chairman’s Circle is a special group of members that have committed $25,000 in recognition of their support of the Brisbane Chamber of Commerce.
The works on Lunch Crews, volunteers her free what individual people need. She is community supposed to be going on. She's cooperative and has a great sense of humor; it has that her, which is so rare in a classroom, and in life!

"favorite" subject. Beyond academics are her continually pushing herself to grow, especially to writing techniques. She is the embodiment of Excellence in Education, continued from page 1

Lafi has an entertainer's personality with the people skills truly shined this past year maintaining and educational rallies about events such as Holi, pep rallies with themes of inclusiveness, diversity, a voice for students. Lafi designed and led multiple meetings she provides an in-depth and thoughtful tasks for student council. At school site council is responsible, organized, and eager to learn and collaborates well with her classmates. She

An Overview of the 2019 Scholarship Recognition Award: This year, the Brisbane Chamber raised over $12,000 in donations. These grants were made available to student applicants who either live in Brisbane, or whose parents work for a company affiliated with the Brisbane Chamber of Commerce. The chamber thanks those businesses who co-sponsored the event.

The Brisbane Chamber of Commerce is to create an atmosphere of "mischievous" that everyone around her enjoys. She is keenly aware of everything and everyone around her. She'll sometimes be the one who reminds even the adults what's supposed to be going on. She's cooperative and productive even when working with ANY partner or group. Jayda has a unique way of recognizing what individual people need. She is community oriented right to help and give of herself. She works on Lunch Crews, volunteers her free

time to help teachers and staff, hikes with the Mountaineer Club, worked as a Family Math Night leader, and after asking to do so, was chosen to Emcee our school's Talent Show! Jayda leads by example, and with a kind and attentive heart. And she has a bright future ahead of her!

Panorama Elementary School's 5th grade student of the year, Rylan-Christian Pon, is a confident and intrinsic goalie. He is an excellent mathematician, a fun person to recommend good books to a dancer, performs at a responsible big brother and an all-around excellent young man. Rylan dances in the Spindrift Dance Company, Rylan had the courage to dismiss other's perceptions and judgement to follow his heart. The top four levels of dancers in the company for the last year Rylan decided he wanted to move up a level. So, he looked up the benchmarks for the next level and worked on his skills; his hard work paid off and he is now at that new level! Way to go, Rylan!!

Rylan is one of those people you can ask to do a job and have the utmost confidence he will take it seriously, be responsible and get the job done in the most time efficient, organized way! The characteristics he holds are invaluable and will take him wherever he wants to go in life. He has the neatest handwriting I have EVER seen by a student! His printing is so neat, his classmates ask him to make handwritten signs to keep track of lunch time jobs and of who gets to sit on the rug each day! I have called it Rylan's "printing" business like in the old days when people actually printed with their hands! Congratulations Rylan-Christian Pon.

Lipman Middle School Award: Two Lipman Middle School Students were selected and recognized as the outstanding 8th grade students in the school.

Outstanding 8th grade student at Lipman Alyssa Boucher. Alyssa is an incredibly strong leader, kind, thoughtful, resourceful, and driven student. She strives to do her personal best both academically and as a contributing member to her school community. She brought down the house at the Showcase of Learning when reading aloud her memoir about losing her best friend, Roscoe, her dog...literally, everyone was in tears. She served as the Athletics Officer for Lipman's Student Council stepping out of the box by adding new events like tennis and jump rope competitions in addition to hosting volleyball and basketball tournaments. Alyssa's work ethics have helped to create an inclusive and warm environment at Lipman Middle School.

She always goes beyond her personal best, a top seller for Lipman's See's Candy Fundraiser, participating in Lap-a-thons, and has joined numerous after school clubs at Club Lipman such as leadership and cooking. Alyssa performed for SFArtsED Players production of Building Broadway displaying her passion and love for performing. Next year, she will be attending Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory. We wish her the best of luck as she starts this next chapter in life. Congratulations, Alyssa.

Honored as Outstanding 8th grade award recipient Lafi Falafelse Ma'u is a motivated, hard worker, and devoted student. She perseveres in problem solving tasks, going above and beyond, and collaborates well with her classmates. She is responsible, organized, and eager to learn and succeed. As student council Vice President, Lafi multitasked with ease when doing schoolwork and tasks for student council. At school site council meetings she provided an in-depth and thoughtful voice for students. Lafi designed and led multiple pep rallies with themes of inclusiveness, diversity, and educational rallies about events such as Holi, a festival of colors. Lafi's organizational skills and people skills truly shine when she volunteering in the Warrior Shack schedule throughout the year. Lafi has an entertainer's personality with the ability to stop and make people listen with one show, while singing a beautiful acapella duet with her little sister, or singing solos for SFArtsED Players musicals, Lafi can steal the show with her powerful and soulful voice. This year at Lipman, Lafi has held lead roles in the school play, Performing comes naturally to her, and she is truly incredible to watch. In the fall, she will be attending Jefferson High School. We wish you all the best on your future endeavors. Congratulations, Lafi!

This year, the Outstanding Educator Award for the Brisbane School District was presented to Linda Long, a 3rd grade teacher at Panorama Elementary School. Linda promotes a growth mindset in her own learning and reassures her own students that they can learn anything they set their sights to. She cares deeply for the learning of her students Linda clearly uses best teaching practices to bring relevant and rigorous learning to her students. Linda thinks outside the box to support her students’ needs and truly wants to support all learners. She teaches with a “whole child” approach, often concerned about balancing the academic and social emotional needs of each of her students. With her true love of teaching mathematics to students and supporting her colleagues, when she was asked to work with the 4th grade, teacher, Linda, and assist with teaching 4th grade math, Linda said yes and worked the extra hours to plan for and teach 4th grade math. Linda Long is an exceptional team player and teacher who has earned the respect of the children, her colleagues, and the parent community in her years in service within the Brisbane School District.

High School Scholarship Recognition Awards: The evening continued with the recognition of 10 outstanding students who were selected as recipients of a Brisbane Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Recognition Award. This award program, now in its 23rd year, is made possible through the generosity and support of our local businesses and residents.

This year, the Brisbane Chamber raised over $12,000 in donations. These grants were made available to student applicants who either live in Brisbane, or whose parents work for a company affiliated with the Brisbane Chamber of Commerce. The chamber thanks all who made the contributions that make it possible to encourage these outstanding scholars to move forward with their educational goals and to help make their passions a reality. Over the 24-year history of the program, the chamber has granted 234 awards to local scholars totaling more than $285,000.

An Overview of the 2019 Scholarship Recognition Award Recipients: These scholars come from diverse high schools and exhibit varied interests and plans for the future. Here is a brief snapshot of each award recipient.

India Rose Carter-Bolick, a resident of Brisbane, attends Crystal Springs Uplands School in Hillsborough. She has compiled a 3.58 GPA and is the President of her school’s Diversity Committee and Zumba Club. She’s the lead singer in a rock band and loves to travel and learn about other cultures. During her travels she’s had the opportunity to teach children English which she has found to be one of the most impactful and rewarding experiences of her life. While she is still determining what she wants to professionally, she is interested in helping people with mental health struggles and is also passionate about social justice issues. We know that whatever she decides, she will excel. In the fall, India Rose will attend Bennington College in Vermont.

Our second awardee, Christine Co, is also a Brisbane resident. She attends Summit Shasta High School and has amassed an impressive 4.27 GPA.
Tokyo and study comparative culture with the hopes of pursuing a career in the entertainment not only for herself but for others. We were surprised by Claire's motivation to pay for college entirely on her own.

We remarked that she may be one of the few if not the only student, ever mentioned an intense pressure to conform to particular cultural norms that and as a member of the girl group, Wi-Fi 5 which performs across Asia.

Lentz Psychiatry, specializing in Art or Art Therapy. Eventually she hopes to receive a masters or PhD in Psychology or Ethnic Studies in the hopes of later attending Med School in Hawaii and becoming a pediatrician.

Claire is an accomplished artist and has submitted her watercolor paintings to a variety of competitions. She has been recognized for her submission to the Junior Duck Stamp Collection and was commissioned by SamTrans to design their Amber Alert logo. Through this program, Lucie participated in a variety of STEM related events which furthered her interest in science. From a young age Lucie knew she wanted to focus on cancer whether that be as a researcher or an oncologist. She has interned with a lab at USF studying nuclear hormone receptors and their role in the initiation of breast and prostate cancer. She plans to attend the University of Washington in the fall and major in biology and then potentially attend medical school Afterwards.

Jessica Dalmacio, a Brisbane resident, attends Terra Nova High School and has a GPA of 4.02. She described herself in her application as a "well-rounded individual" and upon meeting her we definitely know that to be true. I'm not quite sure where she finds the time but she manages to balance schoolwork with a variety of activities including; team captain of the varsity Badminton team, President of the Asian club, Taliban dance, and a student peer leader at Terra Nova. We were impressed by the breadth of her volunteer work which is rare in someone her age. She was appointed the Jefferson County Student Advisor, volunteer, and as a Pre-med student in their Honors program, double majoring in Psychology and Ethnic Studies in the hopes of later attending Med School in Hawaii and becoming a pediatrician.

Katelyn Flanagan, a San Francisco resident, attends the Urban School and has a GPA of 3.87. She is heavily involved in Girl Scouts and is the only Ambassador Scout in her troop. She leads the Junior meetings and serves as an example and mentor for younger scouts hoping to ignite within them a passion for social activism. She connects with her Asian heritage through her volunteer work with Japantown Youth Leaders and through her participation in the Urban School Multi-Ethnic Student Hertage Club, Multi-Culti Leadership Council, Students of Color Club, and Asian Pacific Islander Club. She plans to attend Tulane University in New Orleans and study neuroscience and visual art. Eventually she hopes to receive a masters or PhD in Psychology or Psychiatry, specializing in Art or Art Therapy.

Living in Japan and working in the entertainment industry, Claire Lentz is a longtime Brisbane resident. A student of Ocean Grove Charter School, Claire has a GPA of 3.95. We were incredibly impressed by Claire's performing history which includes a main role in a major Japanese movie and as a member of the girl group, Wi-Fi 5 which performs across Asia. Intrigued by her experiences, we asked Claire about adjusting to a new culture, a question thatocco has been asked by many and whom she spoke up about injustices she has faced as a woman and foreigner in Japan. Specifically, she mentioned an intense pressure to conform to particular cultural norms that she felt were antiquated like the inability for her to braid any male co- stars. Claire hopes to develop a strong enough voice and influence to impact change in the entertainment not only for herself but for others. We were also surprised by Claire's motivation to pay for college entirely on her own. We remarked that she may be one of the few if not the only student, ever interviewed with the intention of repaying her parents for any money they spend on her college education. Claire plans to attend Sophia University in Tokyo and study comparative culture with the hopes of pursuing a career in investigative journalism, family therapy, or law.

Cole Sisser, a resident of South San Francisco, also has a passion or performing, specifically in musical theater. He attended San Francisco's School of the Arts and graduated last year with a 3.4 GPA. With sights set on attending UCLA he took a gap year to perfect his acting skills in preparation to audition this year. We were blown away by his maturity and perseverance. Cole knows what he wants and never gives up despite the obstacles in his way. We came across many examples of Cole's tenacity both in his application and interview which makes it easy to understand why he received the Rita Moreno Award for Actor of the Year. We appreciated his straightforward responses to our questions and his ability to speak with confidence. As expected all of Cole's hardwork has paid off. In the fall he will attend UCLA majoring in musical theater and hopes to pursue a career in Hollywood or on Broadway.

Rita Sorrentino, a Brisbane resident, attends Inmaculate Conception Academy and has a GPA of 3.34. She plays varsity soccer, is a member of Riordan's Color Guard, and volunteers with Brisbane Dance Workshop. Through ICA's work-study program, Rita has gained professional experience working for the SPCA, Noe Valley Merchants Association, and the Gap. Rita was accepted into a coveted Certified Nursing Assistant program at her school which gave her the opportunity to receive training at USF to prepare her for her current position at the San Francisco Campus for Jewish Living where she assists elderly rehabilitation patients. Rita plans to continue with her nursing studies at San Francisco State University in the fall.

A Brisbane resident who attends the Bay School Anna Tingin has a GPA of 3.96. Anna has a love for soccer that runs deep. A member of a club team and her school's team, Anna played forward until an injury prevented her from playing this year. She didn't let this stop her from being an active member of her team and attended every practice and every game, cheering on her teammates from the sidelines. Anna also plays varsity basketball and is the leader of the Uproar Club, a people of color affinity group. In addition to her extracurricular interests, Anna has a passion for science. She worked to design and teach STEM classes for STEM you can, a science club at Lipman, and has interned with UCSF's Neuroscience program. After a member of her family developed a neurodegenerative illness, Anna was inspired to learn more about the brain and neurodegenerative diseases. She plans to major in Neuroscience at UCLA and then pursue a master's and Ph.D., focusing on neurodegenerative disease research.

Zachary Ynunza, a Brisbane resident and student at Lick-Wilmerding. Zachary has a GPA of 3.38, plays Varsity Lacrosse, is a member of his school's Jazz Band, and is the leader of his school's Cubing Club which focuses on Rubik's Cubes. In his essay, Zachary spoke about his experiences as a volunteer with Breakthrough San Francisco where he helps kids in summer school. Through this experience he learned how to motivate students through encouragement, compliments, and a positive attitude. Now, he uses that same approach in his classes with his peers. He goes the extra mile to acknowledge others for their hard work and plays a large role in developing a positive atmosphere in class. He plans to attend Gonzaga University and study Business.

THANK YOU

Madison Davis, Chamber President and CEO ended the evening saying “I would like to congratulate all of these fine students and their families for guiding them to educational excellence and thank both the Brisbane School District and the corporate and individual donors whose generosity allow these grants to be awarded each year, including our event sponsor Golden State Lumber. I would like to acknowledge and thank General Manager J.D. Smith and his staff here at the DoubleTree for their room preparation and the wonderful catering.”


The Chamber wishes to say “Thank You” to the following people and organizations who helped to make this year’s event a special one for everyone involved: Golden State Lumber Company and Tamara Palmer-Heath, as the sponsor of this event and their involvement in the Brisbane Chamber and the community! Board member and General Manager J.D. Smith, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel and WhiteCaps dining for their “over and above” service for the catering and set up for the event. The “Presenters” whose involvement in the production and presentation of the student and teacher commendation certificates ensured that the 2019 Awards event was one that the recipients will always remember: Elmer Martinez – representing the Office of State School Board; Jerry Hill – through his efforts to support the Chamber; Kevin Mullin; President/CEO Madison Davis – representing the Chamber of Commerce; City Councilmember Clarke Conway – representing the City of Brisbane; and Juan Gonzales guest speaker for the event.

The Scholarship Recognition Award Committee for their countless hours in interviews and helping the recipients of the 2019 awards: Freddy Beamian – US Bank; Rich Borghello, Recology, Inc.; Teresa Montgomery – South San Francisco Scavengers; Tamara Palmer-Heath – Golden State Lumber, Inc. and Jennifer Wilder-Smith – BiBiTe Foodservice Distributors. Without these volunteers the interview process could not happen.
PRIVATE PROPERTY

BY: CURTIS ROE, Director of Finance, Purcell Murray Company, croe@purcellmurray.com

So you went to school. Maybe you went on to college or trade school. Maybe you have just worked on through. Years passed by and challenges came from everywhere. Some how, you were able to save up some money and buy some things for yourself. If you were lucky enough, you acquired some private property. You earned a legal designation separate from the public. Ownership was achieved. You gained the right and control of your new asset.

The process of owning private property can be complex. Ownership of a car is very different from ownership of land for example. Ultimately, we are talking about an agreement. We agree that we are all part of our government and that rules and laws dictate many aspects of our lives. Our government was created by the people and the government was given power. Other governments rule and instead, the government gives or controls the powers that the people have. These are two very different concepts in government. The exciting aspect of our government is that we can change it. As long as we have the incentive of owning private property combined with the ability to pursue it, our agreement should be safe.

We have the choice whether to plant on our property or how we should maintain it. We are encouraged to dream of the possibilities of what we can do with our property and to enjoy the benefits that come from it. There is no limit to the benefits we can enjoy beyond those that the free market sets. It is a natural order that will dictate the success or failure of our efforts. For example, if we open a lemonade store next to another and our service is not better, we probably won't succeed.

We do need our government to protect us however. We don't want to pay for services that are fraudulently presented. With laws, we have recourse and further comfort in trusting our fellow citizen. But how much influence should the government have? They can levy taxes on our property, and they do. They can dictate what we can not do as well. What about when they demand that you do other things? Is it fair to demand that if someone wants to take a chance to buy some property and to build on it, that they also should the government have? They can levy taxes on our property, and they do. They can dictate what we can not do as well. What about when they demand that you do other things? Is it fair to demand that if someone wants to take a chance to buy some property and to build on it, that they also provide a percentage of the benefit for someone else? Where do the lines of governmental control lie?

Private property is a key part of a capitalistic society. Capitalism is what our country was built upon. Our democratic government has supported our success. Socialism on the other hand is based on public ownership. I for one do not want the public owning my property. If we create too many controls we probably won't succeed.

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SINGLE USE!?! By: FREDDY BEAMAN, Brisbane Chamber Board Member, VP/Treasury Sales
Officer – Bay Area, US Bank, frederick.beaman@usbank.com 415-727-7273

Brisbane Chamber of Commerce       June 2019               Luminary  /

Mayo’s Message, continued from page 1

Trinity Road and take a short hike up the Mountain to remove invasive plants from the Ridge of Buckeye Canyon. All are invited to participate and refreshments and tools will be provided.

Recently the Brisbane Police Department has encountered a few robbery incidents at the Ridge along with various cars and building being tagged throughout central Brisbane. Thankfully the Brisbane Police Department was able to apprehend those responsible. Footage provided by residents greatly aided the Police Department in their ability to identify these individuals. The Brisbane Police Department is asking residents who have security cameras if they are willing to register so that in the event of a crime occurring in the vicinity of your camera, the police will know to contact you to request your footage. Registration is free and voluntary, simply fill out the form on brs.crimereporting.com.

Universal Paragon Corporation will begin its series of workshops designed to gather community input for the Baylands specific plan, on June 30th at the Mission Blue Center from 1pm-5pm. Lunch will be provided. Your voice is imperative in ensuring the Baylands reflects the values and vision of our residents.

On June 4th I had the pleasure of partaking in the Brisbane Lions Club’s scholarship ceremony and celebrated 11 young ladies who received LUNAFEST scholarship money. As a refresher, the City of Brisbane and the Brisbane Lions Club hosted our first ever LUNAFEST in March, a film festival created by Clif Bar, featuring films for, about, and by women. From that event we raised over $32,000 from ticket sales, concessions, and generous sponsors, which we were able to distribute to scholars a few weeks ago though the Lions Club. These ladies are pursuing degrees in Architecture, Animation, Speech Language & Hearing Sciences, Kinesiology, Biology, Civil Engineering, Chemistry, and Pre-Med studies. I cannot be more proud of them. That same week, Mayor Pro Team Terry O’Connell and I were invited to Clif Bar’s headquarters to review and judge the films in the running for next year, which are geared toward stories that portray issues and topics of particular relevance to women today. They completely blew us away.

Last but not least, here’s my Brisbane Fun Fact of the month: Last year, which are geared toward stories that portray issues and topics of particular relevance to women today. They completely blew us away.

THANK YOU FOR READING.
The City of Brisbane is a vibrant city with clubs, businesses, restaurants, and civic activities that enhance the community’s quality of life through service, education, leadership, and economic growth. Submit your event in the Community Calendar, e-mail alison@brisbanechamber.org.

**Date** | **Time** | **Description**
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7/13 | 3-5pm | Farmers Market
7/14 | 1pm | Planning Commission
7/16 | 9am | San Mateo County Board of Supervisors
7/17 | 3-6am | Commercial Street Sweeping
7/19 | 3pm | Farmers Market
7/20 | 5-7pm | Chamber Afterhours Networking
7/25 | 3-5pm | Farmers Market
7/26 | 5-7pm | Chamber Afterhours Networking

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**The Bench**
BY: DOLORES GOMEZ, Brisbane historian, brisdisc@netscape.net

The bench was high up in the yard at 406 Humboldt Road, in the front of our hillside house. It felt like a throne where I could sit and enjoy the experience a panorama of life all around me. It was an escape. At night the East Bay was illuminated by a sparkling glow of lights that created a shimmer on the water of San Francisco Bay. My eyes were glued to the bright sunlight ricocheting off of the windows, on its way to Los Angeles. I always wished I was aboard, chatting with fellow travelers. Looking into town, I could see a grocery truck on its way bringing groceries to homes for family dinners. I watched our tiny Brisbane Orange Bus as it wound around narrow roads, picking up passengers to go to Bayshore. The bench always allowed me to relax, sit and enjoy the unique and curious thoughts of a thirteen year old who loved sitting on the bench.

One warm evening, my sister and I were tired after a hard and demanding hike back up to our house. This July night was balmy and still. I could hear the beautiful snake-like Orange Streamliner train at six o’clock, bright sun ricocheting off of the windows, on its way to Los Angeles. I was always able to see ships, lights on, berthed at Hunters Point, the gleam of car headlights in San Francisco, around town, I could see a grocery truck on its way bringing groceries to homes for family dinners. I watched our tiny Brisbane Orange Bus as it wound around narrow roads, picking up passengers to go to Bayshore. The bench always allowed me to relax, sit and enjoy the unique and curious thoughts of a thirteen year old who loved sitting on the bench.

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Let me begin with a disclaimer. I’ve been a member of a teacher union for over 30 years. So, in many ways, my perspective is biased.

My first experience with a union occurred when I was in college in New Jersey. I had taken a job as a warehouseman for the summer. All warehouse workers had to be members of the local union. During that time someone had gotten injured on the job. When I went to my manager to ask him to do something about the dangerous conditions that existed there, his response was, “Tell it to your union rep. He is responsible for safety.” I got the message. The only way to make our working conditions better was through the union and collective action.

When we think of the teachers union, our first thought is probably of our local union, the Brisbane Elementary Teachers Association (BETA). Many people think that the function of this organization is simply to increase the teachers salaries and increase the teacher benefits. While this is an important part of what they do, it is also important to remember that teacher working conditions are the same as student learning conditions. Much of their effort has been about ensuring safe and effective learning environments.

Looking at the larger picture, BETA is also a local affiliate of the California Teachers Association (CTA). When CTA was first formed, Abraham Lincoln was president of the United States. Since that time, CTA has been instrumental in helping to establish much of what we take for granted in public education today. For example, in 1866 – CTA’s first legislative achievement established free public schools for all children in California—including schools that educate nonwhite students. 1915 – CTA led efforts to outlaw child labor and enact other legal protections for children. 1927 – CTA won a truly radical victory when the State Supreme Court ruled that a school board could not fire a female teacher simply because she had the nerve to actually get married. 1946 – CTA sponsors Proposition 3, which guaranteed schools $120 per student in ADA from the state and a minimum teacher salary of $2,400. 1988 – CTA drafts and wins passage of Proposition 98, which guarantees a minimum portion of state money to fund K-14 education.

During the 1940’s CTA was one of the few organizations that stood up and had the guts to protest against the internment of Japanese Americans at the beginning of World War II. In the 1960’s it was CTA that established schools for children of migrant workers and in 1967 led the authorization of bilingual instruction classes for students still learning to speak English. In the 1970’s CTA led the fight against Proposition 6, the Briggs Initiative, which would have banned gays, lesbians, or their supporters from working in public schools. In 1994 CTA opposed Proposition 187, a ballot initiative designed to deny undocumented immigrants social services, health care, and public education. It would have put hundreds of thousands of our students on the streets. Today CTA members can rely on CTA for legal advice, training and for working with our state legislature to protect free, quality public education.

Through CTA, BETA members are also members of the National Education Association (NEA). NEA has an incredible civil rights record of its own. It was during the 1960’s that NEA merged with American Teachers Association (ATA), the organization representing nearly all black teachers in the south, to form a fully integrated association. Both NEA and ATA had financially supported the Supreme Court case, “Brown v. Board of Education” which led to the desegregation of US schools.

Today, BETA members can look to the NEA for training, insurance, discounts, and working with our legislators at the national level to ensure the survival of free, quality public education.

Having spent time as a member of the California State Board of Education, I have firsthand knowledge of how much of our education policy originates in Sacramento and in Washington, DC. BETA members can choose to represent our teachers and our students at the state level and at the national level by joining colleagues from around the state and around the nation in policy making.

When I was starting out as a new teacher, I didn’t realize that I was an education policy decision maker. As parents and administrators we owe it to our children to share our input with teachers and their union.

“Let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children.” — Sitting Bull
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