

Fact Sheet

HISTORY: The California Teachers Association was founded in 1863 by John Swett, the state's fourth superintendent of public instruction. His call for a "teachers' institute" led to the California Educational Society, which became the California Teachers Association in 1875.

MISSION STATEMENT: "The California Teachers Association exists 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; to ensure that the human dignity and civil rights of all children and youth are protected; and to secure a more just, equitable, and democratic society."

MEMBERSHIP: CTA is California's largest professional employee organization, representing more than 335,000 public school teachers, counselors, psychologists, librarians and other non-supervisory, certificated personnel. It is affiliated with the 2.8 million-member National Education Association.

AFFILIATES: More than 1,100 chapters or local teachers associations are chartered as CTA affiliates. Two unique CTA chapters are "statewide" affiliates: The California Faculty Association is the bargaining agent for professors in the California State University system, and the Community College Association represents members in 42 bargaining chapters who work in 72 community college districts.

GOVERNANCE: CTA's top policy-making body is the State Council of Education. The council's nearly 800 delegates meet four times a year in Los Angeles. These delegates elect the three state-level CTA officers and the CTA Board of Directors.

PRESIDENT: Barbara E. Kerr is a passionate elementary school teacher from Riverside, where she began teaching in 1969. An expert on school finance issues, she worked to defeat two voucher initiatives in California, successfully defended smaller class sizes, and helped elect hundreds of school board members and lawmakers who support public education.

VICE PRESIDENT: David A. Sanchez is an elementary school teacher in Santa Maria, Santa Barbara County, where his teaching career began in 1980. Sanchez, who is bilingual, is devoted to helping our schools of greatest need. In Spanish media interviews, he stresses CTA's ongoing fight for these schools, where language barriers, poverty and inadequate resources can deny kids a fair chance to succeed.

SECRETARY-TREASURER: Dean E. Vogel has more than 30 years of public school service as a teacher and counselor. He is a counselor in Vacaville, Solano County, but has taught all elementary grades, including kindergarten. A former local teacher of the year, he also taught extended education courses at three California State University campuses.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Carolyn Doggett heads CTA's staff. Before taking that post in 1995, she was the deputy executive director of CTA. She taught in public schools for many years, first in California and then 12 years in Alaska, where she was twice president of NEA-Alaska.

PROGRAMS AND STAFF: Headquartered in Burlingame in San Mateo County, CTA employs a statewide staff of some 500 people spread out in dozens of offices across California. Its Governmental Relations Division is based in Sacramento. Supported by CTA's legal, field, negotiations, communications and other staff, CTA members continue to have a powerful voice in today's public education issues. Members continue to shape state policies on testing, school funding, class size and other critical matters. Annual CTA conferences cover good teaching methods, human rights, and urban and rural school issues.