

# Council Decides



A Report of CTA's State Council of Education

## Top 10 Moments at [January 2018 CTA State Council](#)

*Thanks to those who posted and tweeted for helping us show these highlights.*

### 1. Heins Reminds Us that Women Are the Heart of the Labor Movement

Referencing the #MeToo movement, President Heins in his [speech](#) to Council made clear that CTA supports women and others who are breaking a culture of silence in the face of harassment and assault. He paid tribute to “the dynamic women who largely make up this profession and this union,” and said CTA “is better and stronger because of you.”

### 2. Heartfelt Thurmond Speech Helps Launch Campaign 2018

Bay Area Assembly member and the educators’ choice for superintendent of public instruction (SPI), [Tony Thurmond](#), spoke out on key education issues, like White House threats of vouchers (“Not on my watch!”), the teacher shortage, and how public education is the great equalizer that helped save his life. Watch video clips of Thurmond’s remarks about [fighting school privatization](#), closing the [achievement gap and teacher shortage](#), and a teacher who made a [big impact in his life](#).

### 3. Campaign Materials are Ready for Prime Time

Campaign season is here, and so is the dynamic [CTA Campaign 2018 website](#), with its [useful political toolkit](#) of resources (fact sheets, [voter guide](#), [graphics and posters](#), [videos](#) and social media tips) to elect Thurmond as Superintendent of Public Instruction, Lt. Gov. [Gavin Newsom](#) as governor, and [other pro-student candidates](#) throughout the state.

### 4. Women Shall Overcome (March!)

CTA had a vocal and unified [presence](#) at #WomensMarchLA, marching as educators and union members from the hotel to Grand Park by City Hall. Delegates joined millions of others — in L.A. and across the country and world — advocating for women’s and human rights in a time they are imperiled. [See the photos.](#) [Download the posters.](#)

### 5. Sunday Morning Joe

The rejection of objective truth by those attacking mainstream journalism and science is eroding our institutions, Executive Director Joe Nuñez warned. “How will our union continue to grow or continue to be the voice of students and educators in California in this world of separate realities? I think we do it by sticking to our core values, and by organizing our chapters, engaging our communities on the educational issues that matter, and building on political successes like Props. 30 and 55, which generate billions for our schools.” Read his full remarks [here](#).

## 6. MLK Reception Gets Lit!

CTA's African American Caucus held its annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., celebration with a program featuring stirring spoken word [performances](#) by LAUSD youth of [Get Lit](#). The young women of [Victory Praise Dancers](#) also entertained with their spirited, evocative dance moves.

## 7. California Reads Celebrates with New Book Recommendations

As every educator knows, reading is the key to student success. CTA's [California Reads](#) kicked off its annual list of teacher-recommended books for all grade levels at Council, with author Laurin Mayeno on hand to sign her book *One of a Kind, Like Me*. [See this year's book recommendations.](#)

## 8. Numbers and Nostalgia – the Annual Report Has It All

It was a fiscal year to remember. To revisit our union accomplishments, see the highlights in this CTA 2016-2017 [Year in Review](#) distributed at Council. Also, the [Annual Report](#) is CTA by the numbers for that year (for example, \$393,100 in scholarships and grants awarded to CTA members and their dependents; \$608,326 in project grants awarded to members through the CTA Institute For Teaching (IFT), etc.).

## 9. Get Engaged with Membership Engagement

Executive Director Joe Nuñez [spoke](#) to Council about CTA's initiatives to recruit and engage our membership now and after the U.S. Supreme Court's [Janus v. AFSCME](#) decision. As well as focused trainings and new [toolkits](#), CTA has held membership engagement workshops at regional and local conferences, and worked with chapters to develop membership engagement plans.

## 10. Delegates Thank CTA for Wildfire Disaster Relief Grants

Hueneme Education Association (Ventura County) President Rosa Granado said the quick [CTA Disaster Relief Fund](#) grants helped her members who lost their homes – and others who were temporarily displaced – in the massive December [Thomas Fire](#), the largest in the state's recent history. Since September, the CTA Disaster Relief Fund provided 245 grants to CTA members for a total of \$436,000. Read [here](#) how North Bay educators helped their communities heal from October wildfires that killed 44 people.

### California Teachers Association

The preeminent voice for educators and students in California's public schools and colleges.

Learn more at [www.cta.org](http://www.cta.org).

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