

Hello Members

I wanted to introduce myself to those who don't already know me. My name is Trina Brown, I am a speech language pathologist housed at Sundance Elementary and I have been with Beaumont Unified for six years. I am also a Cherry Valley native and grew up very close to where the new high school is located. I'm a 1988 graduate of Beaumont High School and am now a colleague of some of my former teachers and high school friends. I am married and have two children, a six-year old boy and a 3 year- old girl who are fun and wonderful and bring me great joy. And just so you know I'm qualified to represent you, I attended UC Riverside for my Bachelor's degree in Psychology and the University of Redlands for my Master's degree in Communication Disorders. My specialty is communication and it is my hope and my intention to use those skills effectively to bind our Union together and keep us strong. My self-imposed charge for this position is to be a strong and effective leader that represents our membership well and allows our voice as a Union to be heard.

I am looking forward to getting out and meeting each and every one of you. I believe the best way to keep our Union strong is through 1:1 contact with our members and organizing around principles. With 382 members, each one of you has something unique to offer and I would like to know what that is. By truly knowing the strengths of each one of our members, we can organize a strong Union that operates like a heartbeat, in sync and on time and just what we need to survive.

As you know, the Beaumont Teacher's Association Executive Board has gone through a period of transition these last few months. I would like to thank the past officers for their contributions to our organization and hope that we can continue to utilize their unique talents in one way or another as part of our BTA Team. We have reorganized and regrouped and have already hit the ground running. I think we have an effective group of leaders on our Executive Board who really have the best interest of our members in mind. We will work diligently together as a team to represent our membership effectively. Our Executive Board has representation from all levels:

1 st Vice President	Adam May	Math teacher at Beaumont High School
2 nd Vice President	Jennifer Wohlmuth	PE teacher at San Gorgonio Middle School
Secretary	Macy Swope	1 st grade teacher at Sundance Elementary
Treasurer	Ian Young	Math teacher at San Gorgonio Middle School

I would like to take this opportunity to give kudos to this great team who has already done some remarkable things:

Ian Young has already met with CTA re: Treasurer organization on two or three occasions to get our books in order and hold us accountable for all spending. He has done a great job at mastering Quick Books, creating a line-by-line budget report so we can see where BTA's money is going every month, and is taking his job very seriously and doing it very well. Thank you Ian, I have great confidence in you.

Macy Swope provides excellent insight and communicates it well to Cabinet as to how the many changes implemented this year have affected working conditions. I thank her for her willingness to run for the office and for her insight and willingness to share her personal experience with Cabinet. She also attends Tuesday night Board meetings on her own accord and this has been a great psychological support for me.

Jennifer Wohlmuth, aka Coach Wohlmuth. She stuck with us through our transition this year, organizing elections, fielding questions, and hanging in there when times got tough. Jennifer has been a member of the Executive Board for a number of years and her experience is appreciated and invaluable to us as a team. She is also the only Executive Board member on the Negotiations team this year. Thank you Jennifer for your hard work and willingness to serve.

Adam May. He stood up and ran for the position of 1st Vice President when no one else was willing. He has a lot of energy, is a good public speaker and has a very astute mind. He also has a strong set of values and stands up for what is right. I am looking forward to working with him and developing our relationship as a working team.

So there we are. Your E-Board. Representing you. Making sure your needs are met and your voice is heard. We are here to serve, we are here to listen, we are here to organize, strategize, and make a difference. We will take your concerns, your ideas, your input, and run with them, to create positive and lasting change. We will do as much as we can do. The real difference, however, will be made by the relationships formed and the contributions made at the individual level through our members. If we can harness and utilize all of our individual special talents and abilities and use those to contribute to the strength of this organization, then we will have a true Union; one that operates seamlessly, effortlessly and powerfully for the greatest good of the whole.

I am looking forward to meeting and working with each one of you. I want to know who you are and what you're good at and what you have to contribute. Then we're going to put you to work using your very special and unique talents, so watch out!

Don't forget about our **General Membership meeting on Monday, January 26th @ 3:30 pm** at the high school. We will be voting on the new bylaws, discussing negotiations, health care, and member concerns. **Input as to what you'd like to see covered would also be appreciated** so we can plan around the needs of our membership. BTA will also be hosting a barbeque on this same day inviting Cabinet and School Board members. This would give members a chance to meet their leadership first hand and vice versa. The organization of this barbeque is still in the works so we will keep you posted. We still have to make sure that all parties are able to attend.

Thanks again for being the great teachers, counselors, psychologists, speech language pathologists, program and behavior specialists, nurses and special educators that you are and doing what you do for our students every day. Have a great holiday and we'll see you in 2009!