

Fourth District Legislative Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

SEPTEMBER 2012

4th District PTA participates in statewide effort to pass Prop. 38

Prop. 38 (*Our Children, Our Future*) will be the primary focus of PTAs throughout California this Fall.

The initiative would raise about \$10 billion per year, to be allocated directly to K-12 public schools, early childhood education and paying off school bond debt.

An Orange County Campaign Kick-off Event is scheduled for September 11. Details are in the Calendar of Events to the right.

Recent polls have shown that the more people know about Prop. 38, the more likely they are to support it. Every PTA member can be involved in educating voters about the need for more school funding and the dramatic opportunities this proposition provides.

The Fourth District PTA Advocacy Team offers a Speakers Bureau, with knowledgeable presenters on a variety of legislative topics, including Prop. 38. If you would like a speaker at your PTA meeting or program, contact Shereen Walter at speakers@fourthdistrictpta.org.

For more information about the initiative, including a calculator that shows how much your school would receive, go to www.prop38forlocalschools.org.

Free PTA Advocacy training!

Speaking on behalf of all children is the most important thing that PTA does. It is the reason PTA came into existence 115 years ago. And it has never been more important than right now.

Perhaps you would like to get involved, but you don't know how. Here's a great way to start: attend the Fourth District PTA Training Roundtable. Details are in the Calendar of Events (above).

The Roundtable will provide lots of information and resources, with separate programs for new and returning advocates. You will learn about important legislative issues affecting our schools, how to communicate with legislators, how to stay informed, and how to serve as legislative chair for your unit or council.

The Roundtable is free and open to all PTA legislative/advocacy chairs and officers, as well as any members who are interested in learning about advocacy.

Calendar of Events

Prop. 38 (*Our Children, Our Future*) Kick-off Event

Tuesday, September 11, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Teacher Created Materials

5301 Oceanus Dr., Huntington Beach 92649

★**All PTA members highly encouraged to attend.**

Advocacy Training Roundtable

Friday, September 21, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Fountain Valley School District, Board Room

10055 Slater Ave., Fountain Valley, 92708

★**Open to all PTA members. Every council and unit should send at least one representative. Training for both new and returning chairs will be offered. Please RSVP with your choice of training session to Fran Sdao at roundtables@fourthdistrictpta.org**

Our Advocacy Program

Advocating for our children, families and public schools is a vital part of Fourth District PTA's program. Our goal is to create a network of council and unit advocacy chairs to help inform our members about important issues and empower them to speak out on behalf of children and youth.

The Fourth District PTA Advocacy Committee (the "A-Team") provides programs, resources and activities to meet this goal. These include:

- Four **Advocacy Roundtables**, featuring expert speakers on a variety of topics. Open to all PTA members.
- **Sacramento Safari**, March 18-19, takes about 90 PTA members to Sacramento to learn about the issues and visit legislators' offices. (More on page 2)
- The **Advocacy Communicator**, for advocacy chairs to use and share. Published monthly, September through June, and available at www.fourthdistrictpta.org.
- **Speaker's Bureau**: A-Team members come to your meeting to talk about a variety of advocacy issues.
- **Leg-Link**, emails are sent to inform members about legislative activities and alert them when action is needed.. Sign up at www.fourthdistrictpta.org.
- **Advocacy Resource Notebooks** with information and resources for local advocates. May be purchased for \$10 at the Fourth District PTA office.
- **Council Legislative/Advocacy Chair Meetings** to discuss our advocacy programs, get feedback, and support local efforts.

Where can I get the information I need to be an advocate?

The legislative process, school funding, common core standards, current issues and proposals — there's a lot to learn to become an informed, effective advocate.

Luckily, the Internet puts the information you need at your fingertips. Here are a few websites to get you started:

- www.pta.org
- www.capta.org
- www.fourthdistrictpta.org

Learn about national, state and district PTA legislative programs, positions and resources. At the Fourth District PTA website, sign up for **Leg-Link** to receive up-to-date news from Sacramento, action alerts when there is a need to communicate with legislators or the governor, announcements about Fourth District PTA advocacy events and the latest edition of the *Advocacy Communicator*.

- www.edsource.org

EdSource is a trusted non-partisan source of information

on public school issues. A good place to start is “California’s System,” which explains how our state’s public schools are funded.

- www.lao.ca.gov

The California State Legislative Analyst’s Office prepares non-partisan reports on a variety of issues for legislators and policy makers. Look for the tutorial webcast on Prop. 98, an excellent introduction to this important aspect of public school funding.

- www.ed-data.k12.ca.us

The Educational Data Partnership provides basic information and statistics about California schools at the state, county, school district and school levels. It also offers a helpful glossary of education terms.

- www.senate.ca.gov

The official website of the California State Senate includes a “Citizen’s Guide” with information about the lawmaking process and a glossary of legislative terms.

Be sure to include Sacramento Safari in your PTA Annual Budget

As you plan your PTA budget for the year, be sure to include funds for Sacramento Safari, Fourth District PTA’s annual trip to our State Capitol. This year’s Safari will take place March 18 and 19, 2013.

The cost for the trip is about \$600 per person, including hotel and travel expenses. This is a legitimate PTA expense.

Sacramento Safari is a unique opportunity to examine the issues that impact our schools, learn about the workings of our state government, and network with other Fourth District PTA parents.

Participants meet with California State PTA leadership and a variety of knowledgeable speakers, with time for questions and answers. Past speakers have included state legislators or their staff members, representatives from the California Department of Education, the Legislative Analyst, the California Secretary of State, and noted Sacramento journalists.

Appointments are set up for small groups to meet with individual legislators in their offices in the Capitol building. It’s an exciting, information-packed two-day experience!

Sacramento Safari participants must be appointed by a vote of a unit or council. Units and councils may send more than one representative. Attendees under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent.

Watch for Safari news at fourthdistrictpta.org and in upcoming issues of *Orange Leaves*, Fourth District PTA’s monthly newsletter. Or sign up for Fourth District PTA *Leg-Link* at the website or by sending an email with your name and PTA affiliation to leg-link@fourthdistrictpta.org.

Plan Your Advocacy Year

Advocacy Roundtables

September 21	9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.
November 30	10:30 a.m.—12 p.m.
January 25	9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.
April 26	9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

Sacramento Safari

Orientation, March 1
Trip, March 18 and 19

More information about these events will be available in the *Advocacy Communicator*, *Orange Leaves*, *Leg-Link* and www.fourthdistrictpta.org.