

Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, May 2015

Details are in the May issue of the *Advocacy Communicator*.

- Lawmakers in Washington D.C. continue to work on the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind. Two similar bills have been introduced, one in the Senate and one in the House, but the Senate is acting more quickly. The bill was passed by the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee in April and now goes to the Senate floor. The new name for the law, if it is passed, will be the Every Child Achieves Act. National PTA has been following this bill and is communicating its concerns to lawmakers.
- This month Governor Jerry Brown will prepare his May revise of the state budget, now that the state has a better idea of how much it will receive in tax revenues. The Legislative Analyst's Office expects that there will be hundreds of thousands of dollars more than the governor anticipated in January and this will mean more money for education, under the requirements of Prop. 98. However, that could create a problem for other areas of the budget, including other programs for children and families, which might have to be cut to balance the budget.
- Do we have a legislative advocate for next year? This is such an interesting job and Fourth District PTA makes it easy! Ask me and I'll tell you more.
- Next year's Sacramento Safari will be February 22 and 23. We should include \$650 in our 2015-16 budget for each person we want to send.
- California State PTA is co-sponsoring two bills under consideration in Sacramento. One is SB 636, which would set up a program to provide basic needs like school supplies, shoes and socks, and hygiene items to homeless children in public schools. The other one, AB 80, would establish a 21-member Interagency Taskforce on the Status of Boys and Men of Color to work on the challenges facing our diverse population.
- California State PTA is supporting other bills, and five of them are listed in the *Communicator*. You can go to www.capta.org to see the other bills that PTA is supporting, opposing or watching.
- Because of the temporary tax increases that were passed in 2012 through Prop. 30, California has moved up to 29th place in per pupil funding nationwide. However, this could change when the tax increases expire, beginning next year.

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