

Fourth District Legislative Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

APRIL 2012

Opportunities to increase your advocacy skills and knowledge

If you are eager to improve your advocacy education and skills, there are several upcoming opportunities.

One is the California State PTA Convention, held this year at the Anaheim Convention Center, May 9 -12. Several workshops related to advocacy will be offered:

- **Unlocking the Mysteries of School Funding**
(Workshop T04, May 10, 8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.)
Experts explain the labyrinth of school funding in California. Learn how funding impacts your local school and your child's education.
- **The Legal Role of PTA in Elections, Forums, and Ballot Measures**
(Workshop T10, May 10, 8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.)
Members who are planning to host candidate forums, organize school communities and participate in other political activities can learn about PTA guidelines, legal parameters, partnership opportunities and more.
- **Hot Topics: The latest on proposed initiatives for November 2012**
(Workshop T64, May 10, 10:30 a.m. – noon)
Ballot initiatives proposed for the November 2012 statewide election and how they will impact children, families and education. Learn how PTA plans to engage our members to support more school funding.
- **No Child Left Behind (ESEA): They Want To Do What?!**
(Workshop F08, May 11, 8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.)
The reauthorization of the Elementary, Secondary Education Act will have huge implications for California's children. Experts will discuss where the federal legislature is in the process and what the potential changes are.
- **PTA Advocacy 101**
(Workshop F56, May 11, 10:30 a.m. – noon)
Maximize your effectiveness in advocating for kids on state and local issues. State PTA Legislative Team members join Sacramento insiders to share best strategies for success.

If you are not a full-time convention delegate, you can register for one day and attend one or more of the advocacy workshops. For more information and registration, go to www.capta.org.

Calendar of Events

Advocacy Roundtable

Friday, April 27, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Fountain Valley School District

10055 Slater Avenue, Fountain Valley 92708

★ **All PTA members are welcome to attend.**

California State PTA Convention

May 9 to 12

Anaheim Convention Center

EdSource Conference

Wednesday, May 9, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Anaheim Convention Center

EdSource to hold special conference at CAPTA Convention in Anaheim

EdSource, a trusted source of information on education issues, will host a special half-day conference at the California State PTA Convention from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on May 9.

"Striving for Success in a Time of Crisis" will look at the impact of the Great Recession and the state's budget deficit on children schools.

California's Legislative Analyst Mac Taylor will present the latest developments on the state budget. A panel of representatives from school districts and nonprofit organizations will describe innovative school and community strategies to help ensure that an entire cohort of students does not fall through the cracks. There will also be a discussion on how participants can be catalysts in their communities to help spark action beyond the conference.

Convention delegates may attend the symposium as a ticketed event for a \$20 fee, which includes continental breakfast and conference materials. Non-delegates may attend the event for \$55, or may register for the event and a same-day pass to the PTA convention for \$80. The pass includes access to the exhibit hall and the general session meeting.

To register for the EdSource symposium as a non-delegate, go to www.edsource.org.

See page 2 for more advocacy education opportunities!

A Successful Sacramento Safari!

Eighty-five PTA members from Orange County attended the 2012 Sacramento Safari. They heard from a variety of thought-provoking speakers, including John Fensterwald, editor and writer for Thoughts on Public Education (TOPEd.org), and Molly Munger, co-director of the Advancement Project and sponsor of the *Our Children, Our Future* (OCOF) initiative. Staff members from the Legislative Analyst's Office, the State Board of Education, the State Department of Education, and the State Assembly also presented important information.

Small group visits to legislators' offices in the Capitol were very successful, with most groups reporting positive and productive meetings.

There was also celebration in response to CAPTA President Carol Kocivar's challenge to signature collectors for the OCOF initiative. Our own Shereen Walter, Advocacy Team member and Vice President for Convention, racked up 117 signatures, including two that she got on the flight to Sacramento. Go, Shereen!



Safari participants in front of the Capitol

Advocacy workshop presented at Fourth District Spring Training

Fourth District PTA's Spring Workshops on May 30 will include an advocacy workshop: **The PTA Role in Elections, Candidates Forums and Ballot Measures.**

Many school districts will have elections for school board trustees in the November General Election. It is important to plan ahead for candidate forums and other activities that will help your members be informed voters.

For more information and registration, go to www.fourthdistrictpta.org.

Advocacy Roundtable

Special Guest Speaker: **Ron Bennett**
President and CEO, School Services of California



Friday, April 27
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Fountain Valley School District
10055 Slater Avenue,
Fountain Valley 92708
(Please park at the back or
side of the building, not in front.)

All PTA members are welcome to attend.

Two revenue initiatives combined

Two of the revenue initiatives proposed for the November ballot have been combined into a single new version, leaving only one initiative competing with the ballot measure that is supported by California State PTA.

Governor Brown and the California Federation of Teachers in mid-March agreed to combine their proposals. The new deal would raise the statewide sales tax by a quarter-cent rather than half-cent per dollar. The governor's plan to raise income tax rates on those earning more than \$250,000 (for single filers) was retained, but the rate for the highest earners (\$500,000 for singles) would increase by three percentage points instead of two. The income tax hike would last seven years, rather than five, but the sales tax increase would still last four years.

The Governor is continuing to collect signatures on his original proposal, in case the new one fails to qualify for the ballot.

Governor Brown estimates that the new initiative would raise as much as \$9 billion, but the Legislative Analyst's office estimated it would raise \$6.8 billion in fiscal year 2012-13. The revenue would go in the general fund and could be allocated for any purpose, including K-12 education.

Our Children, Our Future, the initiative backed by CAPTA, would raise \$10 billion to \$12 billion per year for 12 years, with most of the funding distributed directly to schools. During the first four years, 30 percent of the revenues would be used to pay off school bond debt.

For more information about OCOF, including information about collecting signatures, go to www.fourthdistrictpta.org