**Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, January 2013**

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

* A new state budget process is beginning in Sacramento. Gov. Brown has said that he will again introduce the idea of a weighted student formula, which would radically change the way schools are funded in California. He also will propose ways to give school districts more flexibility in how they spend their money.
* California applied for a waiver from the No Child Left Behind law, but the U.S. Department of Education turned it down. This means that the schools that are in “Program Improvement” because they are not meeting federal goals will continue to have some of their federal funding tied up by No Child Left Behind requirements.
* If Congress had not approved the last-minute deal to avoid the “fiscal cliff” California would have lost more than $350 million in federal education money on January 1. Congress postponed a decision on the automatic cuts until March, so they are still a possibility.
* There are several exciting events coming up:
* Jacque Chevalier from National PTA will talk about education news from Washington DC at the Advocacy Roundtable on January 25. It’s free and all PTA members are invited.
* Sacramento Safari is coming up in March! Registration will open soon and we can pay with PayPal this year.
* California State PTA is holding its Legislative Conference February 25 and 26.

**Please note: You are welcome to reproduce all or parts of the *Advocacy Communicator* in your PTA newsletter. If you would like to reproduce a single article from the *Communicator*, contact Editor Gisela Meier at** **advcomm@fourthdistrictpta.org** **and she will send you a Word file.**