

Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, April 2014

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

- Looks like it was another great Sacramento Safari this year!
- The idea of school climate has gotten a lot of attention in the past few years. School climate means the conditions that impact student achievement, such as attitudes, safety, and health. In a good school climate you have motivated students, a cooperative environment and good relationships between students and teachers. In a bad school climate you end up with a lot of absences, bullying, substance abuse and other problems. It's not surprising that students perform much better in a positive school climate. There's more information about this in the *Communicator*.
- The EdSource Symposium will be held May 7 along with the California State PTA Convention in Los Angeles. It looks like a great opportunity to learn more about the about the big changes in California schools this year – Common Core, new state testing, the Local Control Funding Formula and the Local Control and Accountability Plans. If you're not going to convention, you can still go to the EdSource Symposium, especially since it's so close.
- If you *are* going to convention, you might want to attend some of the advocacy workshops that are being offered. Two of them will be taught by PTA leaders from here in Orange County. The workshops are listed in the *Communicator*.
- A subcommittee of the Edison High School PTSA in Huntington Beach convinced a local Tilly's store to stop selling clothing with marijuana leaf designs. It's a good example of how PTA can make a difference on a local level.
- The Advocacy Roundtable on April 4 will be a program on LCAP in Orange County. A speaker from the Orange County Department of Education will talk about how school districts in Orange County are handling the new process. It's free and open to all PTA members.

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