

Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, November, 2015

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

- The November issue of the *Advocacy Communicator* has a list of some of the bills that California State PTA supported that were signed into law by Governor Brown. They deal with e-cigarettes, sex education, dyslexic students and the high school exit exam, among other things. It also lists some of the bills that State PTA will continue to work on when the legislative session resumes.
- The Fourth District PTA Advocacy Forum on November 8 will have two speakers: Rick Simpson, the Deputy Chief of Staff to the Assembly Speaker (a Democrat), and Assemblyman Matthew Harper (a Republican). They will talk about what's going on in Sacramento from two different points of view. This will be a very interesting program and it's open to all PTA members.
- So far, the State Legislature has not succeeded in putting a school construction bond on the ballot. However, a coalition of school districts and construction companies has collected enough signatures to put a \$9 billion school facilities bond on the November 2016 ballot. The previous school bond, which was passed in 2006, has been used up, so at this point there is no state funding for school construction or modernization.
- The Motor Voter Act mentioned in last month's *Communicator* was signed into law by the Governor. Every eligible citizen who goes to the DMV for a driver's license will automatically be registered to vote. The state has to finish setting up a voter database, so this new process won't go into effect right away.
- A lot of our high school seniors turn 18 before they graduate and we should encourage them to register to vote. The *Communicator* has some ideas about how to do that. It also suggests distributing a publication called "When You Turn 18: A Survival Guide for Teenagers," produced by the California State Bar.
- Congress still hasn't passed a reauthorization bill for No Child Left Behind. National PTA is working to get particular provisions included in the bill. You can go to the National PTA website at www.pta.org to send a message to your legislators that you want them to take action on this. This reauthorization is eight years overdue!
- Sacramento Safari is in February this year, instead of March, so we need to register right away!

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