

Fourth District PTA Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

JANUARY 2017

You can advocate for children with an email or a phone call

The California Legislature has 120 lawmakers in two houses: 40 in the Senate and 80 in the Assembly.

The legislators are substantially outnumbered by the “third house” – 1,871 registered professional lobbyists, according to a recent article in the *Los Angeles Times*. Most of those lobbyists work for California cities, counties and statewide government associations, the *Times* said.

California State PTA (CAPTA) also has “lobbyists.” Unlike paid lobbyists, PTA advocates are volunteers. They work diligently to persuade legislators to pass laws that benefit children and public schools. (See the October 2015 issue of the *Communicator* for a detailed description of State PTA’s process for selecting bills to support or oppose. You can find back issues at www.fourthdistrictpta.org.)

CAPTA has six advocates, two of whom proudly hail from Fourth District PTA: Donna Artukovic and Shereen Walter.

Needless to say, the six advocates have a huge job to do, with few resources. Perhaps their most important resources are YOU, the members of PTA. You can play a role in making sure that laws supporting the welfare of children are passed. You can do this by contacting your legislators whenever you get an action alert from Fourth District PTA or CAPTA.

In most cases, this can be done easily and quickly by sending an email to your state senator or assembly member or by making a quick phone call to his or her Sacramento office.

You don’t need to talk to the legislator. Simply tell the staff person who answers the phone: “Hi, I’m Jane

“Remember, no matter how much fundraising you do, it will never equal the impact of one piece of legislation.”

Shayne Silva, CAPTA
Director of Legislation, 2015-17

Doe and I live in the senator’s/assembly member’s district. I would like him/her to vote yes/no on AB 999.” The staffer may ask for your address to verify that you are a constituent. The phone call shouldn’t take more than a minute.

Staffers tabulate the information they get from phone calls. According to Assemblyman Rocky Chavez, our Advocacy Forum speaker last May, “burning up the phones” with an organized campaign can definitely influence the voting decisions of legislators.

To sign up for legislative action alerts go to www.fourthdistrictpta.org and click on Advocacy/Legislative Alerts & News.

It’s a good idea to know in advance the names of your senator and assembly member and how to contact them. Include their email addresses in your email address list. Program their phone numbers in your cell phone. That way you can act quickly when action is needed.

To find out the names of your legislators, go to <http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov>

Last chance to register for Sacramento Safari

February 27 and 28, 2017

Register now at
www.fourthdistrictpta.org

Registration closes on January 29
or when available places are filled.

Orientation Meeting
Friday, February 3
9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Fountain Valley School District
10055 Slater Ave. Fountain Valley

Questions?
Contact Suzanne Gauntlett at
Sac-safari@fourthdistrictpta.org

4th District Local Advocacy Award

Did your PTA unit or council have an outstanding advocacy program this year? Did your efforts result in positive change and further the purposes of PTA?

If so, you should apply for a Fourth District PTA **Outstanding Local Advocacy Award**. Share your great ideas and get the recognition you deserve.

Applications must be received by February 9. The winners will receive their awards at the Fourth District PTA Administrators Dinner on March 9.

Go to www.fourthdistrictpta.org for more information and the application.

The new two-year legislative session is underway

December 1 marked the beginning of a new two-year legislative session for California. The Senate and Assembly members spent the first few weeks organizing and electing officers before breaking for the holidays. The real legislative work begins in January.

In the first year of the session, lawmakers meet from the first Monday in January to mid-September and then recess until the following January. During the second year the legislature meets from the first week in January until November 30 of the next even-numbered year, when the session is adjourned.

When a bill is introduced in the Assembly or Senate, it must be approved by several committees in that house before a debate and vote by the entire house of origin. The bill then goes to the other house, where it again goes

through a committee process before a debate and vote by that house.

If the second house amends the bill and members of the first house do not concur with those changes, a conference committee of three Senators and three Assembly Members meets to iron out the differences. The new version must be approved by both the Senate and Assembly before being sent to the Governor.

The Governor can sign the bill into law or do nothing, which also enacts the bill into law. If the Governor vetoes a bill, the legislature has 60 days to override that veto with a two-thirds vote of both the Senate and Assembly.

Important legislative dates for 2017:

Jan. 4—Lawmakers reconvene to begin legislative work.

Jan. 10—Governor must submit a proposed State Budget

Feb. 17—Last day to introduce a bill

April 6 to 17—Spring recess

June 2—Last day to pass a bill out the house of origin

June 15—State budget bill must be passed by midnight

July 21 to Aug. 21—Summer recess.

Sept. 15—All bills must be out of the Legislature and sent to the Governor

Oct. 15—Last day for the Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the legislature

CAPTA Legislation Conference

If you can't attend Sacramento Safari, you have another opportunity to visit the state's capitol with PTA: the California State PTA Legislative Conference.

This year's Conference will be held March 13 and 14, with overnight stay at the Embassy Suites Hotel. Registration is \$210 for adults and \$105 for students. Hotel and travel costs are separate and reservations must be made by participants. Special PTA rates at the hotel are available until February 18. Conference registration closes on March 9.

For more information and registration, go to www.capta.org under Programs and Events.



Count me in.

You are invited: Fourth District PTA Advocacy Forum

Measuring school success: How does the new rating system work?

Wednesday, January 18, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Orange Unified School District, Board Room #2
1401 North Handy Street, Orange

Get the latest update on the new data dashboard which will be used to show how our schools and districts are doing. How will this relate to the LCAP and LCFF rubric? How will multiple measures drive continuous improvement in the new accountability system? Get your questions answered.

Open to all PTA members!

Guest Speakers:

Celia Jaffe

California State PTA Vice President for Education. Former Fourth District PTA President.



Patty Scriptor

California State PTA Liaison to the State Board of Education