**Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, April 2018**

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

* PTA has lost a beloved friend, Ron Bennett, who died on March 17. He was the CEO of School Services of California and spoke at many PTA advocacy events, most recently at Sacramento Safari in February.
* State lawmakers are considering a bill that would require middle and high schools to begin classes no earlier than 8:30 a.m. Zero period would still be allowed. Senator Anthony Portantino, the author of the bill, says that school districts that have changed to later start times have seen numerous positive results, including higher academic achievement, fewer discipline problems, fewer car accidents involving teens, and less smoking, sexual promiscuity, criminal activity and suicide. California State PTA supports this bill.
* California is bringing in about $3 billion more than expected in tax revenues. The governor wants to give school districts $1.8 billion on a one-time basis to use as they wish. Some of the state lawmakers would rather add $1 billion to the Local Control Funding Formula base amount, which would increase school funding on an ongoing basis. State PTA supports AB 2808, which would increase LCFF base amounts.
* Did you know teenagers can pre-register to vote when they are 16 or 17? Then they are automatically registered when they turn 18. They can register at the California Secretary of State website or at the Orange County Registrar of Voters website.
* We’re in the second year of a two-year state legislative cycle and PTA is supporting a number of proposed laws. These include bills dealing the Career Technical Education, sex education classes, a literacy program for low-income children, preschool and kindergarten programs, and English language learners.
* Five candidates are running for state superintendent of public instruction to replace Tom Torlakson, who will be termed out this year.
* The next California State PTA advocacy conference call is at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 23.

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