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

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

* The state Legislative Analyst’s Office says there will be an additional $2.8 billion to spend on schools in the next school year. Most of that should go to cost-of-living adjustments and some previous commitments, but that leaves about $480 million. The LAO recommends using this money for one-time purposes such as professional development, instructional materials or technology upgrades rather than ongoing expenses, since there may be a recession in the future.
* The LAO report also talks about challenges our school districts are facing, such as dropping enrollment, increased costs for special education and higher contributions to the state retirement system.
* We need to register for Sacramento Safari now! Registration fees go up after December 16.
* The next Advocacy Forum is on Friday, January 25, at 9:30 a.m.
* The next State PTA Advocacy Conference Call is on Monday, January 25, at 7 p.m. Directions are in the *Communicator*.
* The three speakers at the Advocacy Forum in November talked about some of the same issues that were in the LAO report. Pension costs, declining enrollment and higher costs for special education are creating serious challenges for some of our school districts in Orange County.
* We have two new state Assembly members and two new state Senators as a result of the General Election in November. We also have a new State Superintendent of Public Education: Tony Thurmond. The next two-year legislative session begins on December 1.
* California State PTA will hold its Legislation Conference on January 14 and 15 in Sacramento. There is more information at capta.org.

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