**Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, May, 2019**

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

* Charter schools are a hot topic in Sacramento. California has had charter schools since 1992, but they have led to some unintended consequences. When students transfer to a charter school, state funding goes with them, leaving less money for the home school. Some charters turned out to be money-making propositions for the people running them. This year lawmakers have already passed a law requiring charter school operations to be more open and transparent. Several other laws are being considered. So far, California State PTA has taken a support position on a bill that would stop charter schools from opening outside the school district that approves them.
* By the way, California State PTA supports charter schools if they are fiscally and academically accountable and involve parents in decision-making. (The complete position on charter schools is at capta.org under Focus Areas/Advocacy/Position Statements.)
* There has been a lot of controversy about the California Healthy Youth Act, which requires comprehensive sexual health education and information about HIV prevention to be taught at least once in middle school and once in high school. Parents can opt out their students. The *Communicator* has a short description of the law, which goes into effect next school year. You can go to the Orange County Department of Education website (ocde.us) to get answers to six common questions about the act and a link to the text of the law.
* Are we getting ready for PTA advocacy next year? We should be sure that there is a line item in our budget for advocacy and Sacramento Safari. There will be an advocacy session at the Fourth District PTA workshops on June 1.
* The last California State PTA advocacy conference call of the year is scheduled for Monday, May 28, at 7 p.m. Directions are in the *Communicator.*
* The Legislative Analyst’s Office produces Cal Facts, with lots of information about California in colorful charts, including 11 pages on education. The link is listed in the *Communicator*.

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