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

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

* There’s a great quote from EdWeek.org in the *Advocacy Communicator:* **Like it or not, you, as an involved parent or community member, are the heart of California's education accountability system. There is no independent watchdog in the system. You are it. The system literally depends on the vigilant support of local, active, informed constituents to speak up for what's right and what's needed.** That’s why PTA advocacy is so important!
* Most of the students in Orange County do not have access to classes in all four areas of the arts as required by state policy -- music, visual art, theater and dance. There is a website where we can see how well our school district is doing in this area. Providing arts programs is one of the things we can address in our school district’s Local Control and Accountability Plan. We should be involved in that process.
* You can get up-to-date advocacy information from our California State PTA Director of Legislation Shereen Walter and members of the Legislation Team by participating in conference calls on the first Wednesday of the month. Directions are in the *Communicator*.
* The state legislature is in recess until January, so this is a good time to visit our assembly member and state senator in their local offices. There’s advice on the best way to do this in the *Communicator*.
* State lawmakers passed AB 1505, which changes some of the rules governing charter schools. Gov. Newsom is expected to sign it. Under the new law:
  + A school district can consider the financial impact of a proposed new charter.
  + Charter applications that are denied by a school district cannot be appealed to the State Board of Education except in some cases.
  + A charter school looking for a renewal will have its performance evaluated first.
  + Teachers at a charter school must have the appropriate credentials for the classes they are teaching.

California State PTA supported this bill.

* The *Communicator* has detailed information about Sacramento Safari, a two-day advocacy trip to the state capitol in February. It’s a fabulous experience! Are we sending someone from our PTA?

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