**Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, January 2020**

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

* Orange County will have a new way of voting, starting with the March 3 Primary
Election. There will be no precinct polling places. Every voter will get a ballot in the mail. The ballot can be mailed back to the Registrar’s office with no postage, deposited in one of 110 Ballot Drop Boxes, or taken to one of 188 Orange County Vote Centers. You will also be able to cast your vote at any one of the Voter Centers for 11 days up to and including Election Day.
* The 2020 United States Census will begin on April 1. You will be able to respond by phone, by mail or online. There are laws that protect your privacy. It is very important that everyone participate in the Census because the data is used to distribute federal funding to schools and other agencies. It is also used to determine the number of seats that the state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives and to redraw congressional and state legislative district lines.
* The Fourth District PTA Advocacy Forum on January 24 will have a panel of superintendents from three Orange County school districts and Orange County Superintendent Al Mijares. It’s always very interesting to hear from our local superintendents. This is free and open to all PTA members.
* Last year, the Orange County Department of Education submitted two competing budgets to the State Department of Education, one signed by the county superintendent but not approved by the county Board of Education and the other submitted by three county school board members but not signed by the county superintendent. A Budget Review Committee set up by the state Department of Education recommended that the budget presented by the superintendent be approved. State Superintendent Tony Thurmond accepted the recommendation and approved the budget submitted by Superintendent Mijares.
* There are five seats on the Orange County Board of Education and three of those seats are up for election in the March Primary. The candidates are listed in the *Communicator*.
* The next California State PTA advocacy conference call is on Wednesday, February 5. Directions are in the *Communicator*.
* The registration deadline for Sacramento Safari is on January 27. We need to act now!

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