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

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

* “Good news and tough times wrapped into one.” That is how one of the Sacramento Safari speakers described the current state of education in California. We’ve had several years of funding increases but those have only brought our schools back to the funding levels they had before the Great Recession. School districts are facing a number of financial challenges, including lower student enrollment, higher costs for special education, and increasing contributions to the state retirement system.
* Sacramento Safari participants split into small groups and visited the offices of 12 state lawmakers. They brought three messages:
	+ Please continue to increase education funding. PTA supports AB 39 which would raise the base funding in the Local Control Funding Formula to equal the nation’s average per-pupil funding level.
	+ School districts need more financial support to provide special education services.
	+ There is a lot of concern about vaping by our children. PTA supports legislation to regulate vaping, study the long-term effects, and provide information to families and others.
* National PTA President Leslie Boggs responded to President Trump’s proposed education budget for the next fiscal year. The budget cuts public education programs by $6.1 billion while including a $5 billion annual investment in private school options.
* The next Fourth District PTA Advocacy Forum will be on April 3. Save the date!
* California State PTA is now doing Advocacy Webinars instead of conference calls. There’s more information in the *Communicator* and at capta.org.

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