**Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, March 2021**

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

* Participants in this year’s virtual Sacramento Safari heard a lot of discussion about reopening schools and a pair of bills, SB 86 and AB 86, that would provide $6.6 billion to accomplish that. Those bills were approved on March 4 and signed into law by Gov. Newsom.
* California State PTA took positions on 22 state bills and some of them are listed in the Communicator. Among other things, the bills deal with the extension of the internet into unserved communities, ethnic studies, mandatory kindergarten, and testing children for dyslexia.
* The next Advocacy Forum, on March 19, will be a follow-up to the Safari. All PTA members are welcome to participate. You can watch recordings of the conference at sacsafari.org.
* After listening to the Sacramento Safari speakers, participants met in small groups with state legislators who represent Orange County. Their three key messages were about the return to in-person learning, the need for more education funding, and the need for mental health support services. Details are in the Communicator.
* Last month California State PTA developed 10 recommendations for the safe reopening of schools. In response to feedback from local members, including some from Orange County, the recommendations were amended. There’s a link to the new version in the Communicator. Many of those recommendations were included in the $6.6 billion bill.
* This year we all have the opportunity to attend the National PTA Legislative Conference, March 9 to 11, since it will be virtual. There is still time to register at pta.org.

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