

Meeting with Assembly Member Diane Harkey
Monday, October 19, 2009 – 10:00am

Report by: Becky Butler

Attendees:

Lori Abbott, Kara Ahmann, Kim Anderson, Becky Butler, Kathy Fischer & Kathy Spencer

Diane Harkey was unavailable when we arrived so we met with Jody Vaughn and Justin Smith who are both District Representatives.

- Kim reviewed information from 4th District PTA regarding contributions of our volunteers for our schools – 151,000 PTA members, almost 4 million volunteer hours, and serving OC children for 95 years.
- Jody said that Diane is currently gathering information and reviewing information on many subjects. The new session starts in January. Key items that she is gathering information about right now are
 - 21 Century Tax Commission – Diane has no position on it yet. She wants to make sure that it will really help and have the results that are intended.
 - Water issues
- 2010/2011 Budget – Jody stressed that Diane feels that there are many things that need more information before talks can begin. She wants to make sure that no new programs are started without a revenue source and that we must have a rainy day fund.
- Race to the Top – Diane feels that this is more of a Federal issue and is not looking at it too much.
- School finance reform – Very interested in this but nothing yet. Hearings are currently underway but that she is waiting to see what happens.
- We asked Jody to relay to Diane that education cannot sustain any further cuts and that the state must find a way to fund education.
- We gave Jody a draft copy of our leg agenda. She said that Diane is definitely in favor of our proposed push for more flexibility and local control for our schools.
- Diane recently sent letters to all 4th, 8th and 12th grade teachers in Capistrano Unified and other school districts within her constituent area. She wants to work with teachers to speak to students about how state government works and about civic responsibility.
- Diane is currently conducting small community coffees to discuss how legislation is affecting constituents. She wants to hear thoughts and ideas, and answer any questions. The next meetings are:
 - 10/21/09 – Dana Point – 8:00AM at The Coffee Importers, 34531 Golden Lantern (Dana Point Harbor)
 - 10/27/09 – 8:00AM at Coffee Bean Laguna Hills Mall
 - 10/29/09 - San Clemente - 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM at Ole Hanson Fireside Room, 100 N. Calle Seville
 - 11/04/09 – San Juan Capistrano – 8:00 a.m. at Sarducci's restaurant, 26701 Verdugo St, SJC, 92675