

2017-2018
TAPT
Executive Committee
Candidates

William D. Powell

Director of Transportation – Cypress-Fairbanks ISD Candidate for President

Bill has 28 years of experience in pupil transportation and currently serves as the Director of Transportation for the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District. He is responsible for coordinating and directing the functional operation of the school district's transportation program that transports over 75,000 students daily. Prior to becoming Director of Transportation for Cy-Fair ISD in 2013, he served 12 years as the district's Assistant Director of Transportation for Human Resources. In that role, he was responsible for directing and managing the department's human resources activities for over 1,200 employees to ensure legally sound and effective human resources management practices and the implementation of human resources programs including wage, salary, and leave administration; employee training, recruitment and staffing, and employee communications.

Bill began his career as a school bus driver in 1989 for the Canyon Independent School District while attending West Texas A&M University and was later promoted to Dispatcher/Supervisor before graduating from WTAMU in 1994. After graduating, he worked as an Elementary Special Needs Teacher in the Boles Independent School District and even drove a route and field trips for the district before returning to Canyon ISD as the Director of Transportation in 1996. He later moved to the Houston area as the Director of Transportation for Magnolia ISD.

Bill earned his Masters Degree in Organizational and Human Resources Development from Abilene Christian University, majoring in conflict resolution and certifying as a mediator. He has been very involved in TAPT and school transportation, serving on the TAPT Executive Committee, the TAPT Specifications Committee, the TAPT Certification Committee, and the Gulf Coast Association for Pupil Transportation Executive Committee. He also served as a TAPT Certification Instructor, an Adjunct Instructor for the *TEEX* – Train the Trainer Program, a Master Instructor for the Region IV Texas School Bus Certification Program and as a Texas Delegate to the 2010 and 2015 National Congress on School Transportation.

Bill says his favorite part of being a TAPT member is meeting all of the incredible people that strive to improve our organization and profession to continue making school buses the safest form of travel for children to and from school.



Amy Scopac

Assistant Director of Transportation – Temple ISD Candidate for President-Elect

Amy Scopac is the Assistant Director of Transportation at Temple ISD. Amy has an extraordinary affection for Pupil Transportation. Beginning as a Transportation Secretary in 2007 she quickly fell in love with the yellow bus. By 2009 she had received her Official Certification from TAPT. She is a graduate of the TEEX Train the Trainer program, teaches School Bus Driver Certification through Region 12 and also is a TAPT Certification Instructor. In Addition to teaching and instructing she is a *Past President, Secretary* and *Treasurer* of the Heart of Texas Chapter of TAPT, she held the position of *Area 4 Director* for TAPT from 2013-2015 and is currently serving in the position of *Secretary* and Program Chair on the TAPT Executive Committee.

In 2014 she began a partnership with *Mothers Against Drunk Driving* after tragically losing her 18 year old Daughter Kimberlyn who was the victim of a three time drunk driving offender. She recently wrapped up her second MADD campaign and passionately supports the fight to end drunk driving on our Texas highways. In addition Amy has partnered with the Baylor Scott & White *RED Program*. Through this program of reality education for teen drivers, she has teamed up with First Responders, Trauma Surgeons and local Law Enforcement to educate young adults, who have exhibited risky behavior, the importance of being responsible behind the wheel.

Amy is a lifelong resident of Temple where she resides with her Husband Kirk and their two children Hannah & Nicholas. As a family they enjoy traveling to new places, skiing, hiking, biking and discovering the vast beauty of our Texas State Parks.



Humberto S. Araiza

Director of Transportation – Del Valle ISD
Candidate for Secretary

Humberto is employed with Del Valle Independent School District as Director of Transportation. In 2004, he began as Transportation Director for Eagle Pass ISD, where he worked for 10 years. He moved to Del Valle ISD in 2014. Humberto served as president of Centex in 2011 – 2012 and is a Certified Texas Pupil Transportation Official. Humberto also is an instructor for Region 20 and 13 School Bus Safety Training approved by the Texas Department of Public Safety. He taught classes for Operation Lifesaver, and has taken several classes to complete his Masters Certification as Transportation Director. He has worked on special projects for the district on school re-districting and Campus/School Buses Safety & Security. Prior to working with the school district, Humberto worked for Automotive Research for 20 years in the Fuels and Lubricants Division as Operations Manager, then worked at Test Engineering Inc., as Project Manager for 4 years. During his employment with Automotive Research he served as South Texas Chairman for Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) and is still an affiliate member of SAE. Humberto has held certifications as Master Certified Mechanic (ASE), graduate instructor for Dale Carnegie on public speaking, and holds a Bachelor Degree in Business Management from Our Lady of The Lake University, San Antonio, Texas. Humberto and his wife Leticia have 5 children and 6 grandchildren. His interests are Hunting, Fishing, Boating and enjoys spending time with family.



Angel Kersten

Director of Transportation – Angleton ISD Candidate for Secretary

I am honored to be a part of an organization where the members are more than just acquaintances, they are friends that offer each other support and guidance from the heart so that we may all provide superb service to our children. It has been my absolute pleasure serving as your Parliamentarian for the 2016-2017 school year and I am again asking for your support as I seek election to serve as your Secretary for the 2017-2018 School year.

I am currently employed as the Director of Transportation for Angleton ISD. I have been in the Public Transportation industry since 2004. I enjoy learning the different aspects of what makes a Transportation Department successful and look forward to many more years in this industry that cares so passionately about Safe Pupil Transportation.

I have also had the pleasure of serving as an Executive Committee Member for the Gulf Coast Chapter for Pupil Transportation as the Secretary, Vice-President, President-Elect, President and ending my tenure as the Past-President. I have also contributed many hours as a volunteer in different capacities for the School Bus Road-e-o at the District, Regional and State Level. I am extremely passionate in making sure our members are provided the most current and beneficial industry information that is available for them. Information that will not only continue to make school buses the safest mode of transportation for our children but also provide greater financial support for the School Districts across the State of Texas. I would embrace the opportunity to once again serve for an organization that works diligently in providing its members with information that can be utilized in developing them into safe and successful Pupil Transportation employees.

If given the chance again to serve on this committee, I will wholeheartedly strive to make creditable contributions to TAPT as it continues on its endeavor to provide its members with up to date information and instructional methods that are pertinent to the continual success of safely transporting our students, which include my two teenagers as well as my four grandchildren of which three are triplets that were born in 2014 and will one day ride on the “Big Yellow School Bus”. With that being said, I am asking you to consider casting your vote for me, Angel Kersten, to serve as your 2017-2018 TAPT Secretary.



Steve Batchelor

Director of Operations – Skidmore-Tynan ISD
Candidate for Historian

I am from Skidmore, Texas. I graduated from Skidmore and then went into the US Army where I served as a combat medic, flight medic, medical treatment NCO, and finally as an operations NCO. I have worked in school transportation for 20+ years. I am currently the Director of Operations for Skidmore-Tynan ISD. I have served as the Chapter President for the Coastal Bend TAPT Chapter for three different terms. I have been part of the TAPT Executive Committee for the past two years serving as the Area 5 Director. I look forward to serving the TAPT in the future in whatever capacity I am needed.



John A. Ramirez

Director of Transportation – Uvalde CISD
Candidate for Parliamentarian

John Ramirez is currently in the first year as the Director of Transportation for Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District after one year as the Transportation Coordinator. Prior to being selected as the Uvalde C.I.S.D. Transportation Coordinator, he retired after 22 years in the U. S. Army. He held several leadership and administrative positions in the Field Artillery, operations management, and human resource management.

He is running for a position on the TAPT Executive Committee because he believes being a part of our professional organization is the best way he can learn and contribute to the process that promotes safe and efficient pupil transportation. He looks forward to learning from the vast amount of pupil transportation knowledge from all of our members and finding ways we can work together to provide the best possible service to the children of Texas.



Dr. Kayne M. Smith, Ed. D.
Director of Transportation – Beaumont ISD
Candidate for Parliamentarian

TAPT family,

My name is Kayne M. Smith, and I am running for the office of Parliamentarian on the TAPT Executive Committee for the 2017-2018 school year. Currently I serve as the Director of Transportation for Beaumont ISD. Prior to this role, I was the Assistant Director of Human Resources/Transportation for Cypress-Fairbanks ISD. I am in my fourteenth year in public education, serving as a high school social studies teacher, coach, and transportation director prior to assuming my current role. I have been involved in school transportation continuously since 2003 when I started as a school bus driver with Port Neches-Groves ISD while pursuing my bachelor's degree.

I received my Doctor of Education with Texas A&M University-Commerce in May 2015, with my dissertation topic focused on school district liability in pupil transportation. I hold a Masters in Education from LeTourneau University and my Bachelors from Lamar University. My wife, Emily, is an attorney for a law firm in Houston. I enjoy spending time with my sons, Henry, who turns three on March 17 and Eli, who turns two on April 15.

I have been actively involved in TAPT since 2004 and immediately began building a relationship with the many professionals who hold a wealth of knowledge and are willing to give guidance to aspiring professionals. TAPT was founded on education, and I want to ensure that we continue to build our organization on the foundation of experience, camaraderie, trust, knowledge, and development. Through the continued support of countless individuals, I achieved my TAPT Official Certification in 2008 and have served as a certification instructor for various courses and I currently serve as the Chairperson of the Legislative Committee.

The mission of TAPT is to “encourage the exchange of ideas and cooperation between transportation departments across the Lone Star State.” If elected, I will work to ensure that we will continue this endeavor and work diligently to serve you and pursue growth in our great organization.

I would welcome the opportunity to serve you, our organization, and most importantly, our students as your Parliamentarian.



Mickey Krone

Director of Transportation – Forney ISD Candidate for Area 2 Director

Mickey Krone is running for the office of Area 2 Director. He started his career in Transportation in 1997; driving a School Bus for Crowley ISD. After serving as Director and Assistant Director at several school districts, Mickey decided to move back to the area where he grew up and took the position of Director of Transportation for Forney ISD in July 1016.

Mickey is also a Certified School Bus Instructor, TAPT Official, and teaches Evaluation of Transportation Operations for TAPT Conferences across the State..

Mickey and his wife Shelly now live in Mabank and enjoy, fishing, golf and spending time with family. They are very active in the local church and love the community and the relationships they have built at the Crossfit Gym they are a member of.

If elected as your Area 2 Director, I will be your voice in an ever changing world we call Transportation. Continue to make a positive difference in the lives you touch each and every day, especially the students you transport.



Jack Irvin

Director of Transportation – Pine Tree ISD
Candidate for Area 2 Director

Jack Irvin currently serves as the Director of Transportation at Pine Tree Independent School District in Longview. As with most of his pupil transportation extended family members, he immediately became passionate with the Big Yellow Bus, his service to Texas students, their parents and the men and women that make up all transportation departments. Since 1989, Jack has served as Assistant Director, Director and Executive Director of Operations at four school districts. He is a TAPT Official, and has served as TAPT Area 3 Director from 2002-2004, a Delegate for the 2000 National School Transportation Specifications and Procedures, Central Texas Association for Pupil Transportation President, TAPT Speech Committee Member, and TAPT Certification Instructor. Additionally, he has served as the TAPT Legislative Chairman during three Legislative Sessions, provided transportation reviews for TASBO and has previously been contracted as a speaker to present on school transportation logistics.

Like many of you, he has “chased kids” for his entire adult life, and LOVES IT!



Randy Gover

Area Director – Dallas County Schools/Texserve, Weatherford ISD
Candidate for Area 2 Director

Randy Gover earned a bachelor's degree in Agriculture from Texas A&M University in College Station and a master's degree in Public Administration from Tarleton State University. He served 22 years as an Army officer specializing in maintenance and logistics, retiring at the rank of major.

He is a certified teacher and principal and is currently the Area Director at the Weatherford ISD Service center operated by Texserve. He taught high school in Whitney and Gatesville, TX where he also drove a regular school bus route and extracurricular trips. He served as an assistant principal and later as transportation director in Mineral Wells, TX. Randy also served as transportation director for Abilene ISD.

During the 2015-16, Randy was elected to the executive committee for TAPT as parliamentarian. He also served as President of the Big Country TAPT affiliate chapter which encompasses the ESC 14 service area.

He has instructed bus driver certification for the department of public safety. He is instructing certification classes for TAPT and has instructed classes at multiple Education Service Centers. He holds the Certified Texas Transportation Official designation with TAPT.



Jackie Ivicic
Director of Transportation – Jarrell ISD
Candidate for Area 4 Director

My Name is Jackie Ivicic and I am seeking the TAPT Area 4 Directors position.

I have been married to my husband Jeff Ivicic for 30 amazing years. We have four beautiful children and eight precious grandbabies, which keep our lives full of laughter and joy!! When I am not working with the children of Jarrell ISD, I keep busy with my family and drivers at BBQ cook offs or camping at the beach with my grandbabies. I have found that I have an extended family with my drivers, many of which have me listed as grandma on their children's emergency contacts. I care for them all as if they were my own!

While my daughter was attending Florence ISD almost 20 years ago I ran into a man (our Area 5 Director Steve Batchelor) that told me that I needed to become a school bus driver. I remembered him telling me that it was EASY money and that the kids were all great! He was right about the kids, almost immediately I fell in love with driving the Big Yellow School Bus. I enjoyed seeing each of their smiling faces as they boarded my bus every morning, never knowing what was going to be said or what they would do next. Little did I know what an amazing career I was about to embark on.

Over the next 10 years I became a member with TAPT and began working towards my Officials and Master Officials Certifications. In 2014 I was able to obtain my Officials Certification and then a year later in 2015 I completed all the requirements and received my Masters Officials. My brother Mickey Krone showed me the path to teaching the Texas School Bus Driver Recertification & Certification Course and Evaluation of Transportation for TAPT. However, the most enjoyable aspect of TAPT is interacting with the amazing people from all over Texas! I have found that every person is willing to share their knowledge and help in any way they can. I have never met so many passionate and kind individuals.

I am proud to be currently serving as the Heart of Texas TAPT President. I also hold the Transportation Directors Position for Jarrell ISD for a number of years now. I believe that my experience and skill set that I have worked to acquire over the past twenty years will help me to serve the transportation departments throughout the area 4 region. No question or concern is too large or small and I will work hard to represent everyone equally. I believe that through God any and all things are possible.



Fritz Klabunde

Director of Transportation – Round Rock ISD Candidate for Area 4 Director

The opportunity to serve as Area IV Director on the TAPT Executive Committee, representing the CENTEX and HOT Chapters in the Central Texas area, would be a great honor to me. I have worked in the school bus transportation industry for 28 years starting as a bus mechanic and now serve as the Transportation Director at Round Rock ISD. I developed a passion, once I immediately became part of a transportation team and have carried this throughout my career, for actively promoting safe and efficient school bus transportation services to our students. This is one of many reasons I feel I would be an asset to, and benefit the TAPT organization as the Area IV Director.

My certifications include; TAPT Certified Pupil Transportation Official #952 and TASBT Certified Master Technician #9. During the 2004 TAPT Summer Conference in Galveston, I was recognized as the TAPT/TASBT Technician of the year. Other areas I have served include; TAPT Bowling Tournament Chair from its inception in 2007 through 2012 along with Bowling Tournament Chair from 2007 through 2012 for the CENTEX Chapter. These events created a fun and leisure environment, and an additional opportunity during these conferences, for vendors and members to interact with each other. TASBT is an organization that provided me the opportunity to serve as an Area Director

for multiple years and then was elected and served as President for two years, 2012 – 2014. While serving TASBT as President, TASBT started their annual Technicians Conference. This has benefited transportation departments across the state that sends their technicians to participate in this annual conference. It provides an opportunity, for technicians attending, to learn about and be exposed to the latest school bus systems and technologies they maintain and repair on a regular basis. It also allows another opportunity for technicians to attend certification classes and gain certifications in the area of school bus maintenance and repair.

As evidenced by my record and positions at the different levels, I feel that I can bring new ideas, experience, and help TAPT reach even higher goals across the state.

I am married to a very supportive wife and have three step daughters and two sons. Other organizations I am active in include the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) and the Lions Club. My hobbies include bowling, golf and woodworking. I would appreciate your support to serve as AREA IV Director on the TAPT Executive Committee.



Rey Sanchez

Operations/Transportation Director – Santa Maria ISD
Candidate for Area 5 Director

My name is Rey Sanchez, Born and raised in McAllen, Texas. Been in the school transportation business for the past 32 years, I am also a region one instructor/consultant for 17 years, an operations lifesaver presenter and school bus watch. I have served 3 years as president of the STAPT chapter and have been a chairperson for TAPT special needs rodeo for the past 5 years and a member for 23 years.

Message: It would be an honor to serve as area 5 director and joining the TAPT Executive Committee team and help keep the Transportation Resources for all Transportation Personnel in this great State of TEXAS.

