

TAPT
Nominations
2019 – 2020

President-Elect

Kayne M. Smith, Ed.D.

TAPT family,

My name is Kayne Smith and I am running for the office of President-Elect for the 2019-2020 school year. I have served on the Executive Committee for TAPT for two years as your Parliamentarian, and if elected to the role of President-Elect, I will continue to work diligently to serve you, our organization, and our industry to pursue growth and expanded opportunities for all in our industry.

I am currently the Director of Transportation for Cypress-Fairbanks ISD. I started as a school bus driver and have been afforded opportunities in my career for growth and advancement. This is due in large part to the educational and networking opportunities I received with TAPT. It is my goal to continue to expand these opportunities, so others may be as fortunate as I have been to pursue professional goals.

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 in Texas. I hold a master's in education from LeTourneau University and my bachelor's from Lamar University. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my wife, Emily, and sons, Henry and Eli (both who already have an aspiration to get into school transportation), watching sports, reading, and taking road trips.

I received my TAPT Official Certification in 2008 and have been an instructor in many of our professional development courses since then. None of this would have been possible without the continued mentoring and support from countless individuals. The mission of TAPT is to "encourage the exchange of ideas and cooperation between transportation departments across the Lone Star State." TAPT was founded on education, and it is my focus to continue to build our organization on the foundation of experience, camaraderie, trust, knowledge, and development. If elected, I will work to ensure that we will continue this endeavor and pursue excellence for our organization.

Thank you,

Kayne M. Smith, Ed.D.



Randy Gover

Randy is the Transportation Director for Weatherford ISD. He currently serves as the TAPT Area 2 director and President of the Region 11 APT chapter. He is the former President of the Big Country APT chapter and held the Parliamentarian position on the TAPT Executive Committee.

Randy holds the Certified Texas Pupil Transportation Master Official designation.

Randy teaches School Bus Driver Certification for Region 11 ESC where he also serves on the Transportation Advisory committee. He also teaches certification classes for TAPT.

His career includes twenty-two years of military service.

He retired at the rank of Major from the Texas Army National Guard. He is a certified teacher and principal and has held both teaching and administrative positions in several school districts. He served as Transportation Director in Mineral Wells and Abilene ISD before being hired by Weatherford ISD.

He holds a bachelor's degree in Agriculture from Texas A&M University in College Station and a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Central Texas in Killeen.



Secretary

Jill Metcalfe

Jill Metcalfe is a Texas native, born and raised in Houston. She graduated in 1997 from Nimitz High School in Aldine ISD, then earned her bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University in 2000. She returned to Aldine ISD to teach and coach. During this time, Jill began driving school buses. In 2008, she earned a Master of Education degree from Sam Houston State University and became an assistant principal at Aldine Ninth Grade School. In 2012, she transitioned to the Transportation Department in Aldine ISD as an assistant director. Jill earned a Doctor of Education degree from The University of Houston in 2014. Then in 2017, she was named Executive Director of Transportation for Aldine ISD.



Parliamentarian

John Craig

I am currently the Director of Transportation for Brazosport I.S.D. and have been with the district for 9 years. Before that I served as the Director of Transportation for Columbia-Brazoria I.S.D. for two years, and was with Canyon I.S.D. prior to that for 12 years where I got my start in pupil transportation. While attending West Texas A & M in Canyon I started out as a special services monitor, became a driver for special services, then worked my way through the department as the Special Services Coordinator, to then become an Assistant Director. While in Canyon, I served on the Panhandle Association of Pupil Transportation Executive Committee serving in various roles before moving to Columbia-Brazoria. I am currently a member with GCAPT, and hold my Officials Certification with T.A.P.T.



I have to say that I am truly blessed. Brandy, my best friend, and I have been married for 18 years. We have 4 children, 3 boys and 1 girl. During this time, I've been active in getting to coach and watch my children in their various activities such as baseball, etc.

I was fortunate and extremely lucky that I got to work with and be mentored by the likes of Bill Powell and Kirk Self while at Canyon. I consider so many others through this organization mentors that I have been able to establish incredible relationships with throughout the years as I can contact them without hesitation and know they are there to support and assist me. That is the greatest part of this organization; even those I don't know are so willing to provide guidance and support when it is needed. There is only one thing greater than that, and that is having the opportunity to make a difference in the life of children. So often we are behind the scenes doing things, but what we do is so impactful and so important. When it is all said and done, and if there is at least one student or employee that I was able to make a positive impact on, then I would consider my life successful.

I would appreciate the opportunity and will work to continue to make positive impacts on both those that serve in pupil transportation like yourselves, as well as those children being served by this organization as your next Parliamentarian. Thank you for all you do for this great organization and more importantly our children.

Historian

Bennie Huckabay

Greetings to all!!!

I am Bennie Huckabay, Transportation Site Supervisor @ Beaumont I.S.D.

I am running for the office of Historian. I have been involved with pupil transportation since August 1990, and just started my 28th year in the industry, all of it being with Beaumont ISD.

I started out as bus driver, field trip driver, moved into the shop as Utility Helper, was promoted to Shop Manager, Transportation Supervisor of Special Services, Transportation Supervisor – Safety & Training, and I am now Transportation Site Supervisor.

At first, I wasn't sure if this was the career for me, but after learning how to drive a bus, my blood turned yellow!! I have competed in numerous school bus safety road-e-o's, with my best accomplishment coming in 2008. I placed 2nd at regional competition, 1st at state competition, and drove a bus in Calgary Canada for the international competition where I placed 12th.

When I do get spare time away from work, I enjoy the beach, lake, Astros games, Cowboys games, Longhorn football, going to Port Neches-Groves football games, and spending time with family. I love anything to do with Star Wars, and movie musicals, and musical theater. My 2 favorite cities to visit are Galveston, and New Orleans, and I try to visit as often as possible.

There honestly isn't a day that goes by that I'm not thinking about ways to make my department and this industry better. I love what I do because every day is a new challenge and a new experience. I was told by my 1st director that this is the only job that is different, every day you come to it. I didn't understand what he meant until years later, and boy was he right!! I can't think of anything I would rather be doing, than what I do now. It is the most stressful, but rewarding job I have ever had.

I hope to receive your vote for Historian. I believe I have what it takes to do the job right, like so many before me have done.

Thank You and God Bless,

Bennie Huckabay



Patricia Almaraz

My name is Patricia Almaraz and I am currently seeking your vote for re-election for the Historian position with TAPT for the 2019-2020 term. I was born and raised in Houston, Texas of where I attended and completed my secondary level education with Spring Branch ISD schools. Currently, I reside in the New Caney/ Porter area and work for New Caney ISD in the capacity of an Area Coordinator. I am the mother of 4 beautiful daughters who continuously inspire me to work hard and fulfill my goals in every aspect of life.



My journey began in the summer of 2014 as a School Bus Driver with New Caney ISD. Within a few months, I embraced an extraordinary passion for Pupil Transportation and the BIG YELLOW BUS. After completion of my first year as a School Bus Driver, I registered and completed the Trainer Academy administered by the Region IV Training Center and completed several TAPT courses in pursuit of obtaining my Master Official Certificate. Upon returning for my second year with New Caney ISD, I interviewed and earned the Auxiliary Sub Driver's position. Within a few weeks, I interviewed and successfully mastered the Inter-District Driver Trainer program and became a Driver Trainer.

My desire and drive to achieve excellence within pupil transportation was rapidly growing. At the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year, I applied and was accepted for the internship program within New Caney ISD. The internship program was created to allow growth in this amazing industry. Additionally, it cultured my knowledge in all the major functions of transportation operations. I'm continuously growing in many areas of transportation as I continue to learn and expand my knowledge. The intern program provided me with an opportunity to interview for the Area Coordinator's position in Spring 2017 of which I was honored and ecstatic to be offered the job. I currently manage all the personnel who are in the capacity of a Sub driver, oversee and implement Mid-day routes for Pre-Kindergarten program, and coordinate field trips for all schools and departments.

I've been a member of GCAPT and TAPT since October 2014, which has exposed me to many great leaders and networking opportunities. This remarkable organization has allowed me to acquire resources to further my continuing education and advance in the pupil transportation industry.

Candidly, I've been referred to as a "GOAL" pursuer. I'm currently enrolled in school and working towards obtaining my bachelor's degree. In marginal steps, I've accomplished very short term goals and endeavor to fulfill my long term objectives. One of my long term objectives is becoming an Assistant

Director where my dedication and passion for transportation can help in the improvement of student transportation and continued success with drivers, children, and the community.

I have learned so much serving as your 2018-2019 Historian, and I would like the opportunity to continue to expand my knowledge and serve once again on the TAPT Executive Committee.

I will forever prioritize the importance of transporting students safely as a School Bus Driver and bleed yellow as long as I have the physical and mental capacity to serve others. Transportation is my passion and I appreciate living and breathing it, every day!

Rey Sanchez

My Name is Rey Sanchez Born and raised in McAllen, Texas. Have been in the transportation business for the past 33 years, serve as an instructor/consultant for region one, Presenter for operation lifesaver, and school bus watch with homeland security. Served as STAPT President 3 terms, been TAPT special need Roadeo chairperson 8 years, serving as area 5 director and a member of TAPT for the past 24 years.

So it would be an honor to keep serving TAPT, and this great State of TEXAS as your next Historian Thank You God Bless TEXAS.



Area 2 Director

Cassandra Behr

Howdy! My name is Cassandra Behr, and I am the Director of Administrative Services for Dallas ISD. I am excited to announce that I am running for the Area 2 Director for TAPT.

My passion for school transportation started back in 2004 when I was in College Station. My dream was to be a teacher, but once I got involved with transportation, there was no going back. I loved working with the students and being that person to offer them kind words and a big smile to start and end their day.

After moving into the office, I found my passion was helping bus drivers and monitors reach their potential and be just as impactful for students as someone who spends several hours with them. I also believe that without our staff, we wouldn't be where we are. That is why I try to spend every day celebrating our drivers and our staff. This is one of the reasons that I am also so lucky to be the State Road-e-o Chair for TAPT – the event that celebrates our drivers and everything they do on a daily basis.

While I bleed school bus yellow and maroon (Whoop!), I love to be active outside of work. I have participated and continue to participate in 5k's, half marathons and marathons. I also love riding my bicycle and hope to participate in several bike rides this coming spring. If I am not doing these things, you will find me hanging out with my dog, Sully; relaxing at the beach in Galveston with family; or planning my road trip.

I would love to represent Area 2 and make the regions across North Texas proud.



Mickey Krone

My Name is Mickey Krone and I am seeking the position with TAPT as Area 2 Director.

I have been married to my wife Shelly Krone for 33 awesome years. If I am not at work, you can usually find us working around the house and spending as much time as possible with our kids and grand-kids.

I started my career out at Florence ISD where then Director, Steve Batchelor said he wanted me to drive a bus. If you would have told me then that I would be spending my career in pupil transportation, I would have told you that was not going to happen. I have dedicated the last 20 years, the past 3 years working at Forney ISD as the Transportation Director and absolutely love doing what I am doing.



I have an Officials Certification and enjoy co-instructing with my sister Jackie Ivicic teaching Evaluation of Transportation through TAPT and preaching during the Sunday morning service at the annual TAPT conference. I really enjoy getting to interact with other districts and having those conversations on how to make a difference in the lives of students as well as adults.

If elected I look forward to serving the next 2 years as your Area 2 Director being the voice (your voice) in addressing the issues that come up on a day to day basis in pupil transportation. I will continue to do what is needed to promote TAPT and all the incredible people that have influenced my life.

Thank You,

Mickey Krone

Area 4 Director

Jackie Ivicic

My Name is Jackie Ivicic and I am seeking the position with TAPT as your Area 4 Director.

I am married to the love of my life going on 33 amazing years and am blessed with 4 beautiful children. I have 8 gorgeous grandbabies, all of which keep our lives very interesting and always on the go with basketball, baseball or football games. In our spare time we head to the coast with Family and Friends for some outdoor adventures.

Looking for that perfect job and being able to be more involved with my children's school, I was asked to apply for a job driving a School Bus for Florence ISD. Always up for new adventures and challenges, I started driving the Big Yellow School Bus over 25 years ago and never looked backed. Working with the children that was transported every day and the amazing parents I had the pleasure of working with quickly made my mind up that this was the life for me. I have devoted the past 8 years working for Jarrell ISD as the Transportation Director and I truly believe I now bleed Yellow.

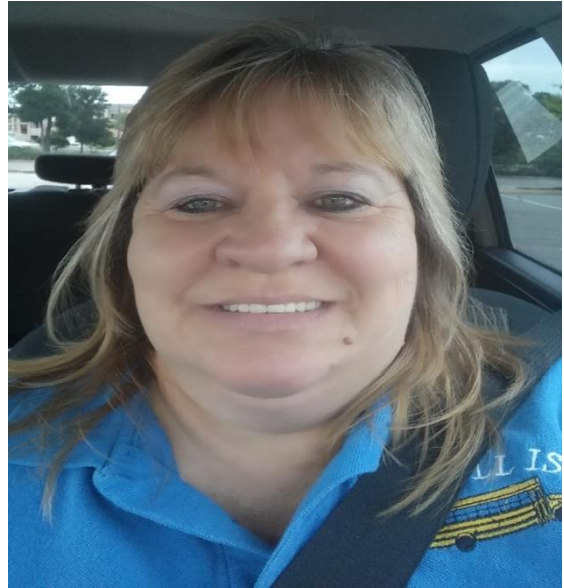
I received my Officials through TAPT and soon after that received my Master Officials also through TAPT. I have experienced that working with the TAPT Family, no matter what problems or concerns you may have there is always someone there to guide you no matter what. I was the 2016-17 President for the TAPT Heart of Texas Chapter. I am a DPS Bus Certification and Bus Re-Certification Instructor and I enjoy co-instructing with my brother Mickey Krone teaching the TAPT Class "Evaluation of Transportation". I enjoy getting to interact with other School District's and have those interesting conversations on how perfect their districts are or getting some great advice on new and inspiring ideas that can be incorporated into my day to day job.

If elected I look forward to serving the next 2 years as your Area 4 Director bringing new ideas, your questions and concerns to the table to be heard. No matter the outcome, I will continue to promote, participate and be a part of this wonderful TAPT Family.

God Bless you on your next journey, wherever it may lead you.

Yours Truly,

Jackie K. Ivicic



Jeff Brown

Jeffery Brown is a regular education router for the Belton ISD Transportation Department. He has become an essential part of the Transportation Department and is always seeking ways in which he can cultivate his relationship with his fellow workers.

Mr. Brown is a happily married newlywed having just passed his one-year anniversary. He is a graduate of Killeen ISD High School and a Veteran of the United States Navy. He is currently a junior student at the Texas A&M Central Texas College located in the Killeen Area. He has worked in the transportation field 18 years with his career beginning at Killeen ISD. His years in the transportation field also include Austin ISD and Lake Travis ISD before he moved to Belton Transportation Department which he now calls his home.

During his tenure with Killeen ISD, Mr. Brown served as a bus driver and dispatcher. While employed with Killeen ISD and through dedication and hard work, Mr. Brown was able to obtain the title of National Champion for the Special Needs Road–E-O in 2008 – 2009. In July 2013, Mr. Brown joined the Austin ISD Transportation Department as the Operations Supervisor for the Saegert Terminal. He later moved to the Nelson Terminal before ending his role as Operation Supervisor with Austin ISD to begin his employment with Lake Travis ISD.

Mr. Brown has been in his current position with Belton ISD as Transportation Router since May 2018. He has worked diligently at rebuilding his servant reputation both as a bus driver and in his current position of router. Mr. Brown takes great pride in routing his buses in a safe and efficient manner to better serve our district's students, parents and community.

Mr. Brown is effectively seeking to start his TAPT certification and career. He has accumulated a total of 20 years in education with 18 of them being in transportation. Mr. Brown is looking forward to the call of duty and serving you as the Area 4 Candidate.



Area 5 Director

Ernest Del Bosque

Hello TAPT members!

I am Ernest Del Bosque. I am the recently returned Director of Transportation for the Beeville Independent School District after an absence of 7 years while I was serving the Garland Independent School District as Assistant Director of Transportation. Prior to Garland, I was in Beeville as Director of Transportation for 10 years and am elated to be back home. The grass was definitely greener up in North Texas, but it just wasn't my grass. My grass is in South Texas and in this great community where I serve this district and once again call it my home.

I have made several professional relationships in both North and South Texas, and even more close personal friends. I am honored to be among so many great individuals who make the daily sacrifices to ensure that our kids get to school safely.

I have proudly served previously on the TAPT Executive Committee as Secretary, Area 2 Director and currently am seeking to serve the Districts and members of South Texas as Area 5 Director.

