

Good Day TAPT!!

Here we are, working to close out another year and already planning for next year with an intervening summer school for many of us. Even though our business is cyclic, we are always searching for ways to improve safety and our level of service. Just look at the questions and comments on egroups or the new items available for review at our trade show—everyone is always trying to improve the way we support children. There is no better way to demonstrate our conference theme of *TAPT – Making Tomorrow a Better Day* than to just observe the daily business in our organization.

Speaking of our conference, it is almost time for our Dallas gathering. I think the conference will be a stimulating one this year. Our conference program plus all of our lodging requirements can be accommodated at the Hilton Anatole hotel. We also have a single location for all rodeo events—Tommy Standridge Stadium, courtesy of Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD. Additionally I'm especially looking forward to meeting our keynote speaker, Ms. Ida Mae Fudpucker. Registration for members and vendors can be done online at the TAPT web site (TAPT.com). Last year there were some concerns from attendees about not knowing which certification class to schedule in order to minimize conflict with break-out training sessions. This year both schedules are posted on line so you can make an informed choice about your schedule. Note that we will be adding several sessions of a breakout on Monday for a presentation from our state DPS CDL Coordinator, Ms. Marylisa Garcia-Lopez. She has asked that I gather up our questions in advance so she is sure to cover what we want. Look for an egroups request to forward those questions so we can get them ready for her.

Thank you to all of our vendors who are providing support to help make the conference a successful event. Without your efforts at the trade show and your generous monetary support of events, we would not be able to host this conference.

There are still a few days left for you to recognize your outstanding employees if you have not yet done so. Go to our web site before April 15th to complete a nomination form. Also, voting for next year's Executive Committee is ongoing. All active members should have received an email with voting credentials so please vote for the candidates of your choice. Early voting is open until June 20th and will be reopened on June 29th during our conference. If you are an active member and did not receive your email for voting, please email Keith Kaup at Keith@tapt.com so he can get your voting credentials to you. A special thanks to all who volunteered to run for office this year. And for next year don't be shy, start thinking now about an office that interests you and then seek it out—you will not be sorry.

Our electronic voting on amendments to our TAPT Constitution and By-Laws brought up concerns about the process. I have received several emails and calls expressing these concerns and most revolve around the inability of our membership to discuss the proposed amendments before voting and the conflict this makes with Robert's Rules of Order. Electronic voting just doesn't seem to work for our amendments at this time. Because of this I am negating any votes we have received electronically on the amendments and we will proceed differently to bring the amendments to a vote. Note that balloting on positions will continue and will not be effected. We will follow the outline below to bring these amendments to the membership for a vote during the conference:

- Negate current electronic voting on amendments
- Send out to the membership via egroups and post on the web site an info document detailing the amendments. This document will include:
 - Rationale for the proposed change
 - Wording of the current by-law
 - The proposed amendment clearly showing deletions and/or additions
 - Final wording of the by-law as it would read if adopted
- Collect egroups comments on the amendments from the membership for a specified period of time.
- Review and consolidate comments; Executive Committee updates wording of the amendments as required based on comments received and frequency of submission.
- Post updated amendments on the web site for all to review prior to the conference.
- Conduct a formal reading and discussion of the amendments during the first business session at the conference. Due to time constraints, discussion on each amendment will be limited.
- Amendments will not be voted upon during the open forum but a balloting location will be established to allow eligible (active members) conference attendees to vote.
- Results of the amendment balloting will be announced during the final business session of the conference.
- Those amendments that are approved will be incorporated into the Constitution and By-Laws and posted on line.

Other Thoughts

At the end of this month the Executive Committee will meet to finalize conference plans and conduct other business. Some of this “other business” will be the selection of your employees to be recognized and the awarding of our scholarships so please make sure you have submitted your nominations.

Our new executive secretary is on board and working—welcome Marisa! With the change from Pam to Marisa we have a new mailing address. It is PO Box 488 / Kemah, TX 77565. Her email address is marisa@tapt.com and we have retained the same toll-free phone number. Marisa can be reached at (866) 561-2121. Please bear with us during this transition phase. Pam is working on certificates and certification documents in an effort to get everything caught up with that program. For questions regarding certification, please email Pam McCurdy at pam@tapt.com for assistance.

I’m looking forward to seeing everyone at the conference in Dallas so please make plans to attend and complete your registration. I believe we have a great program lined up and the location will support our needs. In the meantime. . . keep “making tomorrow a better day.”



Joe Hart

President

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