

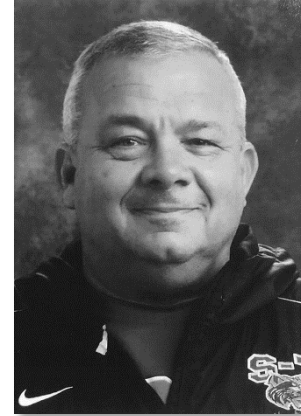


# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

April 18, 2020

Dear Members,

Over the last few weeks, I have had the opportunity to speak with many of our school district and business associate members as have other members of our Executive Committee. In all those conversations, the common thread was the ever-present uncertainties and of course, the impact this Covid-19 pandemic has had on so many people and businesses both personally and professionally. In the meantime, both our President and Governor have spoken and set forth certain closures and health precautions for our safety and well-being. With the executive order to close schools for the rest of the semester, we also know that school districts and vendor companies will be restricting travel and closely watching funding, revenue and expenses very closely.



Therefore, when the TAPT Executive Committee met this weekend via Zoom, we knew that we would be discussing some very important issues and making some very hard decisions.

In an effort to support the association and our members in the best manner financially, responsibly and ethically, we recognized the need to make decisions now and have the ability to provide some "certainty" with those decisions.

**Therefore, I must announce that we have cancelled our 2020 TAPT State Rodeo, the TAPT Annual Conference and Trade Show and the Safety Poster Contest.** With that – we want you to know we still understand and appreciate the need for communication of timely and beneficial information to our members. We had such an exciting program planned for you and we are discussing ways that we might be able to still bring some of that information to you via webinars. We also know that you still have certain Professional Development course requirements you must meet in your quest for Professional Certification. With that thought in mind, we have already been in discussions with Erwin Sladek and Kirk Self, our PDC Committee Chairs and possibly adding a weekend of professional development classes to meet your needs. Please email Marisa with which classes you had hoped to take at Conference or on June 14<sup>th</sup> to complete your requirements. We will also reschedule the **Exit Exam** for those of you who have already qualified and submitted your paperwork for approval. Keith Kaup is working with Speech Chairman Pat Garcia to see how we could hold the Speech Contest which was postponed.

We also discussed ways that we might assist our loyal Business Associates. Many of them have been impacted by the closing of school district operations. We are excited to announce that we will start a weekly **Business Associate Spotlight** through which they will be able to share their latest services and products, or links to training or information webinars. *Watch for this to start soon and enjoy the virtual trade show.*

## ***So, what happens next?***

- First - Cancel your hotel reservations as soon as possible so that you are not charged for those rooms and so that the hotel may release them to others. For the Embassy Suites, please call 1-800-Hiltons or directly 956-688-8329.

- Second – We will cancel your conference, class or exhibitor registration and **refund any fees** that have been paid. **We will keep your Membership registration and payment in place.** You or your staff will continue to be able to go into the same registration system and register for Membership via that process for the 20/21 Membership Dues for the membership year which will begin July 1. After July 1 you will receive the 20/21 Members Only credentials.

(The 2019-2020 Membership is still available under the Membership TAB online.)

Understandably this will take a few days to accomplish and for *Cvent* to refund charges back to credit cards, so we ask for your patience during this time. If you paid with a check or through the offline payment system, then you will be refunded by check.

- Third - Upon completion of the refund process, you will receive a confirmation email with a link to print your revised Invoice/Receipt.

**Voting:** Even though we will not have a conference, those with a current 2019-2020 Active Membership will have the opportunity to vote online for next year's officers during the election period as stated in the TAPT Bylaws starting May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you all for your patience and understanding in these difficult times and we will keep you posted as we know more and move forward.

Please stay in touch and stay well!



Steve Batchelor  
TAPT President