



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

August 2016

Greetings and welcome to the 2016-17 school year!

Let me express how honored and excited I am to serve as your president this year. I look forward to working with the TAPT Executive Committee to ensure we have a very productive and rewarding year. I want to thank everyone who ran for a position, served on a committee or volunteered this past year. It is because of each of you that TAPT continually remains one of the most respected transportation associations nationwide and I look forward to working with each of you this year.

This year there are a few items I believe we should focus on to assure we continue providing the appropriate support to meet the needs of our membership. We need to assure that we are providing the number and variety of certification courses throughout the year. During next year's conference, I am going to make an assertive effort to assure we have very few scheduling conflicts to allow more individuals to attend classes and be able to attend and support activities such as the School Bus Road-ee. Next, as an Executive Committee, we need to look at the geographic area of Area 1. Every two years when the Area 1 Director position becomes available, we have continually had problems getting individuals to run for the position and adequately serve their area due to the size of the area. This is an area that spans from the Panhandle to far West Texas. I believe it is now time to investigate splitting Area 1 and create an Area 6 to make sure our membership is properly represented on the Executive Committee from throughout the state. Another issue we need to address is the inappropriate use of e-groups and how it fills up ones inbox with nonessential emails. We must all remember that e-groups is a great tool to be used as a means of finding out information relating to policies, procedures or receiving assistance and clarification to transportation issues. However, too often it has become a site for side bar conversations or just general congratulatory remarks. We will be looking at fine tuning the usage guidelines and in the meantime, please remember that if you are going to respond with just a congratulation or thank you, please respond directly to the sender. Finally, I have met with members of the TASBT Executive Committee and look forward to building a renewed bond between TAPT and TASBT. Although we are two separate associations, it is imperative that we work together as we strive towards a common goal to provide the safest transportation possible and support each other along the way.



With this being a legislative year, I foresee this being another active year relating to transportation. While funding has always been one issue at the top of our list, two other items we will be specifically following this year will be how the legislation addresses seatbelts and our request for a bill to have all school districts exempted from paying tolls. As our Legislative Chairman this year, Dr. Kayne Smith from Cy-Fair ISD, will be keeping us abreast of the various activities taking place during the legislative session and other bills that may be submitted that would have a direct bearing on our operations.

Again, thank you for this tremendous opportunity to serve this great organization. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your Area Director. They are your direct representative on the Executive Committee. However, if you would like to contact me directly, feel free to shoot me an email to jim@tapt.com.

Thank you and have a great year!

Jim Abney