



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

August 2018

Greetings TAPT,

While some of you have already started school, many of you will do so next week. The headaches and heartaches of startup can certainly bring on a great deal of stress. I want to encourage you all to remain focused on your "*why*" and remember why you're so passionate about pupil transportation. I know many of you are scrambling to cover routes and are doing whatever is necessary to prevent delays on the first day of school. The challenge is to deal with these shortages as creatively as possible so we can ensure our students and families never feel the effects.

Driver shortages in the Central Texas area are being referred to as "severe" and "desperate," which may be the case in your area as well. Finding good, dedicated drivers is more challenging than ever. Apart from maneuvering the vehicle, our drivers are required to negotiate traffic and adhere to strict schedules, all while managing the human element, which can indeed be the most challenging part of the job.

While not perceived as glamorous by any stretch, I truly believe driving a school bus tops the charts as one of the most rewarding jobs in our state. Personally, I greatly enjoy the time I spend behind the wheel with our students. Having the opportunity to "*remember my why*" is paramount to the administrative decisions I'm required to make every day. Driving and spending time with our students keeps us all woven into the fabric of our communities.

In closing, please know that you are appreciated. Your job is a tough one indeed, but you've been placed where you are for a reason. Allow your passion for safety and love for children to motivate you to be better every day. I wish you all the best and pray that you have a successful and safe start up.

God Bless you all,
Amy A. Scopac

