



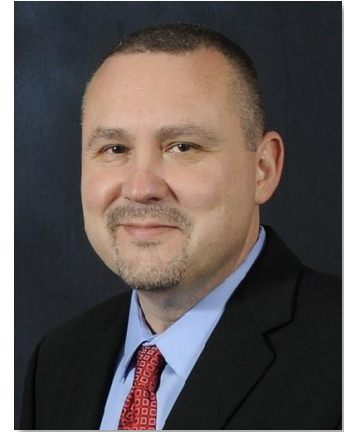
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

September 2017

Dear Members:

Disasters bring out the humanity in us and we have witnessed it firsthand in our communities and from the outpouring of volunteers from around the state and nation. Seeing and hearing of our courageous first responders and their heroic efforts, that included many school bus drivers and our iconic yellow school buses, continues to reinforce how honored many of us are to say, we work in pupil transportation.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with those who have lost loved ones and who have been displaced by the recent storms and flooding. As those of us who have been affected evaluate and assess our communities and facilities from Corpus Christi to Beaumont and Port Arthur, we want to thank each of you for the outpouring of support and all your thoughts and prayers. The destruction has been overwhelming and our school district and vendor members have been incredible with their demonstrations of caring and assistance.



We ask that our TAPT family continue to be strong in their efforts and prayers. Some districts will return to school this week and others the weeks after, but unfortunately, some may not be able to return for months, if at all this year. Many districts have staff that lost everything; campuses and other facilities with extensive damage; and school bus fleets with needed repair from flooding or completely lost.

We are also requesting that Directors of Districts who have lost buses due to the storm, to email me at bill@tapt.com or our TAPT Executive Secretary marisa@tapt.com by utilizing the **attached spread sheet** so that we can maintain an inventory of how many buses may be needed. We are also requesting our TAPT family to assess their fleets and determine if your district may be able to provide a bus or two when needed. Once we have the needs and available resources determined, we will put out the call for those who can provide assistance.

Meanwhile, here are some valuable tips regarding your fleet to do *before* you start the bus:

- Check for water levels in and around the bus on approach
- Check under the hood for water levels to prevent damage to the engine, transmission and differential
- Take caution as snakes and rodents may have taken shelter under the hood
- If water did enter the engine compartment, be sure to follow the manufacturer's guidelines per type of bus regarding water removal and the proper steps to follow
- Even with lower water levels, starters may be effected and you may experience cranking failures
- If the water level was high enough to cover the bus floor, be sure to open all windows and doors to prevent damage to plywood sub-floors

Also, if you have a heroic story regarding one of your staff members who went above and beyond the call of duty to assist others during this horrific event, please be sure to share those with us also.

Again, we thank you for compassion and support and appreciate your continued thoughts and prayers.

Best Regards,

William D. Powell

TAPT President