



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May 2018

Dear Friends,

Before this school year began for many of us, Hurricane Harvey pounded 50 counties in southeast and lower central Texas with a combined population of roughly 11 million people in 300 towns and cities. Transportation professionals were called upon to assist first responders in evacuating thousands. As this school year comes to an end, the transportation professionals in Santa Fe ISD were called upon again to evacuate students from their high school when a student killed eight fellow classmates and two teachers. Kimberly Vaughan, daughter of our own TAPT family member Rhonda Hart was one of those victims.



From these tragedies we have seen the outpouring of support from across our great state and nation. *Houston Strong, Texas Strong and Santa Fe Strong* have virtually become anthems. It is this expression of love and support that gives us strength during these most difficult times. We thank our first responders and ask that you please continue to provide support and pray for all the families and students affected by these tragedies that are occurring across our nation all too frequently.

We will not forget those who have lost so much this past year as we travel to Corpus Christi for our 45th Annual Texas Association for Pupil Transportation Conference and Trade Show.

As leaders in our industry, we must continue our education and grow professionally as we never stop learning. Please join us as we – ***Chart Our Course for Success*** – and learn from our incredible lineup of TAPT and TASBT certification courses, phenomenal guest speakers and breakout sessions. You may view the program overview at <http://www.tapt.com/conference2018/programoverview.html> for all the great events. Here are just a few of the highlights:

- TAPT classes will be held Friday and Saturday June 22nd and 23rd, at the American Bank Convention Center. Please take advantage of the food concessions during lunch as shuttles will only be running from the convention center and hotels. You will not be able to beat the \$10 lunch price that includes a drink.
- TASBT classes will be held Saturday through Monday (23rd-24th) at the Emerald Beach Hotel.
- Golfers can show their skills Friday morning.
- Friday evening we'll bowl our way into some great fun and fellowship.
- Our incredible drivers and attendants will showcase their skills Saturday – June 23rd, at the Texas School Bus Safety Road-e-o.
- Those that prefer to demonstrate their shooting skills can compete in the Sporting Clay Event Saturday Morning.
- Saturday night will we dress to impress as we award our best at our Awards Banquet.
- Sunday afternoon 90 Exhibiting Companies will show at our Trade Show with great door prizes!
- Opening ceremonies will be Monday morning with our keynote speaker, Dave Davlin and afternoon keynote Alexandra Robinson. Be sure to stay to meet the candidates.
- The Omni will host our President's "Three Hour Tour" Banquet (casual island attire) with a live local band.

I hope to see you all there as we come to together to share, learn and fellowship. Looking forward to seeing each of you.

God Bless and Safe Travels,

William D. Powell

2017-2018 TAPT President