

Vice President – 2 candidates

Laura Villanueva – Houston ISD

Laura Villanueva is currently a Field Safety Representative for Houston ISD. She has been in the pupil transportation industry since 1995 having served in the following capacities: bus driver, substitute driver, trainer, Driver Certification Instructor, National Safety Council Defensive Driver Instructor, Certified Child Safety Seat Technician, Instructor for Child Passenger Safety on school buses, Special Needs Training Coordinator, Operation Lifesaver presenter, USDOT Certified School Bus Accident Investigator, and has served on the Houston ISD District Wide Peer Review Committee as well as the Advisory Committees for the Transportation and Buildings and Property Departments. She is a graduate of the TEEX Texas School Bus Driver Train the Trainer program, is a TAPT Certified Transportation Official (#811), is an Active member of GCAPT and TAPT, and is currently serving as the Area 3 Nominating Committee Representative for TAPT. She has served the GCAPT in the past as a judge for the 2008, 2009, and 2010 Regional Special Needs Road-e-o competitions. She would like to thank the GCAPT membership for the consideration and opportunity to serve as Vice President of GCAPT and to serve her fellow members.

Jim Abney – Alvin ISD

Jim Abney is currently the Operations Manager for Alvin ISD. In this capacity, he is responsible for the oversight of the operations of the transportation department. Jim has “come full circle” since retiring from the U.S. Coast Guard in 1995 after 20 years of service. He started with Alvin ISD as Operations Manager in 1995 and served until 1999 when he became the Transportation Director for Friendswood ISD. Jim served Friendswood ISD until 2002 when he moved over to Santa Fe ISD as their Transportation Director until this past December. In January, he returned to Alvin ISD as Operations Manager in preparation to move into the Director’s position once the current Director retires. Jim is TAPT Certified Transportation Official (#306) and is an active member of GCAPT and TAPT. Jim has served GCAPT in the past as Treasurer and Secretary in 2002 and 2003, but had to resign due to operational requirements at Santa Fe ISD which prevented him from attending monthly meetings. He has also served TAPT as the Area 3 Nomination Committee Representative in 2002. He is also a member of the Texas Association of School Business Officials and currently serves on the City Council of Santa Fe. This July, Jim and his wife will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary and have two grown sons and one 4-year old grandson.

Treasurer – 1 candidate

DeAnna Wiggins – Spring Branch ISD

DeAnna Wiggins is currently the Special Needs Coordinator for Spring Branch ISD. She has been in school transportation for over 29 years serving as a bus driver and, later, Station Manager for Conroe ISD and as Transportation Secretary for College Station ISD. DeAnna has served the GCAPT as Treasurer for 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 school years and has been the Chairperson for the TAPT School Bus Safety Poster Contest for several years. DeAnna has been an active member of both GCAPT and TAPT for many years and would like the opportunity to continue to serve the GCAPT as Treasurer.