



TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF  
COLLEGIATE VETERAN  
PROGRAM OFFICIALS

April 14, 2020

Dear TACVPO Family,

I came across these words of encouragement and found them to be very appropriate during the current situation our world is facing; Do what you can, where you are, with what you have. -Theodore Roosevelt

Where ever you are working, home, an empty office building, or even on a campus that hasn't closed, I hope you are staying healthy and have created a system to get through this. If anyone can get through this it's this population of people, we are strong and know what it takes to push through.

All of us on the board, have been working hard to get a resolution to the cancelation of our conference with The Omni. It's not the deal we wanted but, they are not offering any options to allow us to give full refunds. As I mentioned in prior correspondence, TACVPO is not a profitmaking association, which means we carry enough funds in the bank to keep the account open, to pay bills such as our webhosting service, WHOVA App, travel expenses for board members and to make initial deposits towards the next venue.

Since the conference was imminent when things began to change rapidly, we had already paid the Omni Hotel in Corpus Christi \$50,000 as a deposit for the 2020 conference. According to the contract with the Omni Corpus Christi hotel, if we canceled the TACVPO 2020 conference we would owe the Omni an additional \$58,000. Due to the circumstances with COVID-19, the Omni agreed to waive the additional \$58,000 that was owed for cancelation of the conference if we agreed to hold the 2022 TACVPO conference at their hotel. (We are already under contract for 2021 with a different hotel.) The Omni would not agree to a refund of our initial deposit of \$50,000 nor give us a credit on that \$50,000 towards the 2022 conference.

Know that we wanted to give a full refund but, as you can see that is financially impossible. The amount that TACVPO can refund is \$240.00 per registrant. If you paid by credit card, we will refund to the card used and if paid by check we will mail you a check. With that said, our treasurer is working remotely and doesn't have the checkbook nor the instructions for the credit card refund process as they are at the office. Let your business office and supervisors know to expect a \$240.00 refund as soon as we are able to resume life outside of our homes.

Presentations have been posted to the website: <https://www.tacvpo.com/Conference-Materials>. Unfortunately, we will not receive SCO Training Credit but here's a link to the Department of Veteran Affairs SCO Training site: [https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/resources/education\\_resources/school\\_certifying\\_officials/online\\_sco\\_training.asp](https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/resources/education_resources/school_certifying_officials/online_sco_training.asp)

The Business meeting typically takes place during the last breakfast, when we give the treasurer report, announce the new board members, the next conference venue and open the floor for new business. In lieu of an official meeting, please take the time to review the items listed below. If you have questions about the information or disapprove please respond by April 20, 2020. Otherwise, all items will be approved as written.

**Treasurer Report provided by Mary Roby for 2019-2020**

\$33,834.20 – Beginning Balance  
+\$88,854.37 - Deposits for Registrations and Membership fees minus credit card and bank processing Fees.  
-\$69,623.95 – Expenditures which included \$50,000.00 down payment to Omni Hotel, Swag (being stored for next year), Entertainment down-payment (rescheduling for next year), Board visit last October.... etc.  
-\$10,000.00 – On hold for next year expenses which include Wyndham down-payment, board visit in October, yearly web site fee, yearly Whova fee...etc.  
\$43,064.62 – Available for refunding to registrants

**Congratulations to the 2021 TACVPO Board Members-** We did not receive opposing nominations for any of the five seats available on the board so, all candidates are slated into their respective positions. Your 2021 TACVPO Board Members are:

President- Mary Roby, Univ. North Texas  
1st VP- Philip Hoy, Dallas County Community College District  
2nd VP-Dawn Plug, Austin Community College  
Secretary-Billy Alexander, Tarrant County College  
Treasurer-Lynette Wheeler, Angelo State University

**TACVPO 47TH Conference** - March 1, 2021 – Thursday, March 4, 2021

WYNDHAM SAN ANTONIO RIVER WALK  
111 E. PECAN STREET  
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78205  
Room Rates per night: Single/DBL \$149.00, Triple \$159.00, Quad \$160.00

Lastly, two years ago the board approved and developed a TACVPO Excellence Award. We are really saddened that we couldn't present this at the Presidential Dinner. To our recipient know that we all applaud you, loudly!!

### **TACVPO Excellence Award**

Established 2018

This award is established to honor all Veteran Education Specialists who have demonstrated excellent delivery of service and compassion for Veteran & Military-Connected students.

Nomination criteria:

- I. Dedicated service in the veteran services community for five or more years.
- II. Has attended three or more TACVPO Conferences.
- III. Has provided support for the military connected community veterans in education.
- IV. Possess' these qualities:
  - a. T=Tenacious
  - b. A=Attention to Details
  - c. C=Contribution to veteran service community
  - d. V=Veteran Friendly
  - e. P=Professional
  - f. O=Outstanding Goes above and beyond to provide superior service their students and community.

TACVPO Board will accept nominations yearly from January through February. The award recipient will be announced during the conference Presidential Dinner.

**Recipients:** 2018 Bernice Flett, Texas Tech

### **2020 Recipient**

There is one person that came to our minds instantly, this person comes to every conference, served on the board for an extremely long time and has worked in veteran services for 41 years and has been retiring for at least the last six years. Ties are not safe in her presence. Well, she hasn't retired and she was going to Corpus Christi no matter what her institution said... I won't reveal her age but, I don't want to be working at her age. She has also provided us with The History of TACVPO through Annabelle's Eyes, which I will post soon.

Central Texas College is blessed to have Annabelle Smith on their team.

Since we weren't able to present this to you in person, we will mail your award to you. When you get it could you send us a picture of you holding it so, we can post it on the website.

This is not the way I wanted to exit the board but, what a challenge it has been. Know that your board members are awesome and they will provide you with an amazing experience next year. Thank you for your patience while we sort this all out.

See you next year as Past President.

Kelly Murphy  
2020 President