

Message from the IFTA, Inc. Board President - Scott Bryer, (NH)

This was a rough year to say the least. 2020 is a year no one will forget and has resulted in some challenging times for everyone. Whether diagnosed with COVID-19, knew someone who had it, or lost a loved one because of COVID-19, I think we have all been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in some way. It has adversely affected the economy and the way we conduct business. The Board of Trustees was only able to meet in person once this year, and that was for the first quarter Board meeting before our world changed drastically. In addition, the last in-person event where we had the opportunity to see and interact on a personal level was the Audit Workshop in February of 2020.

In March when the pandemic had its first surge, we all experienced a lock down which eliminated travel between jurisdictions and the ability to meet in person. It has forced everyone to learn new ways of performing work by learning to use new software to conduct remote meetings virtually. I personally have become quite proficient in using Microsoft Teams, WebEx and GoToMeeting. IFTA, Inc. has utilized these technologies throughout the year for two quarterly board meetings and the Annual Business Meeting. While I might be a somewhat biased, I think all these meetings went remarkably well under the circumstances. With COVID-19 vaccines being available later this month, I am hoping that we will all find a way to get back to a somewhat normal way of life and can resume in-person meetings and workshops.

I wanted to recognize Claudia Trapp with IRP and Monica Halstead with IFTA for the outstanding job they did putting together the IRP/IFTA Managers and Law Enforcement Workshop. The virtual workshop had over 500 participants during some of the event. In addition, I would also like to recognize the IFTA Agreement Procedures Committee, the IFTA Law Enforcement Committee, and the IRP Education Committee for all the hard work that resulted in a successful workshop.

During the 4th quarter 2020 Board meeting, the IFTA Board approved entering into a joint contract with a vendor and a Memorandum of Understanding with our sister organization, IRP, Inc. for a Learning Management System (LMS). We signed the contract with eClass4 Learning, LLC, on November 24. This is going to enable both organizations to provide online training to the member jurisdictions. I believe this is going to be a tremendous opportunity for our members, particularly in the administrative and audit areas. I am excited about developing the LMS's curriculum over the next year. I strongly encourage the IFTA community to volunteer and get involved in assisting with developing the content for the LMS. Please provide your suggestions on what you want for training programs to the IFTA, Inc. Team.

With that, I would like to wish everyone a joyous holiday season and a Happy New Year. Keep safe out there.