

## *The Value of NATP*

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Have you ever had a really good friend say to you, "Don't worry, I got your back!" In our modern day slang, what they are trying to tell you is that no matter what situation you may encounter, they are there for you. You can depend on that person to stand by you, protect you and defend you no matter what.

I was reviewing my mail the other day and in there was an application to join a professional organization. It made me think about the organizations that I belong to. Over the years, I have belonged to many professional organizations. However, there is only one professional organization that I have continued on as a member since I was an accounting student. That organization is NATP. I don't know how many years I have belonged to NATP—and truth be told, I am not sure I really want to know! However, what I do know is that the reason that I continue to belong to NATP is because I feel as though they "Got My Back."

When I was preparing to study for the EA Exam, the first place I turned for help was NATP. They had a great program and I credit my passing the EA exam to the course offered by NATP. When I run into a situation on a tax return that I am not sure how to handle, the first place I look are the NATP publications that I always keep on a bookshelf in my office. If I can't find the answer there, I know I can always call the tax research department at NATP.

The benefits of belonging to NATP are numerous. The quality of their education is excellent. The annual conferences are packed full of information that I continue to refer to all year long. I know that I can depend on NATP to help me keep abreast of current issues and developments in the tax field. They help me run my practice efficiently and even provide me with reference material when I am trying to make decisions on how much to charge my clients or what software programs to use.

If all this was not enough, they even provide me with an amazing State Chapter that can help with any state tax issues that I may encounter. The networking that takes place at the state seminars has allowed me to meet other tax professionals in my area and build up an amazing support system.

There are so many benefits to belonging to NATP. But the main reason I continue to join each year is because I know that NATP is my tax friend that will always tell me "I Got Your Back".