

Louisiana



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Greetings From the President,

As of December 2014, I am honored to have been nominated and elected as President of our NATP Chapter. For the past three years I have served as Vice President under William "Bill" Allen and am looking forward to seeing our chapter continue to grow. The Louisiana board of directors are committed to increasing the education we provide to our fellow members.

I have heard from local NATP members and National about our chapter and its involvements pre-Katrina. Although our chapter has withstood the past 10 years, we now want to become a leader in education. This year, marking the 10 year anniversary we are turning over a new leaf. With recent IRS regulations and the Affordable Health Care Act, education and peer to peer networking are at the top of our "must do" list.

Our Education Committee is currently finalizing the plans for a 2 day training event near the end of September 2015. We have a verbal agreement from one of NATP's top notch instructors and are working diligently to get the details finalized so we can release the date and location for everyone to make plans for attending.

The instructor is set to be a speaker at the upcoming NATP National Conference to be held in New Orleans this coming July..... I urge each of you to plan on attending both events this year! The quality of education that is provided at National Conference, in my opinion, is far above any other education I have attended by other organizations.

I look forward to seeing you in New Orleans this summer and again this September. The Louisiana NATP Chapter will have a table set up near the registration area. Be sure to drop by and say "Hello." If you are interested in volunteering please contact me as soon possible at kellysdonaldson@yahoo.com or 337-250-4240. With attendees coming from all over the United States we want to showcase the great city of New Orleans and the Southern Hospitality for which we are known.

Sincerely,

Kelly Donaldson, President, LA NATP

Payroll Topic– Server Wages and Overtime Issues

How many of us have restaurants with servers on payroll? I am sure many of us do. We, thankfully, only have one, which leads me to the topic of discussion- how to calculate overtime pay for servers. In late 2013 when we were approached by a new restaurant in town to handle their bookkeeping and payroll we researched "server payroll". We printed out and read over the information we found and off we went.... As it turns out we did not research enough or find correct information. In our research (and when we set up the OT pay in Quickbooks) overtime was calculated at 1 1/2 times server pay (\$3.20). Several of us had previously worked in the server industry and had even been paid this \$3.20 an hour.

Recently an employee turned in the employer claiming they did not receive their final paycheck - this has opened a large can of worms. As part of the investigation, it was brought to our attention that the overtime was incorrect and we needed to provide correct information to the auditor within a few days. We began researching again and found that this error is common in the restaurant industry. Another common error is to pay servers at the regular overtime rate based on minimum wage or their wage including tips. None of the above are correct.

After discussing with the auditor to determine the best way to submit the information we learned there is actually a formula and the server overtime is paid at \$5.76 per hour. Basically they are paid the OT rate of minimum wage added to their server hourly rate. Servers are to be paid \$2.13 an hour plus the overtime rate - this overtime rate is based on minimum wage rate overtime, $1/2$ minimum wage rate $\$7.25/2 = \3.625 - added to their server hourly rate. For a total overtime rate of $\$2.13 + \$3.625 = \$5.76$ for overtime hours.

The owner of this restaurant has at least five other locations around Louisiana with five different bookkeeping/CPA firms handling payroll. The owner has reported back to us that all six of us were handling the overtime payroll exactly the same.

Although this does not take away the horrible feeling around our office in learning that we were not doing something correctly, it did minimize the beating up of ourselves for not knowing and reminded us again that we are human and we all make mistakes.

We actually plan on providing information to other restaurants in our area suggesting they take a look at their server overtime pay to make sure they are in compliance.

We are moving forward and sharing this information with our fellow NATP members in hopes this will help someone who may be doing what we were doing.

—Submitted by Kelly Donaldson

Are you interested in becoming a LA NATP Chapter Board Member or volunteering on a Chapter Committee?

If you would like more information, please contact Kelly Donaldson at main.aots@gmail.com.

Please consider volunteering for one of the Chapter's committees. We will need everyone's involvement to assist when the National Conference is held in New Orleans in 2015! Please join us in shaping the future of the LA NATP chapter.



LA NATP Chapter on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/lanatptax>

Chapter Website: www.lanatptax.com

2015 Calendar of Events-Board of Directors and General Membership Meetings

LA NATP Chapter Board Meeting
Wednesday, June 10, 2015
10:00am Conference Call*

LA NATP Chapter Board Meeting
Wednesday, August 26, 2015
10:00am Conference Call*

LA NATP Chapter General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, September 29, 2015

LA NATP Chapter Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 30, 2015
Lunch Meeting

LA NATP Chapter Board Meeting
Wednesday, December 9, 2015
10:00am Conference Call*

**National Conference Committee Planning Conference Calls**

Tuesday, May 19, 2015 @ 10:00am
Tuesday, June 2, 2015 @ 10:00am
Tuesday, July 7, 2015 @ 10:00am

***If you are interested in attending the chapter board meetings (via conference call), please contact any board member for instructions on how to join the call.**

2015 Training/National Conference and Expo

NATP National Conference and Expo
July 20th—July 23rd, 2015
Hilton New Orleans Riverside
New Orleans, Louisiana

LA NATP Chapter Education Event
Tuesday, September 29th, 2015 &
Wednesday, September 30th, 2015
Chateau Lemoyne/Holiday Inn French Quarter
301 Dauphine Street
New Orleans, LA

NATP Essential 1040 Workshop
Monday, November 30th, 2015
Hilton Garden Inn, Lafayette

NATP Beyond the 1040 Workshop
Tuesday, December 1, 2015
Hilton Garden Inn, Lafayette

NATP Essential 1040 Workshop
Wednesday, December 2nd, 2015
Airport Hilton, Kenner, LA

NATP Beyond the 1040 Workshop
Wednesday, December 3, 2015
Airport Hilton, Kenner, LA

Check the NATP website to register:
<http://www.natptax.com/EventsAndEducation/liveworkshops/Pages/default.aspx>



We would like to welcome our new members! We look forward to meeting each of you at the upcoming events!

Norman Brown, Brusly
Mary Hebert, Thibodaux
Julianna Iacovone, New Orleans
Carlos Martin, Minden
Serece Smith, Jonesville
Raquel Broussard, New Iberia
James Caskey, Shreveport
Carl Glen Cooley, Slagle
Marilyn Fort, Wilson
Tamalla Green, Iowa
Tammy Korenek, Covington
Gretchen Sue Lamback, Westwego

Sandra Brown, Baton Rouge
Donna Taylor, Opelousas
Louis Judi Turner, Baton Rouge
Ronald Smith, Gonzales
Angela Smith, Shreveport
Wanda Singletary, Gonzales
Quintina Ricks, Baton Rouge
Crystal Johnson, Metairie
Lakeisha Pruitt, Baton Rouge
Andrea Poirier, Metairie
Judy Meades, Hammond
Bryan McElroy, Houma



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**Annual NATP Charity Event aboard the
Steamboat Natchez
Wednesday, July 22, 2015**

Boarding begins at 6:00pm, Sailing 7:00pm-9:00pm
Creole dinner buffet & Live Jazz by the DUKES of Dixieland
Cash Bar

Adult \$77.00, Child \$34.00
\$5.00 of each adult ticket will be donated
to the National Charity

To register for this event visit the website:

meetmeinneworleans.net