

SUNSHINE STATE REPORTER

YOUR FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

MAY 2020

2019-20 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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It's May

Do you have flowers or just blooming idiots?

Save the Date!

Our annual spring conference has been rescheduled
for Thursday and Friday November 12-13, 2020 at

The Shores Resort and Spa

Daytona Beach Shores FL

Great Education, Board Elections and Fun!

Information about Board Elections is included on
pages 4 and 5.

Win A Scholarship to the Conference.

See Pages 6 and 7.

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CONGRATULATIONS!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations! If you are reading this, it means you have survived Tax Season 2020, at least so far. It seems that every year we conclude the season with a statement to the effect, “This has been the toughest tax season ever.” And I will admit, we’ve had a few rough years. We’ve dealt with Irma and other natural disasters; we’ve had to learn the massive tax changes in the form of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA). This year, before we knew about COVID19, we had the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act of 2019, better known as the SECURE Act. This is my 43rd tax season and it is by far the worst.

In addition to the SECURE Act, we have had numerous pieces of legislation that affect our taxes. We have had to learn on the fly. This is the first time that I have ever taken tax CPE during tax season. After all, isn’t that what keeps us busy the rest of the year? I’ve attended at least five webinars since January. And they are far reaching. One webinar dealt with the CARES act. The presenter likened just reading through the act as trying to read the Old Testament in five days.

Of course, learning about these changes is only the first step. We need to implement them and see where they apply to our clients. And our software providers must incorporate these changes into our programs. I waited over a month for one small provision to be included in the program that applied to a return I was preparing.

In addition to preparing tax returns, we have helped clients with their PPP loan and other loan applications. If I had a dollar for every question I’ve fielded about the stimulus payments, I could probably retire a wealthy man.

We have had the elusive target of changing dates for payment and for return due dates. We’ve had to deal with the IRS statement that they were no longer processing paper returns. If we need to communicate with the IRS, that has been close to impossible.

We have had to develop new ways of doing business, as we dealt with social distancing, losing face-to-face contact with our clients.

Yet, we are still here. I don’t know about you, but I love being a tax preparer. This season is not over, by a long shot, but at least we have gotten past April 15. Well done, and carry on!

Ch Ch Ch Changes

As you can imagine your Board has been busy (in addition to our day jobs) dealing with issues facing the Chapter in terms of events and other chapter activities. All plans at this point are, of necessity, tentative. More detail may be found on some of these topics elsewhere in the newsletter.

1. **Annual Spring Conference.** Originally scheduled for May, 2020, we had to postpone this meeting. It has been rescheduled for November 12-13, 2020 at the same location, The Shores Resort and Spa in Daytona Beach Shores. Room rates will be the same. The rate will be honored three days prior and three days after the meeting. We do not yet have a code to obtain the reduced room rate. Randy Lawshe remains as our speaker. We are re-evaluating the topics as the massive changes in tax law may dictate that we include some new material so the seminars will be of optimal interest and value to our members. As the details are finalized, that information will be made available in the newsletter, on our web page, and our chapter Facebook Page.
2. **Board Elections.** We are planning to elect three Board Members at the Annual Meeting. Information and an application can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.
3. **Scholarship.** Our plans are to continue to offer The John & Bibi Rudestadt Chapter Growth Scholarship covering the registration fee to an individual who has never attended a Florida NATP education event. The deadline for application is October 31. An application, and additional information are in the newsletter.
4. **2020 Cruise on Holland America.** Several factors played into this decision, but ultimately the Board opted to cancel the cruise for this year due to the uncertainty involved. At this point, we have no plans for future cruises, but that may change based on events.
5. **Networking Groups.** These are suspended indefinitely. Although the Board has not addressed this issue, we obviously cannot hold these meetings at the current time, due to legal restrictions and closed restaurants. Once the economy opens up, we will evaluate resuming these meetings.

Upcoming Board Elections

At the November Annual Meeting, members present will elect three members to the Board of Directors. The Board is responsible for planning educational and other events for the chapter.

Chapter members who are at least 18 years of age and in good standing are eligible to be nominated as Director Candidates. The period for recommendations to the Nomination Committee shall close 45 days before the election, and the report of the Nomination Committee's nominees shall be sent to each Member in good standing at least 15 days before the election.

Currently, there are nine members of the Board, with three being elected each year to a three-year term. The Board holds several meetings each year, either in person or via teleconference. If you would like additional information about board membership, feel free to contact any member of the Board.

If you wish to be considered for board membership, you must submit an application which is included on the following page. If you are not ready to serve on the board, you might consider serving on a committee. Committee membership is by appointment by the Board. If you are interested in serving in this capacity contact the President or any Board member for more information. Member participation is vital to maintaining an ongoing quality state chapter.





Application to participate in the Florida Chapter
As a Board Member - an elected office
Or as a Committee member - election not required

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email address _____ Phone number _____

I have been a member of NATP for _____ years. Membership # _____

I am a: CPA ___ EA ___ Tax Practitioner ___ Other (describe) _____

I have been a tax/accounting professional for _____ years. My PTIN is _____

Name of firm or practice _____

Address _____

I am interested in serving on the Florida Board: Yes _____ No _____.

Or I am interested in serving on a Florida committee:

Education ___ Membership ___ Nominations ___ Other _____.

Comments or additional information _____

Please attach a list of your involvement and or attendance at NATP events, local or national, over the last three years. A resume would also be appreciated.

Signature: _____ Date _____

Please mail your application to: Kenneth D. Dowdall, EA
5433 NW 88th Terr
Coral Springs FL 33067-2854
Or fax to 954 941-1160



Several years ago, the Florida Chapter established the John & Bibi Rudestedt Chapter Growth Scholarship Fund to honor long time NATP members John and Bibi Rudestedt. With an eye toward growth in the chapter, this scholarship is awarded annually to someone who has never attended a Florida NATP Conference.

You do not have to be a member of the Florida NATP Chapter to apply for the scholarship. The Scholarship covers only the registration fee for a Florida NATP conference.

In order to apply, complete the application on the following page. The deadline for application has been extended to October 31, 2020. You must have a valid PTIN number. If you have any questions, contact Doris Dimon at doris.dimon@gmail.com

At the annual spring conference we hold a raffle to raise funds for this scholarship. Consider bringing something for our raffle. Gift cards and merchandise are welcome.

***Win A Free Registration
To an NATP
Chapter Conference***

JOHN & BIBI RUDESTEDT
CHAPTER GROWTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Qualifications for the Scholarship

- The scholarship award is a free registration only for a Florida NATP conference.
- Membership in NATP is not required. An applicant, however, must never have attended a Florida NATP conference.
- All applicants must have a valid PTIN number.
- Application deadline for the upcoming conference is **October 31**.
- Winner will be drawn at random from the submitted applications on **November 1**. The winner will be notified via e-mail and in an at-large Chapter email.
- To enter: E-mail your completed application to: Doris Dimon, Scholarship Committee Chair at doris.dimon@gmail.com or mail it to her at Harbor Bookkeeping & Tax Preparation, Inc., 2807 Wesleyan Dr., Palm Harbor, FL 34684.

Name: _____

NATP Member: _____ Yes _____ No PTIN: _____

Address: _____

City, _____ State _____, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Please tell us about yourself, including the number of years in the tax profession and any credentials. _____

Explain why you feel you should be chosen for the Scholarship: _____



Win! Win! Win!

As of April 28, 2020 There are 197 members on our Facebook Page. We want to grow those numbers. So we are running a contest. When we get to **222** members, one member will win a \$10 gift card to Starbucks or Dunkin! Just to keep things honest, Board members are prohibited from winning. A procedure will be set up to assure that all members (other than the Board) will have an equal chance of winning. It doesn't matter how long you've been a member of our page, you have a chance to win. Please note that you are not a member until you answer the qualifying question and are approved by an administrator.

Just look for Florida Chapter, National Association Of Tax Professionals on Facebook. Please join us on that page and participate in the discussions. Feel free to ask tax questions, questions about Chapter events, or other tax-related matters.

We also have a website. Go to www.flnatp.com to keep up with Chapter events. There you will find information about upcoming education events, how to contact your Board Members, past newsletters, regional networking events, and more. The page now has a link to join NATP, so send your tax friends to our page.

In order to take advantage of our special offers (see next page) you need a password to get the code for the Tax Book Offer. You can send an email from the web page to get that code. You can also use the email link to contact the webmaster.



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QUICKFINDER—A new faster and easier way to order your discounted Quickfinder products. Simply visit tax.tr.com/NATP and select the Quickfinder products in the quantity and format you'd like, add them to your cart and checkout with your credit card. Your association discount, sales tax and shipping fees are all calculated automatically! You can also call 800-510-8997 and use discount code Q680. Also, under Special Offers on our web site FLNATP.COM you can download the order form to mail in.

THE TAX BOOK—As usual please use our Group Promo Code available on our website when ordering your Tax Book(s). The Chapter receives \$5 for each copy of The Tax Book you order and \$10 for each Web Library purchased. Discounts depend on products ordered and quantity. Order online at: thetaxbook.com/order or by phone at 866-919-5277.

Florida Chapter



National Association of
Tax Professionals