



Media contact:

Samantha Strong, NATP public relations and digital content manager
sstrong@natptax.com
800-558-3402, ext. 1178

Nancy Kasten, NATP marketing and communications director
nkasten@natptax.com
800-558-3402, ext. 1172

National Association of Tax Professionals announces recipients for major awards: Tax Professional of the Year, Chapter Person of the Year, Chapter of the Year

APPLETON, Wis. (July 24, 2023) – Each year, NATP members nominate the recipients of the prestigious industry awards of Tax Professional of the Year, Chapter Person of the Year and Chapter of the year. This year’s winners are:

- Brad Messner, EA, MBA, CSBA, named **2023 Tax Professional of the Year**
- Melissa Lewis, EA, NATP Texas chapter, named **2023 Chapter Person of the Year**
- NATP Georgia chapter and NATP New York chapter tied for **2023 Chapter of the Year**

“We couldn’t have asked for more deserving winners of this year’s awards,” said Amanda Schumacher, NATP chapters program manager. “Both Brad and Melissa, and the Georgia and New York chapters, have made a significant difference in their communities, and the broader tax industry as a whole.”

Messner is a third-generation owner of M&J Tax Services in Pennsylvania. He started working part-time at the family business when he was 16. After 27 years in the industry, Messner said the best advice he can give to new preparers is to integrate themselves into an industry organization and find peers who you feel comfortable with.

“The coolest thing about being nominated for this is, for a lot of us, we work in our own businesses, our own silos,” Messner said. “It feels great to be appreciated by people recognizing what I’m doing, not just in but outside of my own little organization here. It’s easy to get bogged down in our daily operations and to have people recognize that I’ve kind of gone above and beyond is really cool.”

Lewis has been in the tax industry for 32 years and is a co-owner of Vinny Lewis’ Business Solutions in Wichita Falls, Texas, and an NATP member since 2006. She currently serves on the Texas chapter board as treasurer.

“I am always proud of the NATP Texas chapter,” Lewis said. “I feel that we try to go above and beyond to help our members get the education they need while still giving back to our community. This year, we started Texas Tax Tuesday Talks to try to reach more members and help each other with problems they have with clients, the IRS or even in their office.”

The chapter leaders of Georgia and New York attended NATP’s annual Taxposium event July 24-26, 2023, in San Antonio to accept their awards for Chapter of the Year.

To speak with one of the winners, or someone at NATP about the awards, please contact [Samantha Strong](mailto:sstrong@natptax.com) or [Nancy Kasten](mailto:nkasten@natptax.com)



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About NATP: The National Association of Tax Professionals (NATP) is the largest association dedicated to equipping tax professionals with the resources, connections and education they need to provide the highest level of service to their clients. 23,000 members rely on NATP to deliver professional connections, content expertise and advocacy that provides them with the support they need to best serve their clients. The NATP headquarters is in Appleton, Wis. To learn more, visit www.natptax.com.

Looking for a tax expert? Tom O'Saben, EA, director of tax content and government relations at the National Association of Tax Professionals (NATP), is available for phone or video interviews to discuss federal tax topics including tax law change and its implications, taxpayer issues, tax preparer regulation and more. To schedule an interview with O'Saben, contact sstrong@natptax.com or nkasten@natptax.com.