This holiday season, please keep in mind the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics and the law concerning food and drink and gifts. It is important to remember who is considered a prohibited source to you and your coworkers.

**According to Louisiana Revised Statutes**

Generally, a public employee may not:

1) Receive anything other than his normal salary and benefits because of his position as a public employee La. R.S. 42:1111A (1)

2) Accept or solicit anything, directly or indirectly, from a company or individual:

   (a) that has a business or contractual relationship with his agency, including vendors and contractors La. R.S. 42:1115A (1)
   (b) seeking, for compensation, to influence the passage or defeat of legislation by the public servant’s agency
   (c) that is regulated by his agency La. R.S. 42:1115B (1)
   (d) that has an economic interest in the performance of the employee’s public job duties La. R.S. 42:1115B (2)

**Food and Drink Regulations**

The Code of Ethics does not prohibit you from accepting complimentary food and drink when you are the personal guest of the giver. Therefore, a representative of the company or the individual providing the food and drink must be physically present when you consume the food or drink. Additionally, you may not accept more than $62 in food and/or drink at a single meal or event. This does not include tax or gratuity.

**Gifts**

Other than food and drink, any other type of gift or donation is generally prohibited. A limited exception to this general rule is for promotional items that have no substantial resale value. In order to qualify, these items must be permanently imprinted with a company or organization’s name or logo and must be of very minimal to little resale value (such as t-shirts, pens, hats, or cups). Items such as money, gift cards, tickets, and other gifts are strictly prohibited. School employees of a prekindergarten, kindergarten, elementary, or secondary school are allowed to receive a gift with a value of $25 or less from a student or on behalf of a student.