Association of Public Pension Fund Auditors
Professional Development Conference
(17 CPE Hours)

April 24-27, 2016
Chicago, Illinois

Embassy Suites Chicago – Downtown/Lakefront
511 North Columbus Drive, Chicago, IL  60611
Tel: (312) 836-5900
Conference Agenda

Sunday, April 24, 2016

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM  Welcome Reception

Monday, April 25, 2016

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM  Breakfast/Registration

8:30 AM - 8:45 AM  Welcome, Introduction and Logistics
  Matt Priestas - APPFA President
  Principal IT Auditor, Virginia Retirement System

8:45 AM – 10:00 AM  IMRF and SURS – Illinois Systems Overview
  Louis Kosiba - Executive Director
  Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund
  Bryan Lewis - Executive Director
  State Universities Retirement System of Illinois

10:00 AM – 10:30 AM  Roll Call of the States
  Byron Williams - APPFA Vice-President
  Chief Audit Executive, Oregon State Treasury

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM  Break

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM  Managing Relationship Risk: Are Risk Managers Neglecting the Iceberg Below?
  Steven Harding – Deputy Director, Finance
  IAM National Pension Fund

12:00 PM – 1:15 PM  Lunch

1:15 PM – 2:45 PM  APPFA Past Presidents Roundtable
  Moderator: Steve Hayward, IL State Universities Retirement Sys.
  Panel Members: Steven Harding, Robert Schaefer, Linda Walker, Marci Sundbeck, Kenneth Kasper, Richard Bendall, Ryan Babin

2:45 PM – 3:00 PM  Break

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM  25th Anniversary Celebration
  Lake Michigan Dinner Cruise aboard the Spirit of Chicago

Location:
- D4 Irish Pub & Café
  (345 E. Ohio Street – 1 block North, ½ block East from hotel)
- Lobby/Salon E, F & G
- Salon E, F & G
- Atrium Main Lobby
- Navy Pier
  (Transportation not provided, group will walk ½ mile to the dock)
Tuesday, April 26, 2016

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM  **Breakfast/Registration**  
Location:  Lobby/Salon E, F & G

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM **Anti-Money Laundering**  
*Henry Balani, Head of Innovation*  
*Accuity*  
Location:  Salon E, F & G

10:00 AM - 10:15 AM **Break**

10:15 AM - 11:45 AM **ERM and Internal Audit Working Together**  
*Larry Jensen, Chief Auditor*  
*California Teachers Retirement System*

11:45 AM - 1:00 PM **Lunch**  
Location:  Atrium Main Lobby

11:45 AM - 1:00 PM **APPFA Board Meeting**  
*Matt Priestas - APPFA President*  
*Board only meeting*  
Location:  TBA

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM **Knowledge is Power: Cyber Intrusion Readiness and Response**  
*Aleksandra Vold, Data Security and Privacy Associate Attorney*  
*Thompson Coburn LLP*

2:30 PM - 2:45 PM **Break**

2:45 PM - 4:10 PM **Private Equity Fees and SEC Update**  
*Michael Collins, Staff Accountant*  
*US Securities Exchange Commission*
Conference Agenda

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM  Breakfast/Registration

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM  GASB Update
David Bean, Director of Research & Technical Activities
Governmental Accounting Standards Board

10:00 AM - 10:15 AM  Break

10:15 AM - 11:30 AM  Employer Audits: Coming Soon at a Pension System Near You?
Julia Davidyan, CPA, Chief Audit Officer
Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund

11:30 AM  Conference Adjourns
Thank you for attending!

Location:
Lobby/Salon E, F & G
Salon E, F & G
Welcome, Introduction and Logistics

Matt Priestas is the Principal IT Auditor for the Virginia Retirement System (VRS), which manages over $66 billion in retirement assets. He joined VRS in 2008 and presently has over 12 years of experience in the auditing profession. Prior to coming to VRS, Matt worked for the Commonwealth's external auditor with a focus in System Development auditing.

Matt is a graduate of East Carolina University where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Management Information Systems. He is a Certified Internal Auditor, Certified Information System Auditor, and Project Management Professional. Matt also holds two Master's Certificates in Project Management and Program Management from George Washington University. He is the current President of APPFA and has also served as a Board Member since 2013.

IMRF and SURS – Illinois Retirement Systems Overview

IMRF and SURS Executive Directors, Louis Kosiba and Bryan Lewis, respectively will give a brief overview of their Illinois retirement system and highlight how the role of Internal Audit can add value.

Louis W. Kosiba has been with the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) since 1988, and has served as Executive Director since 2001. Prior to his appointment as Executive Director, Kosiba was IMRF General Counsel from 1990 to 2001. Kosiba has a juris doctor degree and a master’s in business administration from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. Kosiba helped found the National Association of Public Pension Attorneys, and is an active member of the National Association of State Retirement Administrators. Kosiba oversees a staff of 198 and reports directly to the eight-member IMRF Board of Trustees.

Bryan Lewis has served as Executive Director of the State Universities Retirement System of Illinois since April of 2015. In his role with direction from the Board of Trustees, he is responsible for leading a team of 130 professionals that manage and administer approximately $19 billion in a defined benefit plan and defined contribution plan for 64 college and university affiliated employers.

During his 16 year career in financial services, Bryan has worked in both public and private sectors. Prior to joining SURS, he served as the Chief Operating Officer of the Investment Management Division of the $100 billion North...
Carolina Retirement Systems for 6 years where he helped to increase staff size, diversify the investment portfolio, and implement policy changes. In addition to his professional pursuits, Bryan has been involved in the communities where he has lived by serving on volunteer boards of organizations that work to increase the financial capability of the community. He received a Bachelor of Science in Economics from the University of Maryland and an MBA from the University of Miami.

**Roll Call of the States**

A representative from each participating organization will speak to the group about current audit areas, ongoing projects, and recent legislation affecting their pension fund. They will discuss how they get results, overcome obstacles, and prepare for issues in their audit shops. Dialogue will be facilitated by Byron Williams, APPFA Vice-President, to present possible solutions for problems and ongoing issues. The session is designed to prompt networking by identifying peers working on similar projects or facing similar challenges.

Byron Williams has been the Chief Audit Executive for the Oregon State Treasury since 2011. He is responsible for overseeing the internal audit function and engagements over the Treasury’s investment, banking, debt management and IT functions. Prior to joining the Oregon State Treasury, Byron was a principal auditor with the Oregon Secretary of State Audits Division leading their investment valuation group. Byron is the current Vice-President of APPFA.

Byron holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business from Oregon State University. He is a CPA and Certified Investment and Derivatives Auditor.

**Managing Relationship Risk: Are Risk Managers Neglecting the Iceberg Below?**

This session will discuss relationship risk which is the most significant risk to pension funds. The main focus will be on relationships between the pension fund and executive staff, board members and portfolio managers. The various phases of the relationship cycle will be analyzed including who owns these risks. Discussion will include the tools commonly used by auditors and other risk managers to manage these risks.

Learning Objectives: Learn what is the single biggest risk to the Fund that is often uncontrolled; Learn about the nature of risk posed by various parties involved in Fund business including but not limited to fund vendors, investment manager and other third parties, fund officers and fund fiduciaries; Learn how to effectively control these risks through use of written agreements; Learn how to control relationship risk in the termination phase of the relationship.
Steve is Deputy Director, Finance for the $11 billion International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers National Pension, 401K and Benefit Trust Funds in Washington, DC. He has responsibility for all aspects of financial accounting and reporting and oversees a staff of 16 and a $70 million budget. He also oversees the outsourced payroll audit function of approximately 1,600 employers. His prior experience includes more than twenty-five years providing professional advice on operational risk, governance and compliance to numerous pension funds and investment boards.

Steve has two internal audit positions under his belt. One for a NYSE member firm and the other for the New York State and Local Employees’ Retirement System. Steve held the Series 7 and 63 licenses and is a licensed CPA in New York. Steve co-founded APPFA and was its first president. He incorporated the organization, obtained 501(c)3 status, and drafted its constitution and by-laws.

Steve attended business school at UAlbany while working full time and raising a family. He completed his accounting degree with honors and joined a Big 8 CPA firm after graduation. Later, he taught financial and management accounting in the UAlbany MBA program for ten years.

Steve recently served as an Independent Director on the Audit Committee of the largest non-profit pension and health benefits board in the U.S. with approximately $21 billion in assets under management. He enjoys writing and playing with his grand-kids.

**APPFA Past President’s Panel Discussion**

A panel of APPFA Past-Presidents will discuss the impact of Internal Audit and APPFA on their career choices and what they learned as Internal Auditors that assists them in their current positions. The panel will talk about the formation of APPFA and discuss the early years of APPFA and lessons learned from careers in public pension fund auditing and tips for successful careers in the profession. This session will also review current public pension fund auditing trends. The panel also will address questions from conference attendees.

**Moderator:**
Steve Hayward, *State Universities Retirement System of Illinois*

**Panel Members:**
Steven M Harding, 1991-1993, IAM National Pension Fund
Linda F Walker, 2002-2005, Retired
Marc B Sundbeck, 2006-2008, Retired
Kenneth Kasper, 2008-2009, New York State Teachers Retirement System
Richard Bendall, 2010-2011, Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association
Ryan Babin, 2014-2015, Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System
Steve Hayward

Steve Hayward is the Director of Internal Audit for the State Universities Retirement System of Illinois (SURS), which is located in Champaign, Illinois. He has been in this position since 1984. Mr. Hayward has a Master’s degree in Accountancy from the University of Illinois in Champaign and a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Illinois State University in Normal.

He is a former President of the Association of Public Pension Fund Auditors. He also served the organization as Vice-President, Secretary and Board member for over 20 years, and was one of four original members that helped form APPFA in 1991. In addition, he is a CPA and a member of the Institute of Internal Auditors.

Steven Harding

See biography under above Relationship Risk topic.

Robert Schaefer

Bob retired from the State of Wisconsin Employee Trust Funds in 2006 after serving as Director of Internal Audit for 15 years. Prior to his employment with the Employee Trust Funds, he worked for the State of Wisconsin for most of his career. He is still doing some part-time consulting work and is enjoying the retired lifestyle in Hot Springs Village, Arkansas with his wife Sandy. He was the APPFA President from 1996-1997 and was one of the original four members that helped form APPFA in 1991. Bob grew up in Pewaukee Wisconsin and studied Accounting at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

Linda F. Walker

Ms. Walker received her BS in Business Administration – Accounting from Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA in 1983. She began her career with the Auditor of Public Accounts for the Commonwealth of Virginia as a Staff Auditor. In 1987, she became employed in the Internal Audit Department of the Virginia Retirement System. Ms. Walker specialized in IT Audit and Data Retrieval and Analysis. Her most recent position with VRS was as Assistant Audit Director.

Ms. Walker served as President of APPFA from 2002-2005. She also served as a Board Member and Vice-President of the Richmond Chapter of ISACA, as well as being a member of the IIA, the AICPA and the VSCPA. She earned CPA, CISA and CITP designations during her career. After 31 ½ years of service, Ms. Walker retired in January 2015 and enjoys volunteer work, taking continuous learning courses, reading, crafts, horse racing and spending time with family and friends.
Marci Sundbeck

Marci is retired from the Employees Retirement System of Texas (ERS) where she most recently served as the Director of Enterprise Risk Management. In addition to implementing ERS’ Risk Management program, she has over 25 years of internal auditing experience with state agencies, including 20 years in ERS’ Internal Audit Department as both a staff auditor and the Director of Internal Audit. Marci is a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), a Certified Internal Auditor (CIA), a Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA), and holds a Certification in Control Self-Assessment (CCSA) and a Certification in Risk Management Assurance (CRMA).

Marci received a BBA in Accounting from Texas A&M University. She is a Director of the Austin Area Chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners and has served on the Board of Governors for the Institute of Internal Auditors – Austin Chapter. Marci is a Past President of APPFA as well as a member of the Information Systems Audit and Control Association. She is a founding member and served on the Board of Directors for the Lake Travis Chapter of the Young Men’s Service League, a non-profit organization that initiates and encourages young men and their mothers to pursue philanthropic involvement in their community.

Kenneth Kasper

Ken is the Director of Internal Audit for the New York State Teachers’ Retirement System in Albany, New York. During his tenure there, covering the past 35 years, he has held increasingly responsible positions in internal audit and finance. Ken heads an internal audit function with responsibility for auditing all investment classes and operations, retirement benefit processing, employer reporting, IT processing and security, finance, and administration. He also coordinates the annual financial statement audit, the periodic actuarial audit, and any regulatory audits. In addition, he manages the System’s fraud hotline and conducts fraud investigations as necessary.

Ken received a Master of Science in Accounting and a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from the State University of New York. He is a CIA, CPA, CFE, CISA, CIDA, CCSA, CFSA, CGAP, and CRMA. He also holds the Claritas Investment Certificate awarded by the CFA Institute. Ken is a Past President of APPFA and was one of the authors of the APPFA Investment Risk Document published in July of 2000. He is also a current Board Member and Past-President of the Albany Chapter of the IIA.
Richard Bendall

Richard Bendall is the Chief of Internal Audit for the Los Angeles County Employees’ Retirement Association (LACERA). He joined LACERA in 1995 as a Senior Internal Auditor and became active within APPFA shortly thereafter. He served as APPFA’s President 2010 -11 and served two terms as Treasurer and one term as Vice-President. He is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA).

Ryan Babin

Ryan began his career as an Internal Auditor for the Louisiana State Employees’ Retirement System (LASERS) in 2003 and is the current Audit Director. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Nicholls State University. He is a Certified Internal Auditor, Certified Information Systems Auditor and Certified Public Accountant. Ryan is a former Past President and also serves on the Best Practices Committee.

25th Anniversary Celebration Dinner Cruise aboard Spirit of Chicago

APPFA is celebrating its 25th anniversary with a dinner cruise on Lake Michigan aboard the Spirit of Chicago cruise ship. The cruise offers spectacular views of the city, so be sure to bring your camera. This special event will recall the founding of APPFA, which occurred in Chicago 25 years ago. Guests of conference attendees may attend this event for an additional fee. The group will meet in the lobby of the hotel at 6 pm and take a short ½ mile walk to Navy Pier for the 6:30 boarding. Business casual dress is recommended.
Anti-Money Laundering

The session will address current compliance legislation related to anti-money laundering (AML) issues that affect financial institutions. An overview of current regulations will be provided along with recent examples of enforcement actions. Recent regulatory changes will also be discussed, including the lifting of sanctions against Iran and Cuba and the implications for these changes for financial institutions. The session will also present the risks related to non-compliance with AML regulations.

Participants are expected to come away with a better understanding of anti-money laundering (AML) regulation and better understanding of the risks related to non-compliance with such regulations.

Henry Balani is currently Head of Innovation for Accuity. He has extensive experience working with Financial Services firms, having pioneered AML sanction screening solutions related to Trade Finance compliance. He was previously Managing Director with responsibility for managing Accuity’s Compliance Group that includes Product Management and Professional Services related to all Compliance Risk solutions. Accuity is a global provider of payments and compliance solutions with clients in the Financial Services and Corporate sectors, including banks, money services businesses, Insurance, Shipping and Manufacturing firms. Prior to joining Accuity, Mr. Balani was managing consulting practices with some of the largest professional services organizations in the world, including Accenture and IBM. Mr. Balani’s previous role was with Pegasystems as their Consulting Director in their Financial Services practice. At IBM he was their Director of Client Services in the Software Group where he successfully managed Lotus’ delivery capability in Web application development consulting engagements for financial institutions. He was also a Consulting Manager at Andersen Consulting, now Accenture. Mr. Balani’s career began with PriceWaterhouse Coopers in their Advisory Consulting practice.

Mr. Balani holds an M.B.A. from Northern Illinois University and B.S. in Economics, International Trade and Development from the London School of Economics, University of London. He teaches graduate-level classes in International Economics and Global Business and is currently conducting Doctoral level research at the University of Wisconsin. He is an active member of the Project Management Institute, ACAMS and BAFT. He is CAMS certified. Mr. Balani is a noted expert in the financial services industry and is regularly quoted in major publications including the Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg. He regularly speaks at various conferences on topics related to Compliance and Payments Efficiency across multiple industry sectors.

ERM and Internal Audit Working Together

Most organizations believe in the concept of enterprise risk management (ERM). Is your pension system implementing ERM? If not, why not? The internal audit profession is uniquely positioned to provide guidance, expertise, training, and assist in building and maintaining an effective risk management program. Internal audit, in both its assurance and its consulting roles, contributes to the management of risk in a variety of ways. This presentation will provide an overview of ERM and demonstrate how ERM
and Internal Audit works together to provide assurance services. Participants will discuss and get an understanding of the following topics: Overview of Enterprise Risk Management; Importance/Benefits of ERM; Ten Tips for Implementing ERM; Role of Internal Audit in Implementing ERM; Integrating ERM and Internal Audit; Evaluating your ERM Framework.

(ERM) activities to work together, yet maintain their respective positions. But how do the two forge an alliance? This session will discuss: What is ERM and why is it becoming increasingly important; The roles of Internal Audit and Enterprise Risk Management; How Internal Audit and ERM can support each other; The benefits of an effective ERM program to Internal Audit.

Larry Jensen
Chief Auditor
California State Teachers Retirement System

Knowledge is Power: Cyber Intrusion Readiness and Response

Cyber risks continue to evolve and organizations need to be ready to know how to respond in this environment. The speaker will provide attendees with a basic understanding of how an organization can help prevent, respond to, and remediate a cyber intrusion, and various regulatory provisions that may be triggered by such an event. New state laws and federal regulatory actions, regulatory trends, and emerging cyber risk patterns will also be discussed.

Participants are expected to come away with a better understanding of how to remediate cyber intrusion and better understanding of the various state and federal regulatory provisions that apply.

Larry Jensen began serving as the Chief Auditor of the California State Teachers’ Retirement System (CalSTRS) in July 2014. Larry is responsible for managing both internal audit and employer audit program. His goal is to transform the internal audit activities into using a risk based approach and integrating audits and enterprise risk management. He continues to be a champion of enterprise risk management!

Prior to joining CalSTRS, Jensen was the Chief Risk Officer at the California Public Employees Retirement System, (CalPERS) where he spent nearly two decades in a variety of oversight and auditing roles. Jensen joined the CalPERS Office of Audit Services in June 1995 and rose to chief auditor in 2002. He served as Assistant Executive Officer for CalPERS Administrative Services Branch before being appointed Chief Risk Officer in 2011. He received his accounting degree from National University. Jensen is a Certified Internal Auditor, Certified Government Financial Manager, Certified Information Systems Auditor and is certified in risk management assurance. He has served on the boards of the Institute of Internal Auditors and the Association of Public Pension Fund Auditors.

Larry Jensen
Chief Auditor
California State Teachers Retirement System
Aleksandra Vold focuses her practice on privacy breach response (pre- and post-event), payment card industry (PCI) standards and investigations, advising clients in identifying, evaluating and managing first- and third-party data privacy and security risks, and class action privacy litigation. As a member of Thompson Coburn’s breach response team, Aleksandra assists in quickly bringing lawyers, clients and forensic and breach response vendors together to optimize response time and effectiveness. She handles breaches for small and large entities, including merchants, medical providers, and nonprofit institutions, successfully reducing public and regulatory scrutiny and protecting clients’ reputations. Aleksandra has been published on the topic of legal protection for fashion design and speaks routinely on that issue.

Prior to working at Thompson Coburn, Aleksandra represented startups and closely held technology companies in a wide variety of commercial disputes, including intellectual property, trade secrets, federal labor law and contract disputes. Aleksandra has a JD from the John Marshall Law School. She also has a BA from Columbia College of Chicago.

**Private Equity Fees and SEC Update**

This session will give an overview of the mission of the Securities & Exchange Commission and its organizational structure. Discussion will also include general priorities in the private equity area, general exam methodologies and typical review findings.

Learning objectives include: Gain a better understanding of the SEC’s organizational structure, particularly as it pertains to exams of private equity fund advisers; Become familiar with current SEC exam priorities in the private equity fund adviser space to aid in participants’ audits; and Learn general examples of findings uncovered during recent SEC exams of private equity fund advisers, and the methods employed, so that participants may utilize such methods in audits of these areas.

Michael Collins joined the SEC in July 1999 after earning his Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance, cum laude, from The University of Kentucky. Michael is currently a member of the SEC’s Private Funds Unit and routinely participates in exams of private equity fund advisers.

**APPFA Board Meeting**

The APPFA Board members will meet to conduct the business of the organization, including membership changes, financial reports and future conference sites.

Only Board members and invited members should attend the meeting.
**GASB Update**

The GASB has been keeping busy and that means numerous new standards issued in 2015 that are of importance to the APPFA members. Topics to be covered in this presentation include: GASB Statement No. 72, *Fair Value Measurement and Application*; GASB Statement No. 73, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions and Related Assets That Are Not within the Scope of GASB Statement 68, and Amendments to Certain Provisions of GASB Statements 67 and 68*; GASB Statement No. 74, *Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans*; GASB Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*; GASB Statement No. 76, *The Hierarchy of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles for State and Local Governments*; and GASB Statement No. 78, *Pensions Provided through Certain Multiple-Employer Defined Benefit Pension Plans*.

Participants are expected to come away with a better understanding of the various, recently issued statements by the GASB as they apply to public pension systems. More specifically, APPFA members are expected to come away better prepared for their respective plans' implementations of these standards.

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**David R. Bean**  
*Director of Research and Technical Activities*  
*Governmental Accounting Standards Board*

David R. Bean is the Director of Research and Technical Activities for the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. He assigns and provides oversight to the GASB’s research, technical, and administrative activities.

Prior to joining the GASB in 1990, David worked in public accounting and government. He served as Deputy Chairman of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB) until December 31, 2012 and currently serves on the IPSASB Nonexchange Transactions task-based group. He was the lead author on the 1988 *Governmental Accounting, Auditing and Financial Reporting* and was the founder of the *GAAFR Review*. He was the last director of the National Council on Governmental Accounting before the formation of the GASB in 1984.

David is a member of the Government Finance Officers Association, the Connecticut and Illinois Government Finance Officers Associations, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Illinois CPA Society, the Association of Government Accountants, the National Federation of Municipal Analysts, and the Municipal Analysts Group of New York.
**Employer Audits: Coming Soon at a Pension System Near You?**

IMRF’s Internal Audit Unit has been conducting employer auditors since 2006, when the program was first initiated as a pilot. The key objective is to audit at least 20% of active membership of the pension system annually. The internal audit team has been identifying various findings related to compliance with the pension code and plan administration; with over 1,000 audits completed to-date. These audited employers encompass a wide-range of entities including, schools, municipalities, counties, townships, parks, and libraries, to name a few.

This session will provide for an overview of the employer audits process at IMRF, the tools and programs being used, as well as practical recommendations for implementing similar programs in other pension systems. Participants are expected to come away with a better understanding of how to establish an employer audit program and the tools needed and to be able to apply these concepts in audits of these areas.

Julia Davidyan serves as the Chief Audit Officer for the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund, a second-largest and best-funded public pension in Illinois. She oversees a department of six that is charged with performance and administration of both employer audits and internal pension system operations, to ensure compliance with IMRF regulations, including the Illinois Pensions Code. She has been with IMRF since 2011.

Prior to joining IMRF, Mrs. Davidyan worked at a Big 4 public accounting firm in Chicago, where she audited medium and large corporations, focusing on the areas of investments and pension benefits. Julia’s background showcases an extensive audit and compliance experience. Mrs. Davidyan is a CPA and holds an M.S. and a B.S. in Accounting from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is currently a doctoral candidate in accounting area at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. She conducts research in the area of public pensions and governmental accounting.
The Association of Public Pension Fund Auditors (APPFA) Professional Development Conference is a group-live conference designed to further enhance participants’ auditing skills and provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and concepts. Attendees should have a basic knowledge of accounting and auditing procedures, practices, and theory. There is no experience requirement and no advance preparation is needed.

Attendees will receive an attendance certificate following the completion of this conference. Auditing and accounting professionals may qualify for a total of 17 hours of Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credits by attending this conference, which is designed to comply with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants’ Statement on CPE Standards.

APPFA is registered with the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA), as a sponsor of continuing professional education on the National Registry of CPE Sponsors; state boards of accountancy have final authority on the acceptance of individual courses for CPE credit. Complaints regarding registered sponsors may be addressed to the National Registry of CPE Sponsors, 150 Fourth Avenue North, Suite 700, Nashville, TN 37219-2417;

Website: www.nasba.org
Registration, Hotel, Airport 
Transportation and Other Information

Registration Information

The conference registration form and fee of $325.00 should be received by Thursday March 31, 2016 to reserve your place at the conference. Click on the link below for the conference packet, including the online registration form. Please use “appfa1” as the registration code on the online registration form. You’ll need that code right after you put in your email address.

APPFA conference registration link here

The registration fee includes materials, Sunday night reception, lunches, breaks and the group dinner on Monday, April 25, 2016.

Refund Policy

Refunds are available if a written cancellation notice is received 10 business days before the conference. Refunds will not be issued after that date. For more information regarding administrative policies, please visit our website at www.appfa.org.

Complaint Policy

Complaints regarding conference or other matters must be written and sent to APPFA, PO Box 16064, Columbus, OH 43216-6064. Complaints will be forwarded to the President who will decide how to address the complaint. The complaint must contain the name, address, phone number and e-mail address of the person submitting the complaint. All complaints submitted will receive a written response.

Hotel Information

The conference will be held at the Embassy Suites Chicago – Downtown/Lakefront, which is conveniently located between Navy Pier and the Magnificent Mile shopping district on Michigan Avenue. In the ideal location for business and pleasure, guests are close to attractions, shopping, and a multitude of restaurants. Additional information about the hotel is below:

511 North Columbus Drive
Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 836-5900

APPFA hotel room rate: $159/night based on single/double occupancy.

( Room rates do not include applicable state and local taxes. The group rate is available three days before and three days after the event dates subject to availability.)

Concessions:
- Complimentary Wi-Fi/internet in all guest rooms.
- Complimentary cooked to order breakfast in Atrium.
- Complimentary evening manager’s reception in Atrium 5:30-7:30 pm.

Reservations:

Please make your room reservation on or before Thursday, March 31, 2016 either by:

a. Using the link below that will take you to APPFA’s personalized group website:

Embassy Suites Reservation Link for APPFA

Or

b. Calling (312) 836-5900. Please let them know you are attending the APPFA conference.
Registration, Hotel, Airport
Transportation and Other Information

Transportation:

To/From O’Hare International Airport (ORD):

The O’Hare International Airport is located approximately 17 miles from the hotel and is accessible via local mass transit lines, regional trains and buses, downtown shuttles and interstate highways. The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) or the “L” blue line provides access to downtown from the airport station at O’Hare and costs $5 ($2 coming into the airport); however a short cab ride would be needed after reaching downtown. Airport officials however don’t recommend nighttime use of the CTA. Cabs typically cost $35-$50, while airport shuttles provide cheaper options ($29 with Super Shuttle). See www.flychicago.com for more details.

To/From Chicago Midway International Airport (MDW):

The Midway International Airport is located approximately 12 miles from the hotel and is accessible via local mass transit lines, regional trains and buses, downtown shuttles and interstate highways. The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) or the “L” orange line provides access to downtown from the station at Midway and costs $2; however a short cab ride would be needed after reaching downtown. Airport officials however don’t recommend nighttime use of the CTA. Cabs typically cost $25-$35, while airport shuttles provide cheaper options ($20 with Super Shuttle). See www.flychicago.com for more details.

Driving Directions to the Hotel:

From O’Hare International Airport:

Take Interstate I-90/94 East towards downtown Chicago. Exit at Ohio Street (Exist 50B). Turn right onto Orleans Street and proceed 2 blocks. Turn left onto Illinois Street and proceed 10 blocks to Columbus Drive. Hotel is at intersection of Illinois and Columbus.

From Midway International Airport:

Head north on S. Cicero Ave for about two miles than turn right towards I-55/Stevenson Expy North and continue on it to Lake Shore Drive (Hwy 41 North). Exit Grand Ave (Navy Pier exit). Proceed two blocks and look for the hotel on left. Hotel parking is before intersection of Grand Ave and Fairbanks.

Other Information:

Attire:

Business casual attire is appropriate. The temperature in the meeting room may be cool so a jacket or sweater is recommended.

Guests:

Guests for the Sunday Evening Reception:
Your guests may join us at no additional cost.

Guests for the Monday Night Dinner Cruise:
Your guests may join us at the group dinner at an additional cost of $50.

Guests for the lunch meals:
Your guests may join us at the Monday and Tuesday lunch meals at an additional cost of $15 each meal.