



NASACT Responds to Moody's Proposal on Reported Pension Data Members "Strongly Urge" Delaying Changes Until GASB Pension Standards are Implemented

At the 2012 NASACT Annual Conference, held in August in Seattle, members discussed a proposal from Moody's Investor Services titled *Adjustments to U.S. State and Local Government Reported Pension Data*. The proposal was provided to members for review and input.

Initial reaction by members at the annual conference was concern, as some elements of the proposal were quite significant. Many members of the NASACT Executive Committee expressed strong concern, especially with the confusion that the proposed changes will create as states begin implementing the new pension standards from the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

While Moody's indicated that ratings on states are not likely to change under the proposal, it did say, "the proposed adjustments described in this Request for Comment would nearly triple fiscal 2010 reported unfunded actuarial accrued liability ('UAAL') for the 50 states and our rated local governments."

The proposal considered four principal adjustments to as-reported pension information:

1. Multiple-employer cost-sharing plan liabilities will be allocated to specific government employers based on proportionate shares of total plan contributions.
2. Accrued actuarial liabilities will be adjusted based on a high-grade long-term corporate bond index discount rate (5.5 percent for 2010 and 2011).
3. Asset smoothing will be replaced with reported market or fair value as of the actuarial reporting date.
4. Annual pension contributions will be adjusted to reflect the foregoing changes as well as a common amortization period.

Moody's presented the proposal as part of its efforts to "bring greater transparency and consistency to the analysis of pension liabilities."

NASACT provided formal input to Moody's on the proposal in a letter dated September 27. The letter states:

"Our primary concern centers around the confusion that we believe Moody's new evaluation methodology will produce, especially given the recent passage of the two new pension standards released in June by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board..."

The letter continues:

"In fact, several of the provisions in the new GASB statements are similar to those contained in Moody's proposal (with the primary exception of a fixed discount rate). Accordingly, we strongly urge Moody's to wait until the new GASB statements have been implemented before developing another methodology for measuring pension liabilities and expenses."

We believe that the introduction of another set of pension numbers (unaudited in this case) at this time will only create more confusion and possibly panic for investors, policy makers, financial statement users, media outlets and the citizens (many of whom do not fully understand the debate on short-term vs. long-term discount rates and the impact on overall pension liabilities or the long-term nature of public pension plans). The one-size-fits-all approach does not seem warranted or appropriate."

To view the complete letter, as well as seven pages of specific comments from NASACT members regarding Moody's proposal, visit www.nasact.org/downloads/CRC/LOC/09_27_12-NASACT_Letter_Moody.pdf. ■

Pension Standards Implementation Group Begins Information Sharing Calls

NASACT's Pension Standards Implementation Group recently began holding calls to assist the states in implementing GASB Statements 67 and 68. The first call, held on October 17, featured participation by 44 states as well as staff from the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. The next call will be held in December or January (date TBA). View the group's chairs, roster, summaries and tools at www.nasact.org/nasact/committees/pension/index.cfm (some content is restricted to members only). To join, email Kim O'Ryan (koryan@nasact.org) or Sherri Rowland (srowland@nasact.org).

NSAA IT Workshop and Conference Recap

The National State Auditors Association held its annual IT conference in Nashville, Tennessee, on September 26-28. The conference was preceded by a day-long workshop on Tuesday, September 25. The workshop featured the topic of “Auditing Operating Systems and Database Security.”

The PowerPoint presentations from the workshop and conference sessions are available on NASACT’s website at www.nasact.org/conferences_training/nsaa/workshop.cfm.

NSAA wishes to thank the speakers, moderators, and members

of the NSAA E-Government Committee for their efforts to make this conference such a success. NSAA also wishes to extend special thanks to the Tennessee conference hosts, particularly Deborah Loveless, Dan Willis and Nathan Abbott. See pages 9 and 10 of this newsletter for photos from the workshop and conference.

The location and dates for the 2013 IT Workshop and Conference are to be determined. Questions may be directed to Sherri Rowland (srowland@nasact.org). ■

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

IT Workshop: Auditing Operating Systems and Database Security

Windows

- Michele Williamson, IT Audit Manager, Department of Audits and Accounts (GA)

Unix

- Mike Schroth, IT Audit Manager, Department of Audits and Accounts (GA)

SQL Server

- BJ Bellamy, Chief Technology Officer, Office of the Auditor of Public Accounts (KY)

Oracle

- Nathan Abbott, IS Audit Manager, Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury (TN)
- Karen Masters, Legislative IS Auditor, Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury (TN)
- James Falbe, IS Auditor, Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury (TN)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

State of the States: IT Priorities, Issues and Trends

- Doug Robinson, Executive Director, National Association of State Chief Information Officers

Scripting as an Auditing Tool – The Benefits, Costs, Examples, and Online Resources

- BJ Bellamy, Chief Technology Officer, Office of the Auditor of Public Accounts (KY)

ACL Scripts

- Beth Pendergrass, Legislative Audit Manager, Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury (TN)
- Kristina Turner, Deputy Director for Education Audit Division, Department of Audits and Accounts (GA)
- Holli Harrison, IS Audit Supervisor, Office of the State Auditor (NC)

PCI Compliance

- Jacob Arthur, Manager of Security Services, FDH Consulting
- Tim Agee, Director of Consulting Services, FDH Consulting

Big Data with BI, Low Cost Big Returns

- Steve Geddes, Applications Manager, Department of Audits and Accounts (GA)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Auditing Web-Based Applications

- Jay Rasband, IT Security Auditor, Office of the Auditor General (AZ)
- Sean Clifford, IT Auditor, Office of the Auditor General (AZ)

Database Security

- Ahmad Sabbarini, Manager, Advisory Services, Ernst & Young, LLP

Data Analytic Tools: Active Data for Excel, Power Pivot and Do Not Pay List

- Doug Peterson, IS Audit Supervisor, Legislative Counsel Bureau (NV)
- Nathan Abbott, IS Audit Manager, Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury (TN)

Mobile Device Security and Control

- Chris Gohlke, Audit Coordinator, Office of the Auditor General (FL)
- Goran Gustavsson, Audit Director – Information Systems Security, Office of the Auditor of Public Accounts (VA)

Considerations While Auditing Virtual Education

- Nancy Reeder, Audit Manager, IT Audits – FEFP, Office of the Auditor General (FL)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Core Security Services

- Erik Avakian, Chief Information Security Officer, Governor’s Office of Administration (PA)

IT Roundtable

- Moderator: Karen Helderman, Audit Director, Office of the Auditor of Public Accounts (VA)

Issues in IT Governance

- Teresa Furnish, Senior Auditor, Division of Audits (OR)
- Jon Ingram, Audit Manager, Office of the Auditor General (FL)
- Roger Boyd, Deputy Director, Department of Audits and Accounts (GA)

E-Government Committee

The NSAA IT workshop and conference is planned by the E-Government Committee. Members of the 2012-13 committee are listed below. If you have suggestions for the 2013 conference, please e-mail them to Sherri Rowland at srowland@nasact.org and they will be passed along to the committee.

Karen Helderman, Virginia, Chair
Chloe Haidet, Georgia, Vice-Chair
Mike Billo, Pennsylvania
Lynn Bolton, Georgia
April Gunn, Virginia
Goran Gustavsson, Virginia
Jon Ingram, Florida
Roger Norman, Arkansas
Sharon Russell, Alabama
Jennifer Schreck, Virginia
Paul Townsend, Nevada
Bruce Vaughan, Connecticut
Dan Willis, Tennessee

GAO Recaps Latest Fraud Findings in Medicaid

On October 10, The U.S. Government Accountability Office issued a report on its latest fraud investigations into the Medicaid program. Over 10,000 subjects—individuals and entities involved in fraud cases—were investigated for health care fraud, including fraud in Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children’s Health Insurance Program.

The report found that 40 percent of criminal fraud cases were being committed by medical facilities or durable medical equipment suppliers. This number, based on 2010 data, is down slightly from 2005, when medical facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers represented 41 percent of the subjects. GAO continues to designate Medicare and Medicaid as high-risk federal programs, citing their size and complexity as making them vulnerable to fraud.

Pointing out just how big the fraud problem has become, GAO pulled data from 10 state Medicaid Fraud Control Units, which

are required to be separate and distinct from the state Medicaid agencies, highlighting that:

“...over 40 percent of the 2,742 subjects investigated for health care fraud in Medicaid and CHIP in 2010 were home health care providers and health care practitioners. Civil health care fraud cases pursued by these MFCUs in 2010 resulted in judgments and settlements totaling nearly \$829 million. Pharmaceutical manufacturers were to pay more than 60 percent (\$509 million) of the total amount of civil judgments and settlements...”

In fiscal year 2011, over 48 million individuals were enrolled in Medicare, 55.6 million in Medicaid, and 8.7 million in the Children’s Health Insurance Program. These three programs account for approximately \$849.2 billion in federal expenditures, and required the federal government to allocate over \$608 million in funding to investigate and prosecute cases of alleged health care fraud.

The full report can be found at www.gao.gov/assets/650/647849.pdf. ■

Grants to States and Locals Plagued by Familiar Challenges

In September, the U.S. Government Accountability Office released a report entitled *Grants to State and Local Governments: An Overview of Federal Funding Levels and Selected Challenges*.

Through the study, GAO found that federal outlays for grants to state and local governments totaled more than \$606 billion in fiscal year 2011. Over the last three decades, these grants have consistently been a significant component of federal spending, but the focus of this spending has changed over time. For example, during this period the proportion of federal outlays to state and local governments dedicated to Medicaid grants more than tripled, rising from 2.4 percent of total federal government outlays in 1980 to 7.6 percent in 2011. The increase in federal outlays for Medicaid and other health-related grant programs was offset by an approximately equivalent decrease in grants to state and local governments targeted for other areas such as transportation, education, and regional development.

GAO’s prior work and the work of others have also shown that the number of federal grant programs directed to state and local governments has generally increased over the last three decades. However, definitively determining the number of such grant programs presents difficulties. The lack of consensus on a methodology for how to define and count grant programs and data limitations in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance further complicates this effort.

GAO and others have previously reported on a variety of management challenges involving federal grants to state and local governments, many of which can be grouped into the following five topic areas:

- 1. Challenges related to effectively measuring grant performance:** A lack of appropriate performance measures and accurate data can limit agencies’ ability to effectively measure grant program performance. This can affect the ability of federal agencies to ensure that grant funds are effectively spent.
- 2. Uncoordinated grant program creation:** Numerous federal grant programs have been created over time without coordinated purposes or scope. This can result in grants management challenges such as unnecessary duplication across grant programs and unnecessary overlap in funding.
- 3. Need for better collaboration:** A lack of collaboration among grant program participants can impede effective grant implementation in areas such as knowledge sharing and defining clear leadership roles.
- 4. Internal control weaknesses:** When internal controls in grants management and oversight are weak, federal grant-making agencies face challenges in achieving program goals and assuring the proper and effective use of federal funds. Effective controls can help to avoid improper grant payments.
- 5. Lack of agency or recipient capacity:** Capacity reflects the organizational, financial, and human capital resources available for the implementation of grant programs. A lack of capacity can adversely impact an agency’s or recipient’s ability to manage and implement grant programs.

Although the report does not make any specific recommendations, it does provide an overview of the current grants environment and challenges. The report was authored by Stanley Czerwinski and Beryl Davis; it can be found at www.gao.gov/assets/650/648792.pdf. ■

Tax-Exempt Bond Defense Network Created by Bond Dealers

A new coalition has been launched by the Bond Dealers of America, whose goal is to protect the status of tax-exempt bonds from possible changes in the tax code next year. The coalition, called Municipal Bonds for America (MBA), will represent dealers, issuers and municipal market professionals. MBA's mission states that it will provide a unified advocacy voice to promote and defend the municipal bond market and serve as a single source of information for policy makers regarding municipal finance and the benefits to taxpayers, investors, and state and local governments.

Founding members of the MBA include the National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies, Fifth Third Securities, and the Bond Dealers of America. In a press release, MBA co-chairman Marty Vogtsberger said:

“Given the growing need to replace aging infrastructure and renew economic growth, it is now more important than ever to make certain that local and state governments continue to have access to reasonably priced funding.”

The other co-chairman, Ken Williams, stated:

“Tax exempt municipal bonds are well understood by investors and issuers and have been a successful financing tool throughout the century... Policy makers should not try to fix what isn't broken; a tax on tax exempt bonds ultimately shifts more burdens to local governments.”

A list of all Municipal Bonds for America's members is located on Page 3 of a document located at www.bdamerica.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/National-Coalition-Launched-to-Protect-Tax-Exempt-Funding-for-Public-Infrastructure-Projects-101012-FINAL.pdf. ■

Association Notes: NASACT's New Benchmarking Program Is Open for Business!

States interested in benchmarking key functions may wish to consider participating in NASACT's new benchmarking program, an extension of the program originally created in 2005.

On June 29, NASACT and The Hackett Group signed a new contract to offer benchmarking services to state governments for the following functions: finance business processes; human resources (including payroll); procurement; and information technology. The contract is for six years (three years, with options for three one-year extensions).

NASACT is currently negotiating contracts for part B of the RFP for benchmark-related consulting services.

More information about the benchmarking project are on NASACT's website, including the RFP and the signed contract, at www.nasact.org/nasact/benchmarking/rfpcontract.cfm.

Pricing

The sample Statement of Work attached to NASACT's contract with Hackett contains an outline of the cost for one or more benchmarks and optional additional services. The

basic price structure is as follows (participating states will also reimburse The Hackett Group for travel-related expenses, and NASACT will charge a three percent administrative fee):

Benchmark for Finance, HR/Payroll, Procurement, and/or IT	Contract Fees
1 Benchmark	\$ 88,000
2 Benchmarks	\$158,000
3 Benchmarks	\$231,000
4 Benchmarks	\$299,000

Background

NASACT began its benchmarking program on August 4, 2005. The project was conceived as a means by which states could procure benchmarking services and compare state programs and agencies to each other within a state and to those in other states. The project developed a common taxonomy to allow for equitable comparisons in the areas of finance, HR/payroll, procurement and IT.

Since that time, 15 states have participated in one or more benchmarks. Additionally, through the program NASACT has offered executive advisory services for states wishing to obtain assistance in implementing recommendations resulting from their benchmark studies. ■

Oregon Is First to Benchmark Under New Contract

NASACT has signed the first benchmarking contract with a state under the new contract signed with The Hackett Group in June of 2012. In October, the state of Oregon signed a Statement of Work for all four functional benchmarks – finance, human resources (including payroll), procurement and information technology. **States interested in learning more about the benchmarking program should** contact Kim O'Ryan at NASACT at koryan@nasact.org or (859) 276-1147 or Kathy Zupo with The Hackett Group at kzupo@thehackettgroup.com or (770) 225-7204.



Wyoming State Treasurer Joe Meyer Dies, 71

Wyoming State Treasurer Joseph B. (Joe) Meyer, 71, passed away on October 6, 2012, in Cheyenne with his family by his side following a long battle with lung cancer. He was in his second term as Wyoming state treasurer, having been re-elected to that position in 2010.

Throughout his life, Mr. Meyer made a significant contribution to his native state and was recently honored for his 40 years of service to the state of Wyoming by Gov. Matt Mead. During those 40 years, Mr. Meyer served as state treasurer, secretary of state, attorney general, government affairs and communications assistant to the president of the University of Wyoming, and assistant director of the Legislative Service Office.

A graduate of the University of Wyoming, Mr. Meyer used his

education and talents to better his community and state and was honored as a distinguished alumni of the University of Wyoming in 2012 for his outstanding achievements.

Mr. Meyer received his bachelor's degree in mathematics/chemistry from the University of Wyoming in 1963 and went on to obtain his juris doctorate degree from the UW Law School in 1967.

Mr. Meyer's legacy lives on in Wyoming through the many friends and colleagues he worked with over the last 40 years. His knowledge of Wyoming and statesmanship were an asset to all who knew him. His approachable manner, good humor and complex understanding of government had him serving as political counsel and mentor to hundreds throughout his life.

Mr. Meyer is survived by his wife of 46 years, Mary Orr Meyer, his sons, Vince, and Warren (Cory), grandsons Ethan and Devin, all of Cheyenne, and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

The process to name a successor to the position of state treasurer of Wyoming is currently underway. ■

Donna Jones Retires as Idaho State Controller, Brandon Woolf to Permanently Fill Vacancy



On Monday, October 15, 2012, Idaho State Controller Donna Jones retired from public office to focus exclusively on recovering from injuries sustained in an automobile accident on May 25, 2012. That same day Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter permanently appointed Ms. Jones' chief of staff, Brandon Woolf, as Idaho's new state controller.

In a letter to Gov. Otter, Ms. Jones noted that her ongoing recovery may take as long as two years, and that she could not "in good conscience deliver anything less than a full measure to those who have trusted me all these years," and thus chose "to retire and ensure the people are represented by someone who can give them all of his attention and energy."

At the press conference announcing Ms. Jones' retirement and Mr. Woolf's appointment, Gov. Otter commended Ms. Jones for

her loyal service to the people of Idaho.

"For nearly 30 years Donna has been a dedicated public servant. It's a selfless act for her to retire from office, thus ensuring the people of Idaho are represented by a controller who can devote all of his time and energies to the job," said Gov. Otter. "Just like Donna, I have complete confidence in Brandon Woolf's ability to be an outstanding state controller."

Mr. Woolf is a 15-year veteran of the State Controller's Office. Hired initially as an intern, he has held a variety of leadership posts in the State Controller's Office including bureau chief, division administrator, and most recently chief of staff. On July 3, 2012, at State Controller Jones' recommendation, Gov. Otter temporarily appointed Mr. Woolf to serve as acting state controller. With Ms. Jones' retirement and Gov. Otter's appointment, Mr. Woolf is now the permanent state controller, and will serve out the remainder of Jones' term, which ends in January of 2015. Mr. Woolf's appointment is subject to the approval of the Idaho State Senate.

Mr. Woolf earned a bachelor of arts degree in political science (Cum Laude) from Utah State University, and a master's of business administration from Boise State University. ■



Brandon Woolf Appointed as Idaho's Twenty-First State Comptroller

Shown at left: Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter administers the oath of office to Brandon Woolf, who assumed the position of state comptroller of Idaho. Also present at the swearing in was Mr. Woolf's wife, Janalee (at right). Mr. Woolf will complete Donna Jones's unfinished term, which will end in January 2015.



GASB Chairman Robert Attmore to Retire in June 2013

The Financial Accounting Foundation recently announced that Robert H. Attmore, chairman of the Governmental

Accounting Standards Board, will retire in June 2013. A former auditor and deputy comptroller for New York State, Mr. Attmore has served as GASB chairman since July 2004.

“On behalf of the Board of Trustees and, more importantly, taxpayers, municipal bond investors, and state and local government officials across the country, I want to offer my sincere thanks to Bob for nine years of thoughtful and dedicated leadership of the GASB,” said John J. Brennan, chairman of the FAF Board of Trustees.

“During Bob’s tenure, the GASB has tackled such important—and difficult—accounting issues as pensions and other retirement benefits, derivatives, municipal bankruptcies, and fund balance reporting with professionalism and a regard for the concerns of every affected party. I look forward to continuing to work with Bob until next year, when he begins his well-deserved

retirement,” Mr. Brennan added.

“Serving as the GASB chair has been a distinct honor, particularly as we’ve worked through some key areas of financial reporting in the public sector,” Mr. Attmore said. “After balancing the GASB’s accomplishments and the ongoing work of the board with my desire to devote more time to my family in the Albany, New York area, I made the decision to retire next year. While the GASB continues to have important work underway, the next nine months will provide adequate time for us to ensure a smooth transition to new leadership.”

Mr. Attmore was appointed to serve as chairman of the GASB effective July 1, 2004. On July 1, 2009, he began serving a second and final five-year term as chairman. Prior to joining the GASB, Mr. Attmore worked for New York State for more than 23 years, serving as deputy state comptroller and state auditor from 1986 until 2003.

Mr. Attmore has served as president of the National State Auditors Association and has held leadership positions with the Association of Government Accountants, NASACT, and other professional organizations.

The FAF will begin searching for a replacement to fill the position soon. Any NASACT members who may be interested in the position may contact Kinney Poynter, executive director of NASACT, at kpoynter@nasact.org or (859) 276-1147. ■

The FAF Names Diermeier Chairman and Petach as a Member

Jeffrey J. Diermeier, former president and CEO of the CFA Institute, has been elected chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Financial Accounting Foundation.

Mr. Diermeier, who has served on the FAF Board since 2009, succeeds John J. Brennan, chairman emeritus of The Vanguard Group. Mr. Brennan was elected chairman of the FAF Board of Trustees in February 2009 and will continue to serve for the balance of his five-year term, through December 2013.

The FAF also announced the appointment of Ann Marie Petach, chief financial officer and senior managing director of Blackrock, Inc., to the Board of Trustees. Ms. Petach’s appointment fills a vacancy on the Board with a term that extends to December 2014; at that time, she will be eligible to be reappointed for an additional three years.

“Today’s announcements emphasize the importance of the investor perspective to the FAF and our standard-setting boards,” Mr. Brennan said. “Jeff Diermeier is a highly regarded investor who has successfully overseen the management of hundreds of billions of dollars in assets over many years and is especially well qualified to lead the FAF Board of Trustees.”

He added, “Ann Marie Petach is CFO of one of the largest investment management companies in the world. Earlier in her career, as treasurer of Ford Motor Company, she was responsible for overseeing Ford’s global pension assets. We’re very pleased to welcome both Jeff and Ann Marie to these roles.”

Mr. Diermeier, who will serve a three-year term, headed the

CFA Institute until his retirement at the end of 2008. Previously, Mr. Diermeier was global chief investment officer at UBS Global Asset Management, overseeing the management of more than \$400 billion in assets. He worked with UBS and its predecessors for almost 30 years in various positions, including head of asset allocation, head of the U.S. equity division, and deputy chief investment officer. He was a founding managing partner of the former Brinson Partners, Inc. Mr. Diermeier holds a B.B.A. and an M.B.A. from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

“We at the FAF thank Jack Brennan for his four years of dedicated service as chairman,” said FAF president and chief executive officer Teresa S. Polley. “Under Jack’s leadership, the trustees significantly expanded their outreach to our stakeholders and implemented major changes as part of their broadened oversight responsibilities—the Private Company Council, the post-implementation review process, and the academic study of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board’s mission, are just three examples.

“We have had the privilege of working closely with Jeff Diermeier during the past four years, and we’re very excited about continuing and expanding that relationship as Jeff assumes his new role as chairman,” she added.

Ms. Polley said that Ms. Petach’s long experience as both a preparer of financial statements and an investor will bring important expertise to the Board of Trustees. Before joining Blackrock as managing director and head of business finance in 2007, Ms. Petach worked at Ford Motor Company for more than 20 years in positions of increasing responsibility. Her final position at Ford was treasurer and corporate vice president. ■

New at www.nasact.org

The following new items have been posted on NASACT's website:

- NSAA technical inquiries on the following topics at www.nasact.org/nsaa/technical/index.cfm (members only content):
 - Access to Income Tax Return Information
 - Planning Materiality
- NASC technical inquiries on the following topics at www.nasact.org/nasc/technical/index.cfm (members only content):
 - Federal Revenues and Expenditures
 - ERP Software Depreciation Period
 - Confidential Payments on Transparency Website

Comptroller's Book (Short-Term Portion) Now Available

The short-term data available in the 2012 update to *State Comptrollers: Technical Activities and Functions* is now available on NASACT's website at www.nasact.org/nasc/publications/comptroller.cfm (members only content). The long-term data and the complete book for purchase by non-members will be made available soon. Upon completion, long-term data will be posted at the link above for members. Non-members may purchase the complete data set in NASACT's bookstore at www.nasact.org/bookstore/index.cfm.

AICPA Seeks input on ED

In June 2012, the Professional Ethics Executive Committee of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants issued the exposure draft *Proposed Revised and New Interpretations and Proposed Deletion of Ethics Rulings*. This exposure draft includes a proposal that would make financial statement preparation a nonattest service.

Because the biggest impact of this change will be on compilations, NSAA will not be responding to this exposure draft. The exposure draft can be downloaded at www.aicpa.org/InterestAreas/ProfessionalEthics/Community/ExposureDrafts.

If you wish to respond to the exposure draft, the original comment deadline of August 31 has been extended to November 30.

Do You Have Suggested Topics for a Webinar?

NASACT is currently accepting suggestions for the 2013 webinar season. If you have suggested topics you would like to see featured in a NASACT webinar, please email Kinney Poynter at kpoynter@nasact.org.

To view past webinar topics or order CDs from past webinars, visit NASACT's Online Bookstore at www.nasact.org/bookstore/index.cfm.



Get Involved!

For information on participating in any of these calls, contact NASACT's headquarters office at (859) 276-1147.

Upcoming Information Sharing Calls

October

- NSAA Clarity Standards Implementation – October 30
- NSAA HR Information Sharing – October 31

November

- NASC State Government Payroll Information Sharing – November 14
- NSAA Clarity Standards Implementation – November 19
- NASC Travel & P-Card Information Sharing – November 28

December

- NASACT Committee on Accounting, Reporting and Auditing – December 4

Calendar of Events

2013

March 19 ■ NASACT Executive Committee Meeting, Columbia, SC

March 20-22 ■ NASC Annual Conference, Columbia, SC

April 17-19 ■ Middle Management Conference, St. Paul, MN

June 11-14 ■ NSAA Annual Conference, Monterey, CA

August 10-14 ■ NASACT Annual Conference, Boston, MA

2014

March 18 ■ NASACT Executive Committee Meeting, Reno, NV

March 19-21 ■ NASC Annual Conference, Reno, NV

August 9-13 ■ NASACT Annual Conference, Santa Fe, NM

Mark Your Calendars for 2013!

By Donna Maloy, Conference Manager

NASC Annual Conference – March 20-22, 2013, Columbia, South Carolina

We will begin 2013 with the annual conference of the National Association of State Comptrollers in March. NASC's Program Committee, chaired by Kim Wallin, state controller of Nevada, is currently working on the technical program. A draft agenda will be posted to NASACT's website in early January. The conference hotel, the Columbia Marriott Hotel, is located in the vibrant downtown area of Columbia within walking distance of dining, entertainment and the state capitol.

NASACT Middle Management Conference – April 17-19, 2013, St. Paul, Minnesota

The 2013 NASACT Middle Management Conference is scheduled to be held April 17-19 at the St. Paul Hotel located in downtown St. Paul, near beautiful Rice Park and only steps away from the Mississippi River, dining and entertainment.

NSAA Annual Conference – June 11-14, 2013, Monterey, California

The state auditors will have their annual conference on June 11-14 in Monterey, California. The Portola Hotel has been chosen as the conference hotel. This waterfront hotel is located in the historic setting of Old Monterey and is near Carmel by the Sea, Big Sur, 17-mile Drive and world famous Pebble Beach Golf Links.

NASACT Annual Conference – August 10-14, 2013, Boston, Massachusetts

The 2013 NASACT Annual Conference will be held August 10-14 in Boston, Massachusetts. The Seaport Hotel has been selected as the conference hotel. The Seaport Hotel is located on the bustling Boston waterfront in the Seaport District and offers dazzling city and harbor views.

NSAA IT Conference and Workshop – September 2013

Dates and location are currently being considered now.

More information about each of these conferences will be posted to NASACT's website as it becomes available. Questions about any of the conferences may be directed to Donna Maloy at dmaloy@nasact.org or (859) 276-1147. ■

NASACT News

OCTOBER 2012

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The next issue of *NASACT News* will be published in November 2012. To submit articles, photos or ideas, contact Glenda Johnson by November 9 at gjohnson@nasact.org or phone at (859) 276-1147.

NSAA IT Workshop and Conference Recap



Left to right: Sherri Rowland, NSAA's association director, Karen Helderman (VA), chair of the E-Government Committee, and Chloe Haidet (GA), vice chair of the committee.



The IT workshop featured presentations from several speakers on the topic of "Auditing Operating Systems and Database Security."



Computers for onsite demonstrations during the workshop were made available by the Tennessee Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury.



Steve Geddes (GA) discussed the use of business intelligence during his presentation.



Doug Petersen (NV) focused on data analytic tools, specifically the use of Active Data for Excel.



Several speakers participated in the panel on "Issues in IT Governance." Shown left to right: Roger Boyd (GA), Teresa Furnish (OR), and Jon Ingram (FL).

NSAA IT Workshop and Conference Recap



Doug Robinson, executive director of NASCIO offered his views on IT priorities, issues and trends within the states in the opening session of the conference.



Pennsylvania's chief information security officer, Erik Avakian, informed the group about core security services states should consider.



Karen Helderman (VA) used live survey data from conference participants as she moderated the IT roundtable.



Jay Rasband and Sean Clifford, both from the Arizona Office of the Auditor General, discussed auditing web-based applications.



Ahmad Sabbarini from Ernst & Young provided insight on database security to conference attendees.



Chloe Haidet (GA) shows off a door prize that she won from the conference hosts.