



APPFA | PO BOX 11057 | LOUDONVILLE, NEW YORK 12211-9900

President's Message | **SPRING 2024 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE**

February 21, 2024

Dear Fellow Pension Fund Auditors:

I am very excited to announce that our **Spring 2024 Professional Development Conference** will be held in-person **April 21-24, 2024** in Chicago, Illinois. The conference hotel, [VOCO](#), is located in downtown Chicago and offers walking access to the MART via a skybridge and is within steps of the Chicago Riverwalk. Other local attractions include Millennium Park, Magnificent Mile, the West Loop, and Fulton Market.

The 2024 Spring conference will bring great insights from retirement system experts, round table discussion with peers, and networking opportunities. The conference assembles experts to share best practices and discuss audit programs and audit techniques unique to our environment.

Conference speakers include a two-part session with Steve Hayward, who was one of the APPFA founders back in 1991. Some of the conference topics include understanding and auditing real estate, lessons learned from a fraud case, update on changes to the IIA Standards, record retention, artificial intelligence, and the ever-popular roll call of the states.

The registration fee has increased this year to **\$600 per attendee for 18.4 hours of CPE**. We are grateful that for many years we have been able to have a lower rate. However, due to the increasing costs it means at some point the conference registration fee must go up for APPFA to be sustainable. The financials will be shared at our Fall meeting and that will provide a good opportunity to share more information on conference revenues, costs, etc.

The registration fee includes the Sunday night welcome reception, three breakfasts, two lunches, daily refreshments, and afternoon snacks. The price also includes the group dinner on Monday evening. As always, you are welcome to bring guests to the dinner for an additional \$50. Guests that wish to have breakfast/lunch at the hotel on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday will be charged \$20 per meal. The Sunday night welcome reception is free for guests. Please send a personal check for guest meals to the APPFA Treasurer, at the APPFA address (listed on the next page) prior to the conference or send payment via Zelle. Instructions for payment will be provided on your invoice.

The conference will be held at the *VOCO, an IHG Hotel*. Make your room reservations before 5:00 PM CST on **Monday, April 1, 2024** to receive the APPFA group rate. The group rate will

also be available three days before and three days after the Conference. Please note that room rates do not include applicable state and local taxes. Please, use the APPFA Group link, [Association of Public Pension Fund Audit](#) to make your reservation through the hotel website or contact the hotel by telephone at 312-529-1113 or toll free at 877-252-6415 and reference *Association of Public Pension Fund Auditors*.

Click [here](#) to begin the conference registration process. The conference brochure has more information related to the conference registration and other important information.

Registrations are due no later than Monday, April 1, 2024. If you are unable to pay online, please mail your payment by to:

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If you need additional information or assistance, contact our Board Vice-President / Program Committee Chair, Nicki Russell at 573-632-6149 or by email at nickir@mosers.org or primary conference coordinator Alex Deal at adeal@surs.org. Questions related to the conference registration or the APPFA website should be directed to Matt Priestas at webmaster@appfa.org.

Unfortunately, I will not be at this conference, but I know you are in good hands, and it will be a fantastic training event. I look forward to hearing all about the conference.

Sincerely,

Leslie Nagel

Leslie Nagel, APPFA President

Conference and Other Related Links:

- A. Link for Conference Registration – <https://appfa.memberclicks.net/spring2024chicago>
- B. Link for Hotel Registration – [Association of Public Pension Fund Audit](#)
- C. Chicago Visitor Guide - <https://www.choosechicago.com/>
- D. Restaurants near VOCO Hotel - https://www.tripadvisor.com/RestaurantsNear-g35805-d24078803-Voco_Chicago_Downtown_An_IHG_Hotel-Chicago_Illinois.html
- E. Airports near Chicago – O'Hare International Airport or Chicago Midway International Airport