Association of Public Pension Fund Auditors ("APPFA")

Professional Development Conference

18.8 CPE Hours

November 8-11, 2026

Louisville, Kentucky

Seelbach Hotel

500 S 4th St, Louisville, Kentucky

Fall 2026 Conference Agenda

Sunday, November 8th, 2026

<u>Welcome Reception, 6:00 – 8:00 PM:</u> The Oakroom

Catch up and network with pension members and colleagues at the welcome reception. Light appetizers and beverages will be provided.
**This event does not qualify for CPE.*

Monday, November 9th, 2026

<u>1a. Opening Remarks, 8:30 – 8:40 AM</u>
Nicki E. Russell, CIA, CPA, MPA, Chief Auditor, MOSERS *(APPFA President)*

The APPFA President will officially start the conference. Attendees will be reminded of conference or event information and announcements, encouraged to sign in to each session to get CPE (via the Conference APP), and to complete the session surveys. Additional information about the Conference APP will be shared with attendees. One highlight of the Conference APP is the "Top Contributor Board." This is an interactive experience through the APP to help attendees get the most out of the conference.
**This session does not qualify for CPE.*

<u>1b. Welcome to Kentucky/KPPA and TRS Benefits Overview, 8:40 – 9:40 AM</u>
Ed Owens, CERS CEO
John Chilton, KRS CEO
Ryan Barrow, KPPA Executive Director
Gary Harbin, TRS Executive Secretary

This session will provide attendees with a warm welcome to Kentucky, and gain highlights from the Kentucky pension funds and provide a benefits overview. Attendees will take away industry knowledge and learn more about the Kentucky pension system.
Specialized Knowledge, 1.2 CPE

<u>1c. What Keeps the CFOs Up at Night, 9:45 – 10:45 AM</u>
Mark Whelan, TRS Chief Financial Officer

In today's dynamic financial landscape, chief financial officers face unprecedented challenges that demand constant vigilance and adaptability. This session, "What Keeps CFOs Up at Night?" will explore the complex issues and risks confronting public pension fund CFOs, including changes in accounting standards, cybersecurity threats, and shifting market conditions. Attendees will gain valuable insights into strategies for safeguarding their organizations' financial health. Identify risks and trends impacting public pension fund CFOs, including regulatory developments and economic volatility. This session will also examine best practices for managing operational challenges, including cybersecurity, fraud prevention, and technology integration. Attendees will also learn more about approaches to ensuring long-term sustainability and transparency in financial reporting and governance.

Auditing (Governmental), 1.2 CPE

<u>**1d. There's No Such Thing as Accounting Ethics, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM**</u>
Brian Ingle, APA

In the presentation, "There's No Such Thing as Accounting Ethics," Brian Ingle adapts content from the book by John Maxwell titled "There's No Such Thing as Business Ethics" to an audience of accountants and auditors. In his adaptation, Brian unpacks how ethical dilemmas always create a PR problem. From there, Brian applies the principles of John's book to relevant scenarios faced by financial professionals and adapts them into the 5 Ps and the 8 Rs of ethics. In this session, participants will discover the 5 Ps that drive people to make unethical decisions, illustrated by real, recent ethical dilemmas that may be familiar to KY-based participants. In addition, they'll identify the 8 Rs that help people avoid unethical decisions. By the end of the session, participants will be equipped to identify and mitigate circumstances that lead to poor ethical decisions, and they'll fully comprehend that, ultimately, there's no such thing as accounting ethics.
Behavioral Ethics, 1.2 CPE

<u>**1e. Liar, Liar Pants on Fire, 1:00 – 2:00 PM**</u>
Traci Brown, Body Language Expert

People's pants are on fire around you all the time, and you haven't even noticed. In this presentation, you'll discover how to use Traci's 9-Point Deception Detection Framework- built on peer-reviewed studies- to separate lies from the truth—so you know what people AREN'T telling you. This means making better-informed, high-stakes decisions, protecting your company's reputation, increasing profits, and avoiding a catastrophic misstep that could cost millions.
Specialized Knowledge, 1.2 CPE

<u>**1f. Identifying Instances of Waste, Fraud, and Abuse in County Retirement Systems with the Kentucky Auditor of Public Schools, 2:15 – 3:15 PM**</u>
Jim Royce, APA

The Kentucky Auditor of Public Accounts office walks you through cases of waste, fraud, and abuse in County retirement systems, identifying what happened, why it happened, and how you can implement procedures to find the issues first. *Behavioral Ethics, 1.2 CPE*

<u>**1g. Roll Call of the States, 3:20 – 4:20 PM**</u>
Alex McDowell, CIA, CISA, CRISC, Senior Internal Auditor, OCERS *(APPFA Vice-President and APPFA Program Committee, Chair)*

Individuals who are attending the conference and are non-members or do not have internal audit responsibilities should not attend the "Roll Call of the States" session.

Prior to the conference, each attending system completed a Roll Call of the States survey. A representative from each participating organization (i.e., System) will share highlights from their respective system. In addition, all staff from that System will participate in introductions. This is a way

for other attendees to know which System you represent and helps with networking and follow-up if attendees have questions about any of the content shared. Attendees will take away information on audit topics and be prompted to network by identifying peers working on similar projects or facing similar challenges. There will be no roundtable discussions with this session.
Auditing (Governmental), 1.2 CPE

Group Dinner, 6:00 – 9:00 PM
This is an off-site networking event and dinner. 4th Street Live is a short walk from the hotel. Attendees will meet in the lobby at approximately 5:50 PM and walk together to the destination.
**This event does not qualify for CPE.*

Tuesday, November 10th, 2026

2a. APPFA Housekeeping, 8:00– 8:10 AM
APPFA Bylaws & Policy Committee, Rebecca Takahashi, CIA, CFE, CGAP, Los Angeles Fire & Police Pensions, Caroline Stinziano, CPA, Ohio Public Employees Retirement System
Attendees will receive an update on any potential changes in APPFA Bylaws and Policies. They will be reminded of conference or event information, announcements, and to sign in to each session to get CPE, complete the session surveys, and complete the conference survey.
**This session does not qualify for CPE.*

2b. Partners in Prevention: A Collaboration between Auditors and Law Enforcement, 8:10 – 9:50 AM
Christopher Cantrell, FBI
Jennifer Ratterman, FBI

This session examines how coordinated efforts between pension auditors and law enforcement help detect, prevent, and disrupt fraud schemes targeting vulnerable populations. The presentation highlights recent scams affecting seniors and outlines practical strategies for identifying red flags and strengthening investigative partnerships to better protect the public. *Behavioral Ethics, 2.0 CPE*

2c. Could It Happen Here? Lessons from the Corporate Scandals That Changed Governance Forever, 10:05 – 11:05 AM
Amanda Jenami, Teacher Retirement System of Texas
At Volkswagen, a culture of winning at all costs overrode ethics. At Wells Fargo, incentives drove widespread misconduct. At Equifax, known cybersecurity vulnerabilities went unaddressed. At Boeing, warning signs were overshadowed by competing business priorities. In every case, controls existed. Oversight structures existed. Yet disaster still occurred.

This thought-provoking session examines the governance failures behind some of the most consequential corporate scandals of the last decade and challenges participants to consider a difficult question: Could similar conditions exist within our own organizations?

Using real-world case studies, attendees will explore how culture, incentives, information quality, risk management, and board oversight can either protect an organization or contribute to its downfall. The session concludes by connecting these lessons to today's top risks, including artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, third-party dependencies, data governance, and organizational culture.

Whether you serve as a trustee, executive, internal auditor, or risk leader, you'll leave with practical insights to spot early warning signs and strengthen governance before the next crisis emerges.
Auditing (Governmental), 1.2 CPE

<u>2d.From Hype to Impact: How Public Pension Auditors Are Turning AI into Results, , 11:10 AM – 12:10 PM</u>
Charmaine Zhang, Florida State Board of Administration, Tony Chavez, Employee Retirement System of Texas, and Steven Randall, Teacher Retirement System of Texas, moderated by Amanada Jenami, Teacher Retirement System of Texas

Artificial intelligence is quickly moving from concept to core capability—and public pension systems are under growing pressure to harness its potential while managing its risks. In this dynamic and practical panel, three/ four seasoned internal auditors from large public pension organizations will share how their institutions are actually putting AI to work to drive efficiency, strengthen decision-making, and enhance member service. This is not a theoretical discussion. You'll hear candid, real-world insights on how AI is being embedded into strategic plans, operational priorities, and governance frameworks—and the critical role internal audit is playing every step of the way. From advising on AI strategy to evaluating controls and helping leadership navigate evolving risks, internal audit is uniquely positioned to serve as both a trusted advisor and an independent assurance function.

Panelists will also discuss how their boards are engaging in AI risk oversight, what effective governance looks like in practice, and how audit functions are building credibility and influence in this rapidly changing space. You'll learn how internal audit teams are using AI themselves, deliver value, where caution is warranted, and how to balance innovation with accountability.

Expect honest lessons learned, including:
- What worked (and what didn't) when launching AI initiatives
- Practical templates and frameworks you can adapt immediately
- Strategies to engage stakeholders and build alignment across the organization
- Metrics that demonstrate impact and sustain momentum
- Approaches to keeping your AI strategy flexible as risks and technologies evolve

Whether you are just beginning your AI journey or refining a more mature program, you'll leave with a clear, repeatable blueprint to elevate your internal audit function's role—strengthening alignment, accountability, and value delivery in your organization. *Information Technology, 1.2 CPE*

<u>2e. Actuarial Valuation Introduction, 1:10 – 2:10 PM</u>
Bryan Hoge, CavMac

This session will discuss the valuation process and the various inputs and outputs. Bryan will discuss the different inputs (data, assets, etc.) and then dive into which items have the greatest impact on valuation results. The session will conclude with a discussion of how much the results/contributions could change if there are errors in the data provided to the actuary. *Specialized Knowledge, 1.2 CPE*

<u>2f. Follow the Money – A Day in the Life of your Pension Fund Equity Portfolio, 2:15 – 3:15 PM</u>

Bruce Mills, Weaver

Equities account for 60% or more of your Fund portfolio. Do you understand what's involved and where Internal Audit should focus? From Concept to Settlement, we will delve into the various operational components of equity funds that are managed through the trade lifecycle, including internal vs. external management, passive vs. active strategies, use of derivatives for hedging and cash overlays, compliance, and operations *Auditing (Governmental), 1.2 CPE*

2g. Investment Conflicts and Fraud: Understanding How Investment Fraud Can Bring Down the House, 3:30 – 4:30 PM
Bruce Mills, Weaver

Fraud happens everywhere, but if it occurs within your investment team, your organization can lose the confidence of participants, boards, and legislators. We will explore some of the key investment-related conflicts of interest and fraud scenarios, along with discussing real-world examples that internal auditors should know when assessing fraud risks or the investment processes within your organization. *Behavioral Ethics, 1.2 CPE*

APPFA Business Meeting, 4:45 – 6:00 PM
Per APPFA's Bylaws, several things are required at the fall business meeting, including the election of officers, the approval of APPFA's annual budget, and the approval of the annual membership dues. We will also hear a special presentation from the Membership Committee on the member survey results. In addition, other Committee Chairs may summarize the items they have worked on, and that could have a future impact on APPFA. As to voting, the designated Primary representative or their designee for each Regular member organization is entitled to cast one vote at the business meeting. The officer positions up for election include vice-president. **This event does not qualify for CPE.*

Dinner is on your own! See some tips and tricks located in the Louisville brochure.

Wednesday, November 11th, 2026

3a. APPFA Housekeeping, Membership Committee Updates, and Recognizing Veterans, 8:00 – 8:10 AM
Kristy Scott, Principal Auditor – Governance & Program Administration, VRS *(APPFA Membership Committee, Chairwoman)*
We will hear updates and/or reminders from the Membership Committee. Attendees will be reminded of conference or event information, announcements, and to sign in to each session to get CPE, complete the session surveys, and complete the conference survey.
**This session does not qualify for CPE.*

3b. Strong Data Governance Reducing Fear of AI Adoption, 8:10 – 9:10 AM
Jason Todd, Linea

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming how pension funds operate, but successful AI adoption begins with a strong data foundation, not more bureaucracy. This session explores how public pension organizations can right-size their data governance practices to improve data quality, strengthen decision-making, reduce organizational risk, and confidently prepare for AI, analytics, and future modernization initiatives. Attendees will learn practical strategies for building a scalable governance framework that aligns with their fund's size, resources, and business objectives, ensuring data becomes an asset that enables innovation rather than a barrier to change. *Information Technology, 1.2 CPE*

<u>3c. Auditing Evolving Technologies: Lessons Learned from the Front Lines9:15 – 10:15 AM</u>
Stephen Randall, Teacher Retirement System of Texas and Jack Henserling, Teacher Retirement System of Texas

As organizations adopt and expand the use of evolving technologies, internal auditors are increasingly asked to provide assurance in areas where governance structures, policies, and controls are still maturing. This session demonstrates how auditors can apply traditional risk-based auditing principles by focusing on governance, accountability, data, and risk management rather than attempting to evaluate every technical component. Participants will gain practical lessons learned from real-world audit engagements and learn how to provide meaningful assurance in rapidly changing environments. *Information Technology, 1.2 CPE*

<u>3d. Investment Risks – Where Should IA Focus? 10:30 – 11:30 AM</u>
Brittany Smith, CLA

This session is designed for internal auditors serving government pension systems who need to evaluate investment risk through a practical, risk-based audit lens. The session will explore where internal audit can provide the greatest value without duplicating procedures commonly reviewed by the external auditor. Participants will examine key investment risk areas relevant to public pension plans, including investment policy compliance, manager selection and monitoring, in-house trading, valuation of alternative investments, fee transparency, and the quality of reporting to boards and investment committees. The discussion will emphasize how internal audit can align audit priorities with areas of greatest risk to plan assets, fiduciary oversight, and stakeholder trust. *Auditing (Governmental), 1.2 CPE*

<u>3e. Conference Closing, 11:30 – 11:45 AM</u>
Alex McDowell, CIA, CISA, CRISC, Senior Internal Auditor, OCERS *(APPFA Vice-President and APPFA Program Committee, Chair)*

APPFA will email a link to the Conference APP (Eventsential) to registered attendees closer to the conference date. The APP will include session descriptions, learning objectives, speaker information, session surveys, overall conference survey, and other relevant information.

More information about the Conference APP is on page 10 of this brochure.

Fall 2026 Conference Registration Information

Conference Registration will be open until October 19th, 2026. The board-approved conference registration fee is $550 per person and must be received by October 19th, 2026, to reserve your place. The conference registration fee helps cover the conference room, food, refreshments, and audio-visual services. We strive to provide a low-cost conference with a high-quality line of speakers.

The registration fee includes electronic materials, access to the conference APP, a welcome reception, two lunches, two afternoon snack breaks, refreshments throughout the conference, a group dinner, up to 18.8 hours of CPE, and the opportunity to expand your knowledge and network with peers. Breakfast will be on your own.

** IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT CONFERENCE REGISTRATION ~ PLEASE READ **

- Registration for this conference will be made via APPFA's website.
- **The "conference registration" should be completed by your organization's primary representative**.
- After the "conference registration" is complete, **all individuals registered for the conference will receive an email** with a mandatory registration link that allows them to select their individual conference choice, called the "*event and meal registration*."
- The "*events and meal registration*" allows each attendee to inform conference planners of their event attendance and any dietary restrictions, so that APPFA can provide this information to the catering services.
- After each registration is completed, an invoice will be generated with payment instructions (if applicable).

Primary Representatives: Please use the conference registration link to register the staff that will be attending from your organization.
Link: https://appfa.memberclicks.net/louisville--ky---nov-8-11-2026

About Your Sponsors and Continuing Professional Education

The APPFA Professional Development Conference is a group live conference designed to further enhance participants' auditing skills and to 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 preparation is needed. APPFA members currently working in internal audit, compliance, and/or risk management should attend. See Table 1 for more information.

Attendees will receive an attendance certificate via email upon completion of the conference. We anticipate issuing the conference certificate via email approximately one month after the conference ends. Auditing and accounting professionals may qualify for 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. The number of CPE is based on each attendee using the Conference APP (see next section) and electronically checking into each conference session. If your CPE certification is incorrect, then attendees should contact Kurt Petrie, APPFA secretary, at kurt.petrie@etf.wi.gov.

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 via its website at www.nasbaregistry.org.

Your attendance will enable you to expand your knowledge of internal auditing and apply what you learn to your current role. Upon completion of the conference, participants will be able to:

- Recognize how pension leaders have overcome challenges.
- Identify what other pension systems are going through, determine contrasts and similarities, and apply that to future audit planning.
- Understand the impact of new and emerging technologies on audit practice and system implementations.
- Understand emerging issues in the internal audit field.
- Take information from peers in networking sessions to gain a greater understanding of leading practices and take your career to the next level.

Table 1: CPE-related summary information for this conference, covering all sessions, is listed below.

Table 1: CPE Summary Information

Criteria	**Description**
Delivery:	Group Live – All sessions include a question-and-answer session.
CPE Credits:	Up to 18.8
Education or Experience Prerequisites (Who Should Attend):	No prerequisites. Public pension fund auditors at all levels are encouraged to attend.
Level of Knowledge:	Overview – Basic.

Advance Prerequisites:	None.
NASBA Fields of Study:	Auditing (Governmental), Behavioral Ethics, Information Technology, and Specialized Knowledge.

Conference APP

The Conference APP was referenced earlier in this brochure. This section will explain just a bit more. The Rdmobile/Eventsential APP will be used during the conference. This app can be found in the Apple App Store, the Google Play Store, and on your Windows laptop via a link provided prior to the conference.

The email used for your APPFA registration will also be used to link your account to the Rdmobile/Eventsential account. All users must have their Rdmobile/Eventsential account and be logged in during the conference to perform check-ins while accessing the APPFA event materials. When signing up or logging in, the Rdmobile/Eventsential account might ask you to verify your identity from the APPFA registration email account. **If you will not have access to that email address at the conference, be sure to sign in to your Rdmobile/Eventsential APP before leaving for the conference to ensure you will have access!**

Being logged in to the Rdmobile/Eventsential account allows your data and check-ins to be tracked and reported to APPFA for CPE credits. This information is required by the AICPA to verify your attendance and the CPEs you have completed. **If you are not logged in, your check-ins and attendance will not be reported.**

A paper sign-in sheet will also be available at the conference should an attendee experience technical difficulties. If a technical difficulty occurs, the attendee should notify Matt Priestas, APPFA webmaster, at webmaster@appfa.org.

Complaint and/or Refund Policy

Information on how to submit a complaint or request a conference refund is included on the **APPFA website**. Refunds are available if a written cancellation notice is received 20 days before the conference. Refunds will not be issued after that date.

Other Information

Guests

Those of you traveling with friends and family are welcome to bring your guests to any of the social activities planned during the conference at the rate noted below.

- Sunday evening reception (no charge)
- Group lunches on Monday and Tuesday ($20 per meal)
- Group dinner on Monday ($50 per guest)

Attire

Informal Smart Casual Look. There is no official dress code for this conference, but we recommend clothing that makes you feel comfortable, as you will be sitting for the entire day. Layers are always a good idea because you can dress up or down as the room temperature varies. On the last day of the conference, we often see attendees dress more casually and comfortably, as it is a travel day for most.

Conference Contacts

System Hosts:

Madeline Evans, madeline.evans@kyret.ky.gov
Kristen Coffey, Kristen.Coffey@kyret.ky.gov
James Westbay, james.westbay@kyret.ky.gov
Brad Cook, brad.cook@trs.ky.gov
Tyler Boyd, tyler.boyd@trs.ky.gov
Zachary Curtis, Zachary.Curtis@kyret.ky.gov
William Prince, William.Prince@kyret.ky.gov

APPFA Programs Chair:

Alex McDowell, amcdowell@surs.org

APPFA Officer Contacts are listed on APPFA's website

Helpful Reminders

1. The primary representative must begin the conference registration process by registering all the attendees from their system. Conference registration ends on October 19th, 2026.
2. Once the conference registration process is completed, APPFA will email the individual attendees so each person can let APPFA know what meals they plan to attend, if a guest will be coming, and other relevant information.
3. The conference APP will be available about one week before the conference.
4. Attendees use the conference APP to check into every session. CPE is only granted if you "check in" and attend a conference session.
5. Each conference session has a survey. We want your feedback on every session!
6. The conference has an overall survey. We want your feedback about the overall conference!
7. The CPE certificate will be issued via email about 30 days after the conference.
8. Log into the APPFA website to make sure your system information, including auditors listed for your system, is accurate and up to date. We know turnover occurs, so please ensure your information on APPFA's website is up to date.
9. The community forum is an excellent way to network and share information electronically with the entire APPFA community between conferences. Information on how to sign up is in the "Procedures for Website Processes" under Quick Links on APPFA's website.

What is Next? Join us in Denver, Colorado!!

The Spring 2027 Professional Development Conference dates have been set for Denver, Colorado, April 26th – 29th, 2027. Stay tuned for more information via email or on **APPFA's website**.