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**Association of Public Pension Fund Auditors
("APPFA")
Professional Development Conference**

**19 CPE Hours
April 29 to May 2, 2025**

**Drury Plaza Hotel St. Louis at the Arch
2 South 4th Street, St. Louis, MO 63102**

Spring 2025 Conference Agenda

Date	Event	Location
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Tuesday, April 29, 2025

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	* Welcome Reception	Drury Plaza West Ballroom
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Wednesday, April 30, 2025

6:00 AM – 8:00 AM	* Breakfast and Networking	Drury Plaza Lobby
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8:00 AM – 8:10 AM	*1a. Opening Remarks Nicki Russell, CPA, CIA, MPA, Chief Auditor MOSERS <i>(APPFA President)</i>	Drury Plaza Lewis & Sacagawea
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8:10 AM – 9:10 AM	1b. Welcome to Missouri! Dearld Snider, Executive Director PSRS/PEERS	
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9:15 AM – 10:15 AM	^1c. Call Center Innovation at PSRS PEERS Nicole Hamler, MBA, Director of Member Services PSRS/PEERS Stacey Shehangan, MBA, CRC, Information Center Supervisor, PSRS/PEEERS	
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10:15 AM – 10:30 AM	* Networking Break (15-minutes)	
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10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	1d. Roll Call of the States Alex McDowell, CIA, CISA, Internal Audit Associate SURS <i>(APPFA VP & Program Committee, Chair)</i>	
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11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	* Lunch and Networking (1-hour)	Drury Plaza Lobby
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12:30 PM – 1:50 PM	1e. Cybersecurity for Critical Infrastructure Chris Cockburn, CISSP, Cybersecurity Advisory Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency	Drury Plaza Lewis & Sacagawea
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1:50 PM – 2:10 PM	* Networking Break with Snacks and Refreshments (20-minutes)	
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2:10 PM – 3:10 PM	1f. Continuation of Roll Call of the States Alex McDowell, CIA, CISA, Internal Audit Associate SURS <i>(APPFA VP & APPFA Program Committee, Chair)</i>	
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3:15 PM – 4:25 PM	^1g. Derivative Risk Management Kristin Guehne, Senior Manager, Oversight Group Operations NISA Derek Lohse, Senior Manager, Client Services NISA	
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6:00 PM – 9:00 PM	* Group Dinner (see page 14)	Ballpark Village
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Spring 2025 Conference Agenda

Date	Event	Location
Thursday, May 1, 2025		
6:00 AM – 8:00 AM	*Breakfast and Networking	Drury Plaza Lobby
8:00 AM – 8:10 AM	*2a. APPFA Housekeeping Jennifer Schreck, CPA, CISA, PMP, Internal Audit Director VRS (<i>APPFA Bylaws & Policy Committee, Chairwoman</i>)	Drury Plaza Lewis & Sacagawea
8:10 AM – 9:10 AM	2b. Data Privacy in a Connected World: Risks and Solutions Anders Erickson, CISA, CISSP, CRISC, Risk Advisory Principal Eide Bailly	
9:15 AM – 10:15 AM	^2c. The FBI and Public Corruption Investigations Joe Weston, Supervisory Special Agent FBI St. Louis	
10:15 AM – 10:30 AM	* Networking Break (15-minutes)	
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	2d. Cybersecurity Insights for Pension Auditors Lisa Scheulen, PMP, Chief Technology Officer PSRS/PEERS Jake Woratzeck, Chief Information Security Officer PSRS/PEERS	
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	*Lunch and Networking (1-hour)	Drury Plaza Lobby
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	2e. Mental Health Awareness Rachel Jones, LPC, Director of Trauma Services Missouri Department of Mental Health	Drury Plaza Lewis & Sacagawea
1:35 PM – 2:55 PM	^2f. Understanding Legal Documents Patrick Morgan, Investment Legal & Compliance Counsel MOSERS	
2:55 PM – 3:15 PM	*Networking Break with Snacks and Refreshments (20-minutes)	
3:15 PM – 4:15 PM	2g. Top Risks Facing Organizations Ron Steinkamp, CPA, CIA, CFE, CGMA, CRMA, CCA, CCP, Partner, Risk Advisory Services Armanino	
4:30 PM – 5:30 PM	APPFA board meeting (for APPFA board and officers) Enjoy some time exploring St. Louis! Dinner is on your own!	



Spring 2025 Conference Agenda

Date	Event	Location
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Friday, May 2, 2025

6:00 AM – 8:00 AM	*Breakfast and Networking	Drury Plaza Lobby
8:00 AM – 8:10 AM	*3a. APPFA Housekeeping and Membership Committee Updates Kristy Scott, Principal Auditor – Governance & Program Administration VRS (<i>APPFA Membership Committee, Chairwoman</i>)	Drury Plaza Lewis & Sacagawea
8:10 AM – 9:10 AM	3b. Investment Due Diligence MOSERS Investment Staff – Ed Robertiello, Managing Investment Director MOSERS	
9:10 AM – 9:30 AM	* Networking Break (20-minutes)	
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM	3c. Effective Stakeholder Relationship Management for Public Pension Fund Auditors Panel Discussion by the APPFA Best Practices Committee, Facilitated by Amanda Jenami, CPA, CISA, CIA, CIDA, CHIAP, CFE, Chief Audit Executive TRS (<i>APPFA Best Practices Committee, Chairwoman and APPFA Board Member</i>)	
10:35 AM – 11:35 AM	^3d. Annual Risk Assessment Best Practices Panel Discussion by the APPFA Best Practices Committee	
11:35 AM – 11:50 AM	*3e. Conference Closing	

*Items marked with an * do not qualify for CPE.

^Times have been adjusted to allow for speaker transitions.

APPFA will provide a link via email for 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 later in this brochure.



APPFA Professional Development Conference, Spring 2025, St. Louis, Missouri

****Event and Session Information****

The Conference APP includes the speaker information.

Tuesday, April 29, 2025

Welcome Reception, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Catch up and network with pension members and colleagues at the welcome reception at the conference hotel in the Drury Plaza West Ballroom.

**This event does not qualify for CPE.*

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

1a. Opening Remarks, 8:00 – 8:10 AM

Nicki 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, announcements, encouraged to sign into 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 is a way to share your thoughts and experiences during the conference.

**This session does not qualify for CPE.*

1b. Welcome to Missouri! 8:10 – 9:10 AM

Dearld Snider, Executive Director | PSRS/PEERS

This session will provide attendees with a warm welcome to the “Show-Me” state. Dearld Snider, Executive Director will present highlights from the PSRS/PEERS pension fund. Attendees will take away industry knowledge and learn more about the largest retirement system in the state of Missouri.

Specialized Knowledge

1c. Call Center Innovation, 9:15 – 10:15 PM

Nicole Hamler, MBA, Director of Member Services | PSRS/PEERS

Stacey Shehangian, MBA, CRC, Information Center Supervisor, PSRS/PEERS

As the public pension industry faces increasing demands for efficiency, transparency, and customer satisfaction, innovation in call center operations has become a critical driver of success. In this session, Nicole Hamler, Director of Member Services, will share the enhancements made to the PSRS/PEERS Information Center in recent years. Attendees will gain insight into the integration of emerging technologies such as chatbots, member portals, and AI-powered call transcription and scoring.

Attendees will also gain insight into balancing technology and human touch, ensuring that members receive accurate, timely, and personalized support. *Specialized Knowledge*



1d. Roll Call of the States, 10:30 – 11:30 AM

Alex McDowell, CIA, CISA, Internal Audit Associate | SURS (APPFA Vice-President and APPFA Program Committee, Chair)

Individuals that 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 the staff from that System will participate by way of 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 about audit topics and prompt networking by identifying peers working on similar projects or facing similar challenges. There will be no roundtable discussions with this session.

Auditing (Governmental)

1e. Cybersecurity for Critical Infrastructure, 12:30 – 1:50 PM

Chris Cockburn, CISSP, Cybersecurity Advisor | Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency

This session will cover the following topics:

- Introduction of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)
- Overview of the cyber threat landscape
- Steps any organization can take to protect themselves
- Overview of the CISA no cost resources and services

Information Technology

1f. Roll Call of the States – Continued, 2:10 – 3:10 PM

Alex McDowell, CIA, CISA, Internal Audit Associate | SURS (APPFA Vice-President and APPFA Program Committee)

This is a continuation of session 1d, please refer to that section of the brochure for the session description.

Auditing (Governmental)

1g. Derivative Risk Management, 3:15 – 4:25 PM

Kristin Guehne, Senior Manager, Oversight Group Operations | NISA

Derek Lohse, Senior Manager, Client Services | NISA

This session will cover the following topics:

- Governing documents (FCM/ISDA/MRA).
- Key features of governing documents.
- What to look for (as an auditor): collateral exchange/margining.
- Discussion of valuation and who determines it.
- Real world realities: collateral failures, operational hiccups.
- Role of custodian.

Auditing (Governmental)



Group Dinner, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

Off-site networking event and dinner. Ballpark Village 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.*

Thursday, May 1, 2025

2a. APPFA Housekeeping, 8:00 – 8:10 AM

Jennifer Schreck, CPA, CISA, PMP, Internal Audit Director | VRS (APPFA Bylaws & Policy Committee, Chairwoman)

2b. Data Privacy in a Connected World: Risks and Solutions, 8:10 – 9:10 AM

Anders Erickson, CISA, CISSP, CRISC, Risk Advisory Principal | Eide Bailly

In today's hyper-connected world, data privacy has become a paramount concern for both individuals and organizations. This presentation will delve into the intricacies of data privacy, exploring the risks associated with the ever-expanding digital landscape. We will examine common threats and discuss their potential impact on personal and organizational security. Additionally, the presentation will offer practical solutions and strategies to mitigate these risks. Topics will include implementing robust security measures, understanding regulatory requirements, and adopting best practices for data management and protection. By the end of this session, attendees will understand the current data privacy challenges and the tools and techniques necessary to safeguard sensitive information in our interconnected world.

Information Technology

2c. The FBI and Public Corruption Investigations, 9:15 AM – 10:15 AM

Joe Weston, Supervisory Special Agent | FBI St. Louis

An overview of the FBI and its efforts to combat public corruption.

Auditing (Governmental)

2d. Cybersecurity Insights for Pension Auditors, 10:30 – 11:30 AM

Lisa Scheulen, PMP, Chief Technology Officer | PSRS/PEERS

Jake Woratzeck, Chief Information Security Officer | PSRS/PEERS

In an era of increasing cyber threats, safeguarding the sensitive data and assets of pension systems is more critical than ever. This session, "Cybersecurity Insights for Pension Auditors," is designed to equip internal auditors with the tools and knowledge to identify and mitigate cybersecurity risks effectively. We'll explore the most pressing threats facing pension systems, including phishing, ransomware, and third-party vulnerabilities, and examine the role of auditors in evaluating controls and ensuring framework compliance. Through practical examples and actionable strategies, participants will gain insights into best practices for auditing cybersecurity measures and fostering resilience against emerging threats. Whether you're a seasoned auditor or new to cybersecurity, this session will enhance your ability to protect pension assets in a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

Auditing (Governmental)



2e. Mental Health Awareness, 12:30 – 1:30 PM

Rachel Jones, LPC, Director of Trauma Services | Missouri Department of Mental Health

Our workplace plays a significant role in our lives. Our work affects both our physical and mental wellbeing. Internal auditors work with auditees that may appreciate our audits but there are other times that isn't the case. Internal auditing can be demanding and stressful as we may be faced with high-stress situations and deadlines. In addition, sometimes an internal auditor's presence can be unwelcome, and our motivations are often misunderstood. Exposing risks and identifying recommendations can naturally put our auditees on the defensive. Dealing with these various forms of stress daily can impact mental health. However, mental health is crucial to being a successful professional. This session will help recognize signs of mental health whether in yourself, your audit team, or perhaps even in the auditee. This session will provide practice tools to enhance resilience, mental health, and overall wellness, empowering yourself and your coworkers to foster a healthy environment through a proactive approach to emotional wellness. This session will help with better understanding your team as well as working with others.

Personnel/Human Resources

2f. Understanding Legal Documents, 1:35 – 2:55 PM

Patrick Morgan, Investment Legal & Compliance Counsel | MOSERS

Investing in commingled funds with professional money managers always includes several entities and documents: limited partners, a general partner, an investment adviser, limited partnership agreements, investment management agreements. This presentation will explain who the key players are in institutional investing and what the different legal documents do. After this presentation, you will understand the role of each player and which documents protect your institution.

Specialized Knowledge

2g. Top Risks Facing Organizations in 2025, 3:10 – 4:10 PM

Ron Steinkamp, CPA, CIA, CFE, CGMA, CRMA, CCA, CCP, Partner, Risk Advisory Services | Armanino

Risks are ever present and increasing. As internal auditors, we owe it to our stakeholders to be well versed in the current and future risks facing our organizations. In this session we will focus on understanding and managing risks, key risks for 2025 and recommended actions, and future risks that are evolving.

Auditing (Governmental)

Friday, May 2, 2025

3a. APPFA Housekeeping and Membership Committee Updates, 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, encouragement to sign into each session to get CPE, to complete the session surveys, and to complete the conference survey.

**This session does not qualify for CPE.*



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3b. Investment Due Diligence, 8:10 – 9:10 AM

Ed Robertiello, Managing Investment Director | MOSERS

Understanding due diligence, what it is, why it's important and how public pension plans conduct proper due diligence. We will also be reviewing some of the research that supports the concepts of due diligence, and more. Please bring any questions you may have regarding this topic and help make this a valuable and interactive discussion.

Specialized Knowledge

3c. Effective Stakeholder Relationship Management for Public Pension Fund Auditors, 9:30 – 10:30 AM

Panel Discussion by the Best Practices Committee, Facilitated by Amanda Jenami, CPA, CISA, CIA, CIDA, CHIAP, CFE, Chief Audit Executive | TRS (APPFA Best Practices Committee, Chairwoman and APPFA Board Member)

Explore the critical role of stakeholder relationship management in the success of internal audit functions within public pension organizations. This panel, featuring experienced chief audit executives, will discuss effective strategies for building and maintaining strong relationships with key stakeholders, including board members, executive management, external auditors, and regulatory bodies. Attendees will learn best practices for communication, collaboration, and trust-building, essential for enhancing audit effectiveness and organizational governance. Join us to gain practical insights and tools to strengthen your stakeholder engagement efforts.

Auditing (Governmental)

3d. Annual Risk Assessment Best Practices, 10:35 – 11:35 AM

Panel Discussion by the Best Practices Committee

Join us for an insightful panel discussion of the annual risk assessment techniques employed by your APPFA peers. This session will delve into the latest best practices for conducting annual risk assessments, highlighting innovative strategies and practical approaches. Attendees will gain valuable insights into risk identification, assessment methodologies, and mitigation techniques tailored to the unique challenges faced by public pension funds. Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your risk management framework and network with industry experts.

The panel will share some of the best practices identified. To the extent risk assessment tools and sample documentation were shared with the Best Practices Committee, the Committee will provide those tools to the APPFA Webmaster to post on the APPFA resources website.

Auditing (Governmental)

3e. Conference Closing, 11:35 AM – 11:50 AM

**Alex McDowell, CIA, CISA, Internal Audit Associate | SURS
(APPFA Vice-President and APPFA Program Committee)**

The conference will conclude and any questions about the conference, CPE, or other APPFA topics. A final reminder to complete the conference session surveys and the overall conference survey will be made.



Spring 2025 Conference Registration Information

Conference Registration will be open until March 21, 2025. The board approved conference registration fee is \$575 per person and must be received by March 31, 2025 to reserve your place at the conference. The conference registration fee helps pay for the welcome reception, conference room, two lunches, two afternoon snack breaks, refreshments, group dinner, audio and visual services, 19 hours of CPE, and the opportunity to expand your knowledge and network with peers. We strive to provide a low-cost conference with a high-quality line of speakers. Breakfast is not included as part of your registration fee as it is included as part of your hotel guest room.

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

Registration for this conference will be made via our website. **The “conference registration” should be completed by the primary representative of your organization.** NOTE: After the “conference registration” is complete, then **all individuals registered for the conference will receive an email** with a mandatory registration link which will allow for their individual conference choice called the “*event and meal registration.*” The “*events and meal registration*” provides an opportunity for each attendee to inform conference planners on your attendance at events and provide any dietary restrictions so that APPFA can provide this information to the catering services. After completing each registration, an invoice will be generated with instructions for payment (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/stlouis_miss_conf_reg

Location and Hotel Information

The location of this conference is [St Louis, Missouri](#). The conference will be held at the Drury Plaza Hotel at the Arch, which is in the St. Louis downtown area. St. Louis, also known as the Gateway City and has everything you need to plan a great getaway or enjoy the city while attending the APPFA conference. St. Louis is located on the Mississippi River and is known as the “Gateway of the West” due to its central location and historic role in the nation’s westward expansion. The Gateway Arch is the world’s tallest man-made monument and was built to commemorate St. Louis in its historic role. The conference hotel is across the street to the St. Louis Arch.



The conference room rate is \$150 plus applicable taxes. Reservations may be made by calling the hotel directly at 1-800-325-0720 and referencing “Group Number 10089946” for the room block or by using the [hotel reservations link](#) (below). The conference rate is available from April 27 with check out on May 5, 2025 (as availability allows pre- and post-conference). **Please make your registration by Friday, March 21, 2025 to receive the group rate.** After this date or when the group block is full the reservations will be subject to the prevailing rates and availability.

Hotel Reservations Link:

<https://www.druryhotels.com/bookandstay/newreservation/?groupno=10089946>

Note: APPFA has committed to a specific number of guest rooms. We **strongly encourage** you to book your guest room through the APPFA’s block of group rooms. Once the room block is filled the conference room rate may not be available. An [online group link](#) for making your **hotel reservations** is provided. The [hotel website](#) includes information on the hotel amenities and room features, as well as nearby attractions.

Transportation

[St. Louis Lambert International Airport](#) is the primary airport that provides airfare transportation. The hotel is approximately 17 miles from the airport. Attendees will need to provide their own transportation from the airport to the hotel. Onsite covered parking is available at the hotel for a \$30 daily fee and Stadium East parking is available at a charge of \$27 per parking spot per day.

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 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. APPFA members that are currently working in internal audit, compliance, and/or risk management are the individuals that should attend. See Table 1 for more information.

Attendees will receive an attendance certificate via email following the completion of this 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



APPFA Professional Development Conference, Spring 2025, St. Louis, Missouri

regarding registered sponsors may be addressed to the National Registry of CPE Sponsors through their website: www.nasbaregistry.org.

Your attendance will enable you to expand your internal audit knowledge 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 and 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 as it relates to all sessions is listed below.



Table 1: CPE Summary Information

Criteria	Description
Delivery:	Group Live – All sessions include a questions and answer session.
CPE Credits:	19
Education or Experience Prerequisites (Who Should Attend):	None, 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), Information Technology, Personnel/Human Resources, 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, Google Play Store, and on your Windows laptop through a link supplied prior to the conference.

The email used for your APPFA registration will be the email that is used to link your account to the Rdmobile/Eventsential account. All users must have and be logged into their Rdmobile/Eventsential account 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 you sign into your Rdmobile/Eventsential APP prior to 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 AICPA to verify your attendance and disbursed CPEs. **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 difficulty during the conference. If technical difficulty occurs, then 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 10 days before the conference. Refunds will not be issued after that date.

Other Information

Tuesday Evening Welcome Reception

We will gather on Tuesday evening from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Drury Plaza West Ballroom for the welcome reception. Please attend the reception to network with your colleagues. Appetizers and refreshments will be provided.



Wednesday Group Dinner

At Ballpark Village Budweiser Brew House, you'll be able to experience St. Louis' vibrant energy. Located just steps from Busch Stadium (home to the St. Louis Cardinals), the popular venue offers a relaxed, open-air setting with great views of the ballpark. The Brew House is a casual vibe ideal for experiencing the best of St. Louis while soaking in the local culture. Additionally, our group will have access to the adjoining game room equipped with a selection of classic and modern arcade games. This is an excellent opportunity to network with other conference attendees.



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.

- Tuesday evening reception (no charge)
- Breakfasts for those staying at the conference hotel (no charge for hotel guests)
- Group lunches on Wednesday and Thursday (\$20 per meal)
- Group dinner on Wednesday (\$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 the entire day of the conference. Layers are always a good suggestion because then you can dress up or dress down as room temperature can vary. At the welcome reception we suggest (but not mandatory) you wear clothing that represents the system you work for (i.e., for example, a MOSERS shirt or jacket). This can help identify attendees to a particular pension system. On the last day of the conference, we generally see attendees dress more casually and comfortable as this is generally a travel day for most. The average April/May temperature in St. Louis ranges from a high of 72 to a low of 48 degrees but generally a conference room is cool. We always recommend that you plan to layer so you can adjust your attire as needed for temperatures both inside and out.

St. Louis Fun Facts

1. The Gateway Arch is the tallest man-made monument in the US.
2. St. Louis has several free major attractions (zoo, art museum, history museum, etc.)
3. The city has a museum dedicated to the history of the dog.
4. St. Louis is known as the “Gateway to the West”.
5. The city is home to the oldest botanical garden in the US.
6. Iced tea was popularized in St. Louis.
7. The city has a museum dedicated to the history of the blues.
8. St. Louis is home to the world’s largest chess piece.
9. The city has a museum dedicated to the history of the circus.
10. St. Louis is home to the oldest symphony west of the Mississippi.
11. The city is known for its unique toasted ravioli dish.



Conference Contacts

APPFA Conference Primary Host Contacts

Nicki E. Russell, nickir@mosers.org & Lexi Bonnot, lbonnot@psrsmo.org

***Missouri State Employees’ Retirement System (“MOSERS”)
Public School and Education Employee Retirement System of Missouri (“PSRS|PEERS”)***



APPFA Professional Development Conference, Spring 2025, St. Louis, Missouri

APPFA Officer Contacts

Nicki E. Russell, President, nickir@mosers.org
Leslie Nagel, Past-President, lnagel@minnesotatra.org
Alex McDowell, Vice-President, Program Committee Chair, AMcDowell@surs.org
Darlene Dempsey, Treasurer, darlene.dempsey@nystrs.org
Matt Priestas, Webmaster, Conference Registration Contact, and APP Contact webmaster@appfa.org
Kurt Petrie, Secretary and CPE Contact, kurt.petrie@etf.wi.gov
Amanda Jenami, Board Member, Amanda.Jenami@trs.texas.gov
Cheryl Cervantes-Dietz, Board Member, ccervantesdietz@calstrs.com

Helpful Reminders

1. Both the conference registration and hotel registration end on March 21, 2025. Please use the links provided to APPFA members to book your conference registration and hotel registration.
2. The primary representative must begin the conference registration process by registering all the attendees from their system.
3. Once the conference registration process is completed then 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.
4. The conference APP will be available about one week before the conference.
5. Attendees use the conference APP check into every session. CPE is only granted if you “check-in” and attend a conference session.
6. Each conference session has a survey. We want your feedback on every session!
7. The conference has an overall survey. We want your feedback about the overall conference!
8. The CPE certificate will be issued via email about 30 days after the conference.
9. 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 updated.
10. If you haven’t signed up for the community forum then what are you waiting for? The community forum is an excellent way to network and share information electronically with all the APPFA community in between conferences. But you can only participate if you sign up. Information on how to sign up is in the “Procedures for Website Processes” under Quick Links on APPFA’s website.

What is Next? Glad you Asked! Folsom, California

The APPFA Program Committee along with members from CalPERS and CalSTRS (i.e., conference hosts) are working on your Fall 2025 Conference. The Fall 2025 Professional Development Conference dates have been set with the conference occurring October 20 – 23, 2025. Stay tuned for more information via email or on [APPFA’s website](https://www.appfa.org).



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