



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

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

January 15, 2025

Good day, Fellow Pension Fund Auditors!

I am very excited to announce that our [Spring 2025 Professional Development Conference](#) will be held in-person **April 29 – May 2, 2025** in St. Louis, Missouri. The conference hotel, [Drury Plaza Hotel St. Louis at the Arch](#), is in downtown St. Louis and offers walking access to the [Gateway Arch](#).

The Spring 2025 conference will bring great insights from retirement system experts and networking opportunities. The conference assembles experts to share best practices and discuss audit programs and audit techniques unique to our environment. Some of the conference topics include call center innovation, derivative risk management, data privacy, mental health awareness, the ever-popular roll call of the states, and two panel discussions from the Best Practices Committee.

The registration fee is **\$575 per attendee for 19 hours of CPE**. This is the same fee that we offered at our Fall 2024 conference and the APPFA Board is pleased to be able to provide this rate again. We monitor our conference costs closely and want to provide you with an economical conference. The registration fee includes the Tuesday night welcome reception, two lunches, daily refreshments, and afternoon snacks. The price also includes the group dinner on Wednesday evening. The Tuesday night welcome reception is free for guests. Guests that wish to have lunch at the hotel as part of the group meals will be charged \$20 per meal. As always, you are welcome to bring guests to the group dinner for an additional \$50. 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. Breakfast is included as part of the hotel guest room rate.

The hotel room reservations group rate will be open until Friday, March 21, 2025 unless we fill the room block prior to that date. The group rate will also be available two nights before and two nights after the Conference. Please note that room rates do not include applicable state and local taxes. Please, use the [APPFA Group link](#) to make your reservation through the hotel website or contact the hotel by telephone at 1-800-325-0720 and reference *group number 10089946*.

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 Friday, March 21, 2025. If you are unable to pay online, please mail your payment by to:**

**APPFA | P. O. Box 11057 | Loudonville, NY 12211-9900**

**On the horizon.** The financials will be shared at our Fall 2025 meeting. We will share additional information on conference revenues, costs, and any other business matters. The Fall meeting will also include any elections. We hope to see you at both the Spring and Fall 2025 conferences. In between conferences, a great way to network is using the APPFA Community Forum, located on APPFA's website. If you have an interest in expanding your leadership skills and giving back to APPFA then please consider joining a [committee](#).

If you need additional information or assistance, contact Nicki Russell by email at [nickir@mosers.org](mailto:nickir@mosers.org). Questions related to the conference registration or the APPFA website should be directed to Matt Priestas at [webmaster@appfa.org](mailto:webmaster@appfa.org).

Missouri is known as the "Show Me State" and the Missouri conference hosts look forward to showing you an outstanding conference.

Sincerely,

*Nicki E. Russell*

Nicki E. Russell, APPFA President

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#### **Conference and Other Related Links:**

- A. Link for Conference Registration:  
[https://appfa.memberclicks.net/stlouis\\_miss\\_conf\\_reg](https://appfa.memberclicks.net/stlouis_miss_conf_reg)
- B. **Link for Hotel Registration:**  
<https://www.druryhotels.com/bookandstay/newreservation/?groupno=10089946>
- C. St. Louis, MO Visitor Guide:  
<https://explorestlouis.com/plan-your-trip/resources/visitor-services/>
- D. Airport near St. Louis:  
[St. Louis Lambert International Airport](#) (STL)