NASACT 2014 – A YEAR IN REVIEW

NASACT has focused on a number of major initiatives of importance to members in 2014. Each of these topics has been covered in past newsletters, business and committee meetings, and email updates this year.

AMENDMENTS TO RULE 2A-7

This summer, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission approved amendments to Rule 2a-7. The amendments impact money market mutual funds (MMFs), specifically requiring, among other things, that MMFs adopt a floating net asset value (NAV) instead of the traditional stable NAV. To examine the changes and their impacts, NASACT and the National Association of State Treasurers created a workgroup in October. The workgroup has focused primarily on the impact the amendments will have on local government investment pools (LGIPs), which are in many cases operated by state governments. On October 31, the NASACT/NAST workgroup submitted a letter to the Governmental Accounting Standards Board requesting that GASB (1) add the issue to its technical agenda and (2) consider options that will allow LGIPs to continue using amortized costs (i.e., a stable NAV).

The GASB has subsequently added this issue to its agenda (see related article on page 9).

DATA ACT

The Digital Accountability and Transparency Act, also known as the DATA Act, was signed into law on May 9. The focus of the DATA Act is to provide more transparency and accountability of spending related to federal awards. NASACT was successful in having language removed from the legislation that would have required Recovery Act-type reporting for all federal funds; a pilot to investigate the costs and burdens replaced that language. Implementation efforts have been ongoing throughout the summer and fall this year. The U.S. Treasury and the U.S. Office of Management and Budget have partnered to host several meetings examining implementation issues. On September 26, NASACT Past President Martin J. Benison, comptroller of Massachusetts, represented NASACT at one of those meetings. He stressed the importance of close collaboration with the states as implementation proceeds. He cited past successes, including collaboration to implement provisions of the Recovery Act, and stressed the importance of similar collaboration with the states on the DATA Act.

NASACT is currently compiling input from members on draft DATA Act standards and will continue working with Treasury and OMB as the standards are fully implemented (see related article on page 4).

IMPLEMENTATION OF GUIDANCE ON UNIFORM ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS, COST PRINCIPLES AND AUDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS

Last December, OMB released long-anticipated final guidance implementing changes to uniform administrative requirements, cost principles and audit requirements for federal awards. The final guidance amends existing grant policy and specifically covers three areas: administrative

Continued, next page
requirements, cost principles and single audit. The guidance is applicable to federal agencies on December 26, 2014. NASACT has worked closely this year with OMB, providing input on Q&As seeking to clarify the guidance.

CONTINUING INTERIM DISCLOSURE

NASACT’s Continuing Disclosures Implementation Group has worked in 2014 to identify states to pilot ten best practices to improve interim disclosure; the best practices were outlined in a document produced by the association last summer: Voluntary Interim Financial Reporting: Best Practices for State Governments. NASACT’s work in this area was recognized in May 2014 by the National Federation of Municipal Analysts, which honored NASACT with the Excellence in Disclosure Award. Additionally, NFMA recently issued draft best practices for state general obligation bond disclosure. The document incorporates and builds on NASACT’s best practices. In September, the state of Vermont was the first participant in NASACT’s implementation group to fully implement the ten recommended practices online. The implementation group will continue to build on this work to educate states and provide resources to allow others to implement the best practices.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

The Affordable Care Act’s employer mandate is set to go into effect on January 1, 2015, for employers with 100 or more full-time employees, and on January 1, 2016, for those with between 50 and 99 full-time employees. Although no reporting is required until 2016, employers should already have a plan in place to assure that the appropriate recordkeeping is being done to comply with the new reporting requirements. Areas such as determining an employee’s work status as full or part-time require accurate records as the regulations allow employers to use a monthly calculation or an optional look-back measurement based on the hours of service the employee worked in a prior period. Employers should consult the regulations for guidance on the treatment and calculation of hours for various types of employees.

State and local government accounting departments should also be consulting with their human resource departments to determine who will be responsible for the reporting and whether required employee information is already being collected.

Finally, states that self-insure should note that additional reporting is required under Internal Revenue Code Section 6055.

NASACT held an information sharing call in October to provide a forum for members to discuss implementation issues, including discussion of the new information reporting requirements. NASACT developed a survey to further identify issues that need more discussion or action. Additionally, NASACT has worked with private sector partners with expertise in the area of ACA reporting to share their knowledge with members. Several informational webinars have been hosted on the topic and another webinar is scheduled in January. NASACT will continue to keep members informed and facilitate information sharing as ACA provisions and reporting requirements go into full effect.

PENSION STANDARDS AND AUDIT GUIDANCE

NASACT sent a letter on March 7 to the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants to express concern over auditing guidance being developed by the AICPA for agent multiple-employer pension plans for state and local governments. At issue was the timing of the guidance related to agent multiple-employer pension plans, guidance that was not yet available even though plan auditors should have been planning and performing procedures for upcoming audits. This scenario had the potential to create serious consequences for participating employer auditors who could have to modify audit opinions for thousands of participating employers through no fault of the employers or their auditors.

In the March 7 letter, NASACT urged the AICPA’s Auditing Standards Board to consider flexibility and the use of professional judgment in the final guidance issued for agent multiple-employer plans. Further, NASACT requested that the AICPA ask the GASB for a delay in the agent multiple-employer plan requirements of Statement 68.

Subsequent to the March 7 letter, NASACT’s Executive Committee approved a resolution addressed to the AICPA and the GASB. The resolution urged the AICPA and the GASB to work cooperatively to find an appropriate alternative plan pertaining to agent multiple-employer pension plans, one without the unintended and detrimental consequence of modified audit opinions on the financial statements of governments participating in agent multiple-employer pension plans.

Continued, next page
**ASSOCIATION NOTES**

**NEW MEMBERS IN 2014**

**STATE AUDITORS**
- **AS** — Liau Fateusi (replacing Francis Sefo, effective March 2014)
- **MI** — Doug Ringler (replacing Thomas H. McLavish, effective June 2014)

**STATE COMPTROLLERS**
- **DC** — Bill Slack (replacing Bert Molina, effective June 2014)
- **IN** — Suzanne Crouch (replacing Dwayne Sawyer, effective January 2014)
- **ME** — Doug Cotnoir (replacing Terry Brann, effective January 2014)
- **NC** — Linda Combs (replacing James Dolan, effective April 2014)
- **OR** — Robert Hamilton (replacing Kathy Ross, effective February 2014)

**STATE TREASURERS**
- **AK** — Pamela Leary (replacing Angela Rodell, effective January 2014)
- **IN** — Kelly Mitchell (replacing Dan Rutherford, effective November 2014)
- **NH** — William Dwyer (replacing Catherine Provenerch, effective March 2014)

**CHANGES COMING IN 2015**

As a result of recent elections and impending retirements, several member changes are coming in 2015.

**STATE AUDITORS**
- **NE** — Charlie Janssen (replacing Mike Foley)
- **NM** — Tim Keller (replacing Hector Balderas)

**STATE COMPTROLLERS**
- **AR** — Adrea Lea (replacing Charlie Daniels)
- **CA** — Betty Yee (replacing John Chiang)
- **HI** — Douglas Murdock (replacing Dean Seki)
- **MN** — Myron Frans (replacing James Schwalter)
- **NV** — Ron Knecht (replacing Kim Wallin)
- **TN** — Mike Coricelli (replacing Jan Sylvis)
- **TX** — Glen Hegar (replacing Susan Combs)

**STATE TREASURERS**
- **AR** — Dennis Milligan (replacing Charles Robinson)
- **AZ** — Jeff DeWit (replacing Doug Ducey)
- **CA** — John Chiang (replacing Bill Lockyer)
- **DE** — Ken Simpler (replacing Chip Flowers)
- **HI** — Wesley Machida (replacing Kalbert Young)
- **IL** — Mike Frerichs (replacing Dan Rutherford)
- **MA** — Deb Goldberg (replacing Steve Grossman)
- **ME** — Terry Hayes (replacing Neria Douglass)
- **MN** — Myron Frans (replacing James Schwalter)
- **NV** — Dan Schwartz (replacing Kate Marshall)
- **RI** — Seth Magaziner (replacing Gina Raimondo)
- **TX** — Glen Hegar (replacing Susan Combs)
- **WI** — Matt Adamczyk (replacing Kurt Schuller)

* This office fills both the comptroller and treasurer function.

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**2014 – A YEAR IN REVIEW**  
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The GASB voted unanimously on March 24 not to delay the implementation of Statement No. 68. Subsequently, the AICPA has issued white paper guidance on agent multiple-employer pension plans. Through the National State Auditors Association’s Pension Audit Issues Workgroup, the state audit community, working closely with counterparts at the local level through the Government Finance Officers Association, has been working to develop and implement appropriate audit procedures, including the AICPA’s guidance.

**ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES**

NASACT saw several administrative changes in 2014, including the implementation of a new logo and branding and the launch of a new website. NASACT will continue utilizing changing technology to offer more streamlined services to members.

**MORE INFORMATION**

For more information about NASACT’s activities in 2014, view past issues of NASACT News at www.nasact.org or call (859) 276-1147 or (202) 624-5451.■
NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

DATA ACT IMPLEMENTATION CONTINUES

The federal government continues efforts to implement the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (DATA Act) to bring more transparency to federal spending. While the act does not require additional reporting for grant recipients, it does require that recipients of federal grant funds use financial data standards that are to be developed by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget and the U.S. Treasury in accordance with the law. Currently, OMB and Treasury are seeking input from the entire grants community on the data elements that are under discussion. The elements currently being discussed are those required under the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (now required on USA Spending) and additional elements to comply with the DATA Act including elements such as obligated amount, unobligated amount, amount of budgetary resources and others. To review and comment on the data standards under development, visit http://fedspendingtransparency.github.io/.

Additionally, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee held a hearing this month on implementation of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act. The hearing, titled “Transforming Federal Spending: Implementing the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act,” featured Senators Mark Warner (D-VA) and Rob Portman (R-OH), Senate co-sponsors of the DATA Act; Comptroller General Gene Dodaro; OMB Controller Dave Mader; and Treasury Assistant Fiscal Secretary David Lebryk. The panelists discussed the federal government’s progress to date and the hurdles to full implementation.

Of note was a U.S. Government Accountability Office report from December 8, 2014, which was released during the hearing. The report stated that effective implementation of the DATA Act would help address government-wide management challenges and improve oversight. The report can be accessed at http://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/12-3-2014-Full-Committee-Hearing-Dodaro-Statement1.pdf.


GAO EXAMINES CHIP AS PROGRAM FUNDING NEARS END

The U.S. Government Accountability Office released its latest look at the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), a 17-year old federal-state program that provides coverage to about eight million low-income children, providing health insurance coverage for children who would otherwise be uninsured. The report, titled Children’s Health Insurance: Cost, Coverage, and Access Considerations for Extending Federal Funding, analyzes the impact of the continuation of the program, since the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) only extended federal funding for CHIP through fiscal year 2015. The new 114th Congress, which convenes in January, will decide whether to act to extend that funding. If Congress does not act, GAO notes in its report:

“If funding for CHIP runs out after 2015, children in CHIP-funded Medicaid programs will remain in Medicaid. For the 5.3 million children in separate CHIP programs, beginning in October 2015, PPACA requires that if a state’s CHIP funding is insufficient to cover all CHIP-eligible children, the state must establish procedures to ensure that they are screened for Medicaid eligibility, and, if not eligible, enroll them in qualified health plans certified as comparable to CHIP.”

While Congress will debate the ongoing need for CHIP next year, GAO has already identified three important considerations related to cost, coverage and access when determining the ongoing need for the CHIP program:

- **Cost:** In 2013, GAO found that consumer costs in CHIP plans were lower than under the benchmark plans selected by states as models for the benefits that would be offered by qualified health plans through exchanges in 2014. For example, when comparing plans in five states with separate CHIP programs to state benchmark plans, GAO found that the CHIP plan in the states typically did not require the payment of deductibles, while all five states’ benchmark plans did. Similarly, the amount of any applicable cost-sharing was almost always less for CHIP plans, and the difference was

Continued, next page
The Government Finance Officers Association held its winter meeting in Washington this month. Among the topics discussed by GFOA’s Debt Committee were ongoing initiatives of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission affecting the municipal market, as well as efforts to protect the tax exemption for municipal bonds, a long-standing priority for GFOA and other state and local organizations.

Among the noteworthy presentations was that of Lee Ann Gaunt, chief of the SEC Enforcement Division’s Municipal Securities and Public Pensions Unit. She provided an update on the SEC’s Municipalities Continuing Disclosure Cooperation (MCDC) Initiative, begun in March this year.

The aim of the MCDC Initiative is to encourage issuers and underwriters of municipal securities to self-report certain violations of the federal securities laws rather than waiting for their violations to be detected. Ms. Gaunt stated that although the SEC will not likely reveal the number of issuers and underwriters participating in the MCDC Initiative, the disclosure violations are widespread. When questioned about what the SEC considers material, Ms. Guant noted that upcoming enforcement actions will reveal more information, stating that the SEC “speaks through enforcement.” She further noted that her office will be looking at the municipal adviser rule and other items that were part of the SEC’s 2012 report on the municipal securities market.

Although the SEC will not likely reveal the number of issuers and underwriters participating in the MCDC initiative, disclosure violations appear widespread.

The GFOA’s Debt Committee also heard from majority staff of the House Ways and Means and Senate Finance committees who were asked to provide comments on the tax exemption for municipal bonds and tax reform in 2015.

Aharon Friedman of the Ways and Means Committee focused his comments on a proposal, introduced as H.R. 1 by Chairman Dave Camp (MI-R), which addresses broad tax reform by eliminating many tax expenditures in order to lower the rates. Friedman said that he thinks incoming Ways and Means Chairman Paul Ryan (WI-R) will carry forward many of Chairman Camp’s proposals and will be making tax reform a high priority. Ryan Abraham of the Senate Finance Committee said that while incoming Chairman Orrin Hatch (UT-R) is definitely interested in tax reform, doing a broad rewrite of the tax code seems unlikely given the upcoming presidential elections and the short window for moving controversial legislation. However, both staffers indicated that there is a desire to do something regarding tax reform, and it is possible that a more targeted effort, addressing corporate tax reform, for example, has a slim chance of movement this year.
VON MOLL TO HOST STATE COMPTROLLERS IN RICHMOND NEXT MARCH

The 2015 annual conference of the National Association of State Comptrollers will be held on March 11-13 in Richmond, Virginia. The conference will be hosted by State Comptroller and NASC President David A. Von Moll. The NASC Program Committee is currently working on the technical program, which will include roundtable sessions, standards updates, legislative updates and more.

To submit topics for discussion at the roundtable sessions, email Kim O’Ryan at koryan@nasact.org.

TRAVEL ASSISTANCE FOR NASC MEMBERS

NASC members in good standing will be eligible to receive up to $1,000 to attend the NASC annual conference. The funds will be provided as a reimbursement following the conference and may be used by the state comptroller or a designee.

MORE INFORMATION

Questions about the conference may be directed to Kim at the email address above or Donna Maloy at dmaloy@nasact.org. See page 11 for additional details about the conference or visit www.nasact.org/nasc_schedule. Registration will be available soon.
NASACT has three webinars coming in the new year. Visit our website for complete details!

**NSAA’S PEER REVIEW PROGRAM: WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!**
Wednesday, January 21
2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Eastern

This webinar will provide an overview of items needed to prepare for and conduct an NSAA peer review.

Specific topics to be covered include (1) an overview, objectives and general considerations; (2) organization and qualifications of the review team; (3) phases of the review; (4) finalizing the review; and (5) tips and insights. Speakers will be NSAA Peer Review Committee Members:
- John Buyce, audit director, Office of the State Comptroller (NY)
- Greg Fugate, audit manager, Office of the State Auditor (CO)
- Staci Henshaw, deputy auditor of public accounts (VA)
- Brad Blake, CFAE chief, Office of the State Auditor (OH)

**Cost:** There is no charge.

**CPE:** No CPE credit will be available.

**GAO’S NEW GREEN BOOK: A REVISED INTERNAL CONTROL FRAMEWORK FOR GOVERNMENT**
Wednesday, February 11
2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Eastern

This webinar will highlight the final provisions *Standards for Internal Control in the Federal Government: 2014 Revision*, also known as the Green Book, including a discussion of the impact of the most significant changes. Representatives from Minnesota will explain their state’s journey to establish strong internal controls and why they are planning to shift from COSO to the Green Book as the executive branch’s internal control standard. Views will be provided from both management and the independent legislative auditor. Speakers will be:
- Cecile M. Ferkul, deputy legislative auditor (MN)
- Jeanine Kuwik, director of internal control and accountability, Office of Management and Budget (MN)

**Cost:** $299 for groups (unlimited attendance) and $50 for individuals.

**CPE:** 2 credits will be available.

**ESTABLISHING RISK MANAGEMENT AND CONTROLS FOR STATE GOVERNMENT**
Wednesday, February 25
2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Eastern

Establishing policies and procedures to manage risk has always been part of the public sector landscape. A number of professional associations and standard-setting bodies have addressed how public sector organizations can establish policies and internal controls to minimize the risk of financial inaccuracy and fraud. The U.S. Government Accountability Office recently issued the Green Book. These standards provide the overall framework for designing, implementing and operating an effective internal control system.

This webinar will provide an overview of the national governance, risk and compliance environment and review how two organizations, the commonwealth of Virginia and the Pennsylvania Department of the Treasury, have implemented effective risk management processes and internal controls. Speakers will include:
- Bob Sabo, executive director, Public Sector Solutions, Oracle
- Keith Johnson, director, State and Local Government, Oracle
- David Von Moll, state comptroller, Virginia
- Jeffery Bohr, information technology manager, Information Technology Solutions, Pennsylvania Department of Treasury

**Cost:** $299 for groups (unlimited attendance) and $50 for individuals. For this event, those who do not need CPE for the event may participate for free.

- Use **promo code INDWEB** to receive the discounted individual rate of $50.
- Use **promo code NOCPE** to participate at no cost.

**CPE:** 2 credits will be available.

Questions about NASACT’s webinars may be directed to Anna Peniston or Pat Hackney at (859) 276-1147. Registration is available now at www.nasact.org.
ILLINOIS COMPTROLLER JUDY BAAR TOPINKA DIES

Illinois Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka died on Wednesday, December 10 of complications from a stroke. She was 70. Topinka had recently won her second four-year term as state comptroller following a successful re-election bid in November.

In 1994, she became the first woman elected as Illinois state treasurer. She kept the office in the 1998 election, making her the first woman to be re-elected to a statewide office. She served as state treasurer for a total of three terms. Topinka was first elected comptroller in 2010, making her the first woman to be elected to two state constitutional offices.

A public memorial service was held on December 17 at Operating Engineers’ Local 150 headquarters in Countryside, Illinois. State leaders, colleagues and family shared stories and celebrated Topinka’s life at the memorial. Spokesman Brad Hahn said Topinka “made it very clear she didn’t want a funeral or a wake,” but that she included a stipulation in a legal document that her family and friends could hold a memorial service for her following her cremation.

NASACT President and Illinois Auditor General William G. Holland, who spoke at the memorial service, commented, “Judy served the people of Illinois as a representative, senator, treasurer and comptroller. In each of these positions, she served with honesty, integrity and unbridled enthusiasm. The people of Illinois have lost a wonderful public servant. I have lost a dear friend.”

INDIANA TREASURER APPOINTED EARLY; NEW OFFICIALS NAMED IN MAINE, HAWAII AND MINNESOTA

INDIANA

On November 18, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence announced his appointment of Kelly Mitchell to the office of state treasurer. She won election to a full four-year term in the office starting in January 2015.

Mitchell replaces interim treasurer Daniel Huge, who was named to serve following the departure of Richard Mourdock in August earlier this year.

Mitchell was an investment fund director in the treasurer’s office before stepping down to campaign full time. She previously served two terms as a Cass County commissioner.

MAINE

On December 3, the Maine state legislature held elections for several constitutional offices, among them, state treasurer. Former four-term Democratic Rep. Terry Hayes of Buckfield, who left the party after Election Day, emerged victorious in her bid to unseat State Treasurer Neria Douglass. Douglass served as state auditor prior to being elected state treasurer in 2012.

HAWAII

Also on December 3, Hawaii Gov. David Inge announced several new members of his cabinet. Inge named Wesley Machida as the new director of finance (state treasurer). Machida currently leads the state’s $14 billion employees’ retirement system. Machida will replace Kalbert Young. Douglas Murdock, who is currently the vice president for administrative and fiscal affairs at the Hawaii Tourism Authority, will become the new state comptroller, replacing Dean Seki.

MINNESOTA

Lastly, Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton has selected Department of Revenue Commissioner Myron Frans to replace Jim Schwalter in the state’s top fiscal post at Minnesota Management and Budget (comptroller/treasurer). Schwalter is leaving his job as MMB commissioner to become the president and chief executive officer of Minnesota Health Plans.

Experienced Change in Your Office?

If there are changes in your office that need to updated in NASACT’s database, please notify us! Contact Pat Hackney at phackney@nasact.org or (859) 276-1147 with changes to contact information or personnel.
NEWS FROM AROUND THE NATION

GASB TO EXAMINE CHANGES TO RULE 2a-7 AND THE FINANCIAL REPORTING IMPACTS ON LGIPs

On Wednesday, December 17, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board voted to add to its agenda the examination of recent changes by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission to Rule 2a-7 and the financial reporting impacts on local government investment pools (LGIPs).

NASACT and the National Association of State Treasurers recently created a workgroup to examine amendments to Rule 2a-7. The amendments impact money market mutual funds (MMFs), specifically requiring, among other things, that MMFs adopt a floating net asset value (NAV) instead of the traditional stable NAV.

The workgroup has focused primarily on the impacts the amendments will have on local government investment pools (LGIPs), which are in many instances operated by state governments. On October 31, the workgroup submitted a letter to the Governmental Accounting Standards Board requesting that GASB:

• Add the issue to its technical agenda.
• Consider options that will allow LGIPs to continue using amortized costs (i.e., stable NAV).

The full letter, with much more background and details, is available at www.nasact.org.

NASACT and the NASACT/NAST workgroup will participate fully in GASB's due process as it examines this issue.

NASACT/NAST WORKGROUP ON CHANGES TO RULE 2a-7 AND IMPACTS ON LGIPs

NASACT

Martin J. Benison, Comptroller of the Commonwealth (MA)
Gerry Boaz, Technical Manager, State Audit, Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury (TN)
Randy Roberts, Director, Professional Practice, Office of the Auditor General (AZ)
Alan Skelton, State Accounting Officer (GA)

NAST

Neria Douglas, State Treasurer (ME)
Manju Ganeriwala, State Treasurer (VA)
Nancy Kopp, State Treasurer (MD)
Steve McCoy, State Treasurer (GA)

NASBO RELEASES FISCAL SURVEY OF THE STATES

The National Association of State Budget Officers recently released the fall 2014 Fiscal Survey of the States. This report shows that state fiscal conditions are moderately improving in fiscal 2015 as the economic recovery enters its sixth year. Consistent annual growth in the economy, while not as robust as many would like, is leading most states back to budget growth. States have replenished some spending for areas cut back during the recession, such as K-12 education and higher education. In addition to bolstering state spending, economic growth has produced higher revenue collections. Download the full report at www.nasbo.org/publications-data/fiscal-survey-of-the-states.

FAF ANNOUNCES NEW GASAC MEMBERS, NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

On December 15, the Financial Accounting Foundation announced the appointment of six new members to the Governmental Accounting Standards Advisory Council:

• Mark Pepera, chief financial officer, Westlake City Schools, Ohio
• Bernhard Fischer, director—public finance, Fitch Ratings
• Brian Green, partner, Seim Johnson LLP
• Shirley Hughes, finance director and chief financial officer, Boulder City, Nevada
• Wayne Gerhold, owner, Law Offices of Wayne D. Gerhold
• Demetria Hanna, branch chief—Economic Statistical Methods Division, U.S. Bureau of the Census

Also on December 15, the FAF posted a draft strategic plan of the FAF and the Governmental Accounting Standards Board and Financial Accounting Standards Board. Find the plan at www.accountingfoundation.org. Comments on the draft plan may be sent to strategic.plan@f-a-f.org. The expectation is that the FAF will consider adopting the plan at a February 2015 meeting.
ASSOCIATION NOTES

WHAT’S NEW AT www.nasact.org?
The following new items have been posted on NASACT’s website:

- NASACT’s comments on a GASB exposure drafts, *The Hierarchy of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles for State and Local Governments and Implementation Guide*.
- Responses from the National State Auditors Association on the following EDs from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants:
  - Proposed statement on auditing standards, *An Audit of Internal Control Over Financial Reporting that is Integrated with an Audit of Financial Statements*
  - Proposed statement on standards for attestation engagements, *Reporting on an Examination of Controls at a Service Organization Relevant to User Entities’ Internal Control Over Financial Reporting: Clarification and Recodification*

SHARE YOUR INPUT ON GASB PVs
The Governmental Accounting Standards Board recently issued two preliminary views documents: *Leases* and *Financial Reporting for Fiduciary Responsibilities*. Through the Committee on Accounting, Auditing and Reporting, NASACT will be responding to the PVs. The PVs can be downloaded at www.gasb.org.

To include your input in NASACT’s response letter, email your comments to Kim O’Ryan (koryan@nasact.org) or Sherri Rowland (srowland@nasact.org) by Wednesday, February 11.

NSAA ANNOUNCES BANNER AUDIT INFORMATION SHARING GROUP
The NSAA E-Government Committee is hosting information sharing conference calls to discuss audit issues relating to Banner, a popular higher education software package used by many states. Karen Helderman, audit director, Office of the Auditor of Public Accounts in Virginia, will lead the calls. The kick-off call will be held on Wednesday, January 14, at 2:00 p.m. Eastern time.

If you wish to participate and have not already indicated your interest, email Sherri Rowland at srowland@nasact.org.

NASACT’S HOLIDAY SCHEDULE
NASACT’s offices will be closed on the following days during the upcoming holiday season:
- Thursday, December 25
- Friday, December 26
- Thursday, January 1

UPCOMING INFORMATION SHARING CALLS

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GET INVOLVED!
For information on participating in any of these calls, contact NASACT’s headquarters office at (859) 276-1147.
CALENDAR

2015

January 21 | WEBINAR – NSAA’s Peer Review Program: What to Know Before You Go!

February 11 | WEBINAR – GAO’s New Green Book: A Revised Internal Control Framework for Government

February 25 | WEBINAR – Establishing Risk Management and Controls for State Government

March 10 | NASACT Executive Committee Meeting, Richmond, VA

March 11-13 | NASC Annual Conference, Richmond, VA

April 14-16 | NASACT Middle Management Conference, Raleigh, NC

April 23-24 | Tennessee Training Seminars, Chattanooga, TN

April 27-28 | Tennessee Training Seminars, Nashville, TN

May 4-5 | Tennessee Training Seminars, Jackson, TN

May 7-8 | Tennessee Training Seminars, Morristown, TN

June 9-12 | NSAA Annual Conference, Little Rock, AR

August 23 | NASACT Executive Committee Meeting, Chicago, IL

August 23-26 | NASACT Annual Conference, Chicago, IL

September 22-25 | NSAA IT Workshop & Conference, Hartford, CT

REGISTRATION COMING SOON FOR NASC 2015

BY DONNA MALOY, CONFERENCE MANAGER

The 2015 annual conference of the National Association of State Comptrollers will be held on March 11-13 at the Omni Richmond Hotel in Richmond, Virginia.

CONFERENCE HOTEL

The special negotiated room rate at the Omni Richmond Hotel is $139/night (single or double occupancy), plus applicable taxes. To book your room, call the Omni at (804) 344-7000 and ask for the NASC Annual Conference group rate. The cut-off date to receive the negotiated rate is February 13, 2015.

PROGRAM AND SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

NASC’s Program Committee, which is chaired by John Reidhead, director, Utah Division of Finance, is working on the technical program. A draft agenda will be posted to NASACT’s website in early January. To view a tentative schedule of events, please visit www.nasact.org/nasc_schedule. Registration for this conference will open soon.

MORE INFORMATION

Questions may be directed to Donna Maloy at dmaloy@nasact.org or (859) 276-1147.

Congratulations to the Free Registration Winner!

Everyone who filled out the NASC conference topics survey was entered into a drawing to receive either a free iPad or a free registration to the conference. Congratulations to Cynthia Cloud, state auditor of Wyoming, winner of a free registration!