NASC MEMBERS MEET IN VIRGINIA FOR 34th ANNUAL CONFERENCE:
ERP, PENSION ACCOUNTING & ACA REPORTING TOP AGENDA

BY GLENGA JOHNSON, COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

NASC President David A. Von Moll, state comptroller of Virginia, recently welcomed state comptrollers to Richmond, Virginia, for the thirty-fourth annual conference of the National Association of State Comptrollers. The conference was held March 11-13 at the Omni Richmond Hotel. Over 130 were in attendance.

The conference was preceded on March 10 by several meetings, including a meeting of NASACT’s Executive Committee, as well as NASC’s Executive Committee and its Committee on Accounting and Financial Reporting.

TECHNICAL AGENDA & OTHER ACTIVITIES

The conference featured three roundtable sessions and 11 general sessions covering a diverse range of topics. PowerPoint presentations and speaker bios from the conference can be found at www.nasact.org/2015_nasc_materials. A complete list of the session titles and speakers can be found on page 2.

In addition to technical sessions and roundtables, attendees were offered a special optional opportunity to tour the Virginia state capitol on the evening of Thursday, March 12.

AWARDS & RESOLUTIONS

At the conference banquet held on Wednesday, March 11, President Von Moll presented two awards to recognize exceptional achievements and service to the association. This year’s recipients were:

- Alan Skelton, Georgia’s state accounting officer.
  Mr. Skelton was presented with the NASC President’s Award to recognize his leadership as chair of NASC’s Committee on Accounting and Financial Reporting and his time and efforts to represent state comptrollers’ views through testimony to the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

- D. Clark Partridge, state comptroller of Arizona.
  Mr. Partridge was presented with the NASC Distinguished Service Award to recognize his longstanding support of NASC over the years; his leadership of several committees and groups; his efforts to represent comptrollers among the larger NASACT community on issues such as GASB funding, Recovery Act reporting and market disclosure; and his general willingness to be a champion for government efficiency, accountability and excellence.

Two resolutions were approved at the conference during the annual business meeting: one thanking President Von Moll for his service and one recognizing Jan Sylvis from Tennessee for her long career of public service as Tennessee’s comptroller and her new role as vice chair of the GASB.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

NASC wishes to thank all those who helped with the conference, especially David Von Moll, state controller of Virginia, and his staff, and John Reidhead, director of Utah’s Division of Finance and chair of the NASC Program Committee. NASC also wishes to thank all the speakers and moderators for sharing their time and expertise. Special gratitude goes to each corporate partner at the conference for their financial support and technical expertise.

2016 NASC ANNUAL CONFERENCE – The 2016 NASC Annual Conference will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, on March 16-18 at the Little America Hotel. The conference will be hosted by new NASC President John Reidhead from Utah.
The sessions presented during the 2015 annual conference are listed below. To download handouts, PowerPoint presentations and speaker biographies, visit www.nasact.org/2015_nasc_materials.

**PANEL A: STATE OF THE STATES: STATE FISCAL OUTLOOK**
- Scott Pattison, Executive Director, National Association of State Budget Officers

**PANEL B: OMB UPDATE**
- Mark Reger, Deputy Controller, U.S. Office of Management and Budget
- Gil Tran, Senior Policy Analyst, U.S. Office of Management and Budget

**PANEL C: WHAT IS THE TRANSFORMATION FRAMEWORK FOR STATE GOVERNMENT?**
- Peter Hutchinson, Managing Director, Management Consulting Strategy, State, Provincial and Local Government, Accenture
- Bill Kilmartin, Director, State and Local Government Finance and Administration Industry, Accenture
- Wendy Korthuis-Smith, Director, Results Washington, Governor’s Office

**PANEL D: ERP GOVERNANCE AND TRENDS IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND E-GOVERNMENT**
- Timothy Blevins, Executive Consultant, State and Local Solutions, CGI
- Bob Jaros, State Controller (CO)

**LUNCH SPEAKER: THE FY 2014 FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT – SHALL WE PLAY A GAME?**
- Scott Bell, Senior Staff Accountant, U.S. Department of the Treasury

**PANEL E: MODERNIZATION THROUGH COLLABORATION**
- Robert Sabo, Executive Director, Public, Sector Solutions, Oracle
- Anna Maria Kiehl, State Comptroller, (PA)
- PN Narayanan, CIO, Treasury Department (PA)

**PANEL F: TAKING THE RIGHT STEPS TO INTEGRATED DATA-DRIVEN OVERSIGHT**
- Melanie Rowley, Practice Manager, ACL
- Bill Kelley, Senior Advisor, ACL

**PANEL G: SHARED SERVICES: DRIVING SUCCESS USING COST CHARGEBACK MODEL**
- Krissy Culler, Deputy CIO, Chief Administrative and Financial Officer, Office of Information Technology Services (NC)
- Steve Stevens, Service Management Expert, Grant Thornton

**Using Your Investment in Technology to Make Your ERP Dreams Become Reality**
- Charlie Johnson, Managing Director, State & Local Government ERP, Microsoft
- Doug Bell, Technical Solutions Professional, State & Local Government ERP, Microsoft

**PANEL H: DIGITAL DISBURSEMENTS: FAST MOBILE PAYMENTS THAT MAKE YOUR CONSTITUENTS HAPPY**
- Cheryl Zachary, Director, Senior Product Solutions Specialist, Bank of America Merrill Lynch

**Emerging Payments and Innovative Solutions for Governments**
- Oliver Manahan, Vice President, Emerging Payments, MasterCard

**PANEL J: GASB UPDATE**
- Dave Vaudt, Chairman, Governmental Accounting Standards Board
- Jan Sylvís, Vice Chair, Governmental Accounting Standards Board

**GASB Statement No. 68 – IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES**
- Dave Bean, Director of Research and Technical Services, Governmental Accounting Standards Board

**PANEL K: GIVE ME LEASES OR GIVE ME FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITIES**
- Eric Berman, Partner, Eide Bailly
- Marcie Handy, Assistant Comptroller (UT)
The conference featured three comptroller roundtable sessions, which gave state comptrollers an opportunity to interact directly and discuss common issues.

Left: NASC President David Von Moll (VA) welcomed attendees and then introduced Virginia Secretary of Finance Ric Brown, followed by NASBO Executive Director Scott Pattison.

Right: Incoming NASC President John Reidhead (UT) presented a plaque of appreciation from the association to Mr. Von Moll at the NASC business meeting on March 12.

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Left: NASC’s new Executive Committee: (back row) Cynthia Cloud (WY), Steve Barnett (SD), David Von Moll (VA), immediate past president; John Reidhead (UT), president; Alan Skelton (GA); (front row) Diane Langham (MS); Tom White (AL), secretary/treasurer; and Anna Maria Kiehl (PA), vice president.

Right: Former Tennessee Comptroller and current GASB Vice Chair Jan Sylvis spoke on the GASB Update panel.
Left to right: Kris Knight (DE), Brandon Woolf (ID) and Kim O’Ryan (NASACT staff). Mr. Woolf provided the Site Committee report during NASC’s business meeting.

Left: Kathy Sheppard (MA) provided an update on activities of NASC’s Payroll Information Sharing Group at the business meeting.

Right: Anna Maria Kiehl (PA, at podium) presented during a panel on “Modernization Through Collaboration.” Diane Langham (MS) moderated the session.

Left: President Von Moll selected Alan Skelton (GA) to receive a President’s Award in recognition of his leadership of NASC’s standards-setting response activities.

Right: Clark Partridge (AZ) was recognized with a Distinguished Service Award for his many contributions to the association and to the broader NASACT community during his career.
Thomas White (AL, center at microphone) gave a report for the Travel & P-Card Information Sharing Group during the NASC business meeting.

Right: Lynne Bajema (OK), Steve Funck (OK), Ron Knecht (NV) and Hari Kadavath (NE) at the business meeting. Ms. Bajema provided the Middle Management Conference Committee report.

Left: Shown left to right: NASC President David Von Moll (VA), John Reidhead (UT) and Gil Tran and Mark Reger from OMB.

Right: Ed Ross (KY) provided the resolutions report. NASC members approved two resolutions at the conference: recognizing David Von Moll’s service as president and Jan Sylvis’s service to NASC and her new role as vice chair of the GASB.

Left: Clark Partridge (AZ) commenting at one of the roundtable sessions.
NASACT’s 100th Anniversary: Don’t Miss It!

Join NASACT President and Illinois Auditor General William G. Holland in Chicago this August as the association celebrates its 100th anniversary conference. Special activities for this milestone conference will include:

- Two and one-half days of general and concurrent sessions, roundtables and networking opportunities customized to meet the executive-level training needs of NASACT’s principal members and management. Confirmed general session speakers include U.S. Comptroller General Gene Dodaro and Dr. Al Gini, professor of business ethics and chair of the Department of Management in the School of Business Administration at Loyola University Chicago.

- A commemorative book celebrating NASACT’s 100 years.

- Tuesday State Night Event at the Marriott with a retrospective of NASACT’s past, the unveiling of NASACT’s inaugural Hall of Fame, and other special commemorative activities.

- Monday Cruise on Lake Michigan aboard the Spirit of Chicago.

- Sunday Gospel Brunch at the House of Blues and Reception at the John Hancock Tower.

- 5K Fun Run/Walk in Lincoln Park.

Stay tuned for additional details in coming weeks!
NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

REGULATORY REFORM EFFORTS CONTINUE

Over the past several years the Obama Administration has been targeting efforts to streamline overly burdensome regulations. To that end, the President issued Executive Orders 13563 and 13610 that require agencies to report biannually on the status of their retrospective or “look back” efforts. The basic premise of these efforts is to identify rules on the books with outdated requirements or unjustified costs.

Just recently, top Administration officials hosted a meeting with state and local officials to discuss ways to increase efforts in this area. Former NASACT President and Massachusetts Comptroller Marty Benison participated on behalf of the association. One of the suggestions made during the discussion was that agencies should identify common and recurring concerns of stakeholders, and then use those concerns as a lens through which to find rules that warrant review. To address the suggestion, the Administration categorized agency retrospective review initiatives into four categories:

1. Reducing regulatory and compliance burdens for state and local governments.
2. Reducing regulatory burdens for industry, with a focus on flexibility for small and new businesses.
3. Regulatory modernization.
4. Identifying areas with regulatory gaps or where regulations need to be strengthened.

In response to discussion about the successful collaboration that occurred between the three levels of government during implementation of the Recovery Act, the Administration has begun to investigate ways to increase early participation by representatives of state and local governments in the development of regulations that impose significant costs. Further, agencies are being encouraged to place emphasis on reforming rules in a way that will introduce flexibility and reduce compliance costs for state and local governments.

This month, federal agencies released the first of their biannual retrospective review reports for 2015. Along with these reports, agencies have submitted to the U.S. Office of Management and Budget written plans for stakeholder engagement. An example of how agencies will engage stakeholders can be found in Treasury’s retrospective review plan. Treasury bureaus are “encouraged to hold town hall meetings, listening sessions, roundtables or other similar events that provide in-person or real-time opportunities to share information.” The Department of Labor launched an interactive website to seek public input on developing its preliminary retrospective review plan. The site is designed to allow individuals to submit recommendations for retrospective review and provide comment on recommendations made by others.

Officials will again meet with state and local leaders in April, and we expect to learn more about the engagement process moving forward. It is helpful for state and local organizations to catalog such regulations for use in upcoming dialogs with the Administration.

NASACT will continue to keep members apprised of any new initiatives as the effort continues.

Have Ideas for Improvements? If you have any examples of federal regulations that could benefit from review and/or burden reduction, please forward them to Cornelia Chebinou in NASACT’s Washington office at cchebinou@nasact.org.

IRS OFFERS FREE WEBCAST ON EXCLUSIONS FROM SOCIAL SECURITY & MEDICARE COVERAGE: APRIL 9

The Internal Revenue Service will host a free webcast on April 9 at 2:00 p.m. Attendees will learn about:

- Section 218 coverage and exclusions.
- Mandatory coverage and exclusions.
- Handling zero coverage employees.

To register for this free event, go to www.visualwebcaster.com/IRS/101841/reg.asp?id=101841.

Questions may be directed to Lori Stieber at lori.a.stieber@irs.gov.
NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

NASACT’S 2015 WASHINGTON SURVEY: RESULTS ARE IN!
BY NEAL HUTCHKO, POLICY ANALYST

The results are in for this year’s Washington Office survey. Twenty-six offices from 16 different states participated. These responses are an invaluable asset to NASACT’s Washington staff, as they provide an accurate view of the issues that are most and least important to members and help guide our efforts for the upcoming year.

Thanks to all of those who were able to respond and submit comments.

5 MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES
1. Public sector pension plans–defined benefit plans for public employees
2. Public sector pension plans–disclosure
3. Medicaid and its impact on state budgets
4. Public sector pension plans–funding issues
5. Identification of improper payments

5 LEAST IMPORTANT ISSUES
1. Federal intervention/bankruptcy for states
2. Regulations resulting from Dodd-Frank
3. Fringe benefit and payroll issues
4. SEC/MSRB scope creep (regulation of the municipal market)
5. Federal deficit reduction/tax reform

QUOTES FROM THE SURVEY
Below is a random sample of comments we received under each topic.

Explain any issues you are having with federal agencies

- The resolution of single audit findings continues to be delayed. Our current report on the statewide single audit includes some repeated findings for which a management decision still has not been issued.
- When federal agencies issue letters/reports to state agencies to follow-up on findings issued by the state auditor, the state auditor should be copied.
- SWCAP issues with the federal cost negotiator, particularly in IT right now. We are concerned about having more SWCAP issues in the near future due to the new Super Circular.
- We’ve pushed on the IRS for a determination on whether charter schools can be considered governments for purposes of 218 agreements.

What is the best thing in financial management going on in your state/office today?

- Getting resources to set up a webpage/portal for fiscal data disclosure.
- Continually increasing electronic payments to citizens and vendors.
- Deployment of a new statewide accounting system (note: this was mentioned several times in the survey responses).
- Completed the state’s 2014 CAFR audit, which covered the fiscal year ended on June 30, 2014, and issued our unmodified opinion on the report in October 2014. That was 123 days after the year’s end, the shortest completion timeline for any state in the nation.
- More open data and records initiatives.
- New debt collection tools and programs.
- Centralized local government annual financial reporting through our state electronic gateway.

Are there any Congressional or regulatory issues of significance that we have not mentioned up to this point that the Washington office can address to better serve the membership?

- Recent move toward federal government regulation of the Internet.
- Any issues dealing with state 218 agreements relating to Social Security applicability to governments within a state.

How can we better serve your office?

- Continue offering industry guidance and opportunities for continuing education on current issues.
- With so many various issues, it’s hard sometimes to figure out what the primary issues are that impact NASACT members in states vs. those issues that are interesting, but may not impact us.

QUESTIONS & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
For detailed results of the survey or to discuss any of the results outlined above, please contact Neal Hutchko in the Washington office at (202) 624-5873 or nhutchko@nasact.org.
SENATE SEEKING INPUT ON TAX REFORM

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR) have announced a bipartisan effort to begin soliciting ideas from interested members of the public and stakeholders on how best to overhaul the nation’s tax code to make it simpler, fairer and more efficient. The goal of this effort is to provide additional input, data and information to the committee’s bipartisan tax working groups, which are currently analyzing existing tax law and examining policy trade-offs and available reform options within each group’s designated area.

In a joint statement, Hatch and Wyden noted: “By opening up our bipartisan working groups to public input, we hope to gain a greater understanding of how tax policy affects individuals, businesses, and civic groups across our nation.”

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

All submissions must be submitted as a pdf attachment. The attachment should be saved using the name of the organization/individual submitting the recommendations.

Parties should list the name of the tax working group they wish to contact in the subject line of the email (see the section below for the list of available groups). Please include contact name, organization (if the submission is being submitted on behalf of a group), phone number, and email address, in the body of the email.

Submissions will be accepted through April 15, 2015, and made public at a later date.

FINIAL ACA REPORTING FORMS AVAILABLE

Final information reporting forms under the Affordable Care Act for reporting on minimal essential health care coverage and employee health care coverage and enrollment now available:

**FORM 1094-B**

**FORM 1095-B**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

**FORM 1094-C**

**FORM 1095-C**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Links to these forms can also be found on NASACT’s home page at www.nasact.org. Questions about the ACA and its impact on NASACT members may be directed to the Washington office at (202) 624-5451.
ASSOCIATION NOTES: UPCOMING CONFERENCES

REGISTER NOW FOR MIDDLE MANAGEMENT 2015!

The 2015 NASACT Middle Management Conference will be held April 14-16, 2015, at the Sheraton Raleigh Hotel in Raleigh, North Carolina. The conference provides an excellent opportunity for continuing professional education and networking for mid-management level staff in NASACT member offices.

CPE and Technical Agenda: The conference will offer up to 20 credits of continuing professional education. Topics on the agenda will include:

- Grooming Managers Into Leaders
- Standards Updates
- Generational Differences in Government
- Business Communications
- Big Data Analytics
- Emotional Intelligence
- The Change Cycle

Cost: Fees to attend the conference are:

- NASACT Member or Member Staff: $425
- Other Government Agency Personnel: $425
- Non-Government Personnel: $525

Registration & Additional Information: Registration is now open at www.nasact.org—register today! Questions about the conference may be directed to Kim O’Ryan or Sherri Rowland at (859) 276-1147 or koryan@nasact.org or srowland@nasact.org.

AUDITORS TO MEET IN LITTLE ROCK FOR NSAA ANNUAL

The 2015 NSAA Annual Conference is scheduled for June 9-12 in Little Rock, Arkansas, at the Little Rock Marriott Hotel. The conference will be hosted by NSAA President and Arkansas Legislative Auditor Roger Norman. NSAA’s committees will meet on June 9 and conference sessions will follow on the next three days.

CPE and Technical Agenda: Agendas for both the committee meeting day and the conference will be posted online in the near future. Tentative topics include:

- Leadership, with Walt Coleman, a former football official with the NFL
- “State of the States” with Scott Pattison from the National Association of State Budget Officers
  - GASB Update, Auditing Pension Plans
  - IT Security & Other Standards Updates
  - Various Roundtable Sessions & More!

Sixteen credits of continuing professional education credit will be offered for the conference.

Getting There: The Little Rock Marriott Hotel is located seven miles from the Bill and Hillary Clinton National Airport. Taxi service is approximately $17.

Cost: Registration fees for the conference are:

- Member or member staff: $575
- Other governmental personnel: $650
- Non-governmental personnel: $725
- Guest: $150

Registration & Additional Information: Registration is now available at www.nasact.org! Questions about the conference program may be addressed to Sherri Rowland at srowland@nasact.org. Questions about the hotel or registration may be addressed to Donna Maloy at dmaloy@nasact.org.

CONFERENCE HOTEL – The 2015 NSAA Annual Conference will be held at The Little Rock Marriott Hotel. The room rate will be the prevailing government rate (currently $89/night) plus applicable taxes. To book your room, contact the hotel by calling (501) 906-4000 and indicating that you are with the National State Auditors Association. To get this special rate, you must call before the cut-off date of May 9, 2015. After this date, rooms will be offered on a space and rate available basis. The room block often sells out, so we recommend you make your reservations early!
ASSOCIATION NOTES

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

- NASACT’s response to the preliminary views document Leases from the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (www.nasact.org/gasb).


- The following technical inquires from state auditors (members only content at www.nasact.org/member_content):
  - Use of Contract Auditors for Single Audit

- The following technical inquires from state comptrollers (members only content at www.nasact.org/member_content):
  - Accounts Payable Survey
  - Background Checks
  - Garnishment Processing
  - Pre-Audit of Vendor Payments
  - Internal Control Framework

INFORMATION SHARING SPOTLIGHT

NASC ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS – APRIL 7, 3:00 P.M.
At the next meeting of the NASC Electronic Payments Information Sharing Group, Kathy Sheppard, deputy comptroller in Massachusetts, will share her state’s perspectives on the security of banking information and how her office ensures that the banking information provided is accurate and being supplied by an authorized person.

NASC PAYROLL – MAY 13, 1:00 P.M.
At the next meeting of the NASC Payroll Information Sharing Group, representatives from the Internal Revenue Service will participate. Guests will discuss topics including those related to implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

NASC TRAVEL & P-CARD – MAY 20, 1:00 P.M.
At the next meeting of the NASC Travel & P-Card Information Sharing Group, representatives from MasterCard and Visa will participate. Guests will discuss tools and updates that may be useful to member offices.

MORE INFORMATION
For more information, or to participate in any of these calls, contact Kim O’Ryan at (859) 276-1147 or koryan@nasact.org.

UPCOMING INFORMATION SHARING CALLS

APRIL
NASC Electronic Payments Info Sharing – Apr 7
NASC ACT Pension Standards Implementation Work Group – Apr 8
NSAA HR Info Sharing – Apr 29

MAY
NASC Payroll Info Sharing – May 13
NASC Travel & P-Card Info Sharing – May 20

JUNE
NASC ACT Committee on Accounting, Reporting and Auditing – June 16

GET INVOLVED!
For information on participating in any of these calls, contact NASACT’s headquarters office at (859) 276-1147.
GASB ISSUES FINAL STATEMENT ON FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT AND APPLICATION

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board has issued final guidance on accounting and financial reporting issues related to fair value measurements, which primarily applies to investments made by state and local governments.

GASB Statement No. 72, *Fair Value Measurement and Application*, defines fair value and describes how fair value should be measured, what assets and liabilities should be measured at fair value, and what information about fair value should be disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

Under the new statement, fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Investments, which generally are measured at fair value, are defined as a security or other asset that governments hold primarily for the purpose of income or profit and the present service capacity of which are based solely on their ability to generate cash or to be sold to generate cash.

The full text of Statement 72, a GASB In Focus and a video on fair value are available on the GASB website, www.gasb.org.

NASACT MEMBERS: PROVIDE YOUR INPUT!

Tax Abatement Disclosures

GASB has begun redeliberations on the exposure draft *Tax Abatement Disclosures*. As a result, GASB is reaching out to respondents who raised concerns about non-disclosure clauses or taxpayer confidentiality laws in their comment letters. NASACT will be providing input on the following:

- **Confidentiality Clauses in Abatement Agreements**
  Specific examples of agreements that contain confidentiality clauses (to include agreement templates, redacted actual agreements, or other materials that would inform GASB about these clauses).

- **Taxpayer Confidentiality Laws**
  Specific state or local laws that prohibit disclosure of information that has been proposed in paragraph 6 of the ED. Please provide specific examples, as it is important for GASB to understand which disclosures are problematic for states and why.

If you have examples of either the agreements that contain confidentiality clauses or the laws that prohibit disclosure, **please send a copy (or link to a copy) by Friday, March 27**.

Information may be sent to Kim O’Ryan (koryan@nasact.org) or Sherri Rowland (srowland@nasact.org).

LOOKING FOR COST-EFFECTIVE TRAINING?

Check out our Training Seminars Program! Through the program, NASACT members can schedule specialized training seminars tailored to meet targeted staff training needs. Experienced consultants conduct the sessions, which can cover topics ranging from auditing and accounting to human resources and information technology.

An all-inclusive seminar fee covers consultant fees and expenses, as well as planning services provided by NASACT. The state hosting the training coordinates on-site logistics and provides CPE credit.

To find out more, contact Anna Peniston at (859) 276-1147 or apeniston@nasact.org.

NASACT News | March 2015
MEMBER NEWS

MISSOURI

Tom Schweich, 54, fatally shot himself on February 26 in an apparent suicide.

Mr. Schweich was first elected as state auditor of Missouri in 2010 and had easily won reelection to a second four-year term last November. He had launched a campaign for the Republican nomination for governor a month before his death.

Mr. Schweich previously served as U.S. Sen. John Danforth’s chief of staff for a 1999 federal investigation into the deadly government siege at the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas, and followed Danforth to the United Nations, where he was chief of staff for the U.S. delegation.

President George W. Bush appointed Mr. Schweich to the State Department in 2005 as an international law enforcement official and picked him two years later to coordinate the anti-drug and justice reform efforts in Afghanistan.

To ensure continuity of government operations, Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon recently appointed John Watson as state auditor. Mr. Watson has agreed to serve until a permanent appointment by the governor is made, immediately prior to which Mr. Watson will resign.

Under Missouri law, when a vacancy occurs in the office of the state auditor, the governor shall immediately appoint the auditor to fill such vacancy.

MICHIGAN

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder recently named utility executive and state government veteran Nick Khouri as the state’s new treasurer. Current Treasurer Kevin Clinton will return to the private sector after about 16 months on the job. Mr. Clinton’s last day will be April 17. Mr. Khouri will take office April 20.

Mr. Khouri served as chief deputy treasurer under former Gov. John Engler. He most recently served as senior vice president of corporate affairs at DTE Energy in Detroit, where he oversaw governmental and regulatory relations, community affairs and communications.

He also served as vice president and treasurer at DTE and a vice president of Public Sector Consultants from 1997 to 1999, where he focused on economic development, public infrastructure and state and local tax policy. From 1991 to 1997, he was the state’s chief deputy treasurer. And before that, he was chief economist of the Senate Fiscal Agency.

SOUTH CAROLINA

The South Carolina Legislative Audit Council has a new director. K. Earle Powell replaces Perry Simpson. He is appointed by a governing board and will serve a four-year term.

The Legislative Audit Council is the oversight agency of the South Carolina General Assembly. The council performs independent, objective performance audits of state operations.

MORE INFORMATION & CHANGES

Information about all state auditors, state comptrollers and state treasurers can be found on NASACT’s website at www.nasact.org/af_memberdirectory.asp.

Changes to personnel in member offices may be sent at any time to Pat Hackney (phackney@nasact.org).

IS YOUR STATE HEADED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION? LET OUR BENCHMARKING PROGRAM HELP YOU FIND OUT!

Through the program, states can compare themselves to other states and to the private sector. The program also allows comparisons of agencies within the state to each other and to agencies within other states. Benchmarks are available in the following functional areas: financial management, IT, HR and payroll, and procurement. Additional executive advisory services are also available through the program.

To find out more, email Kim O’Ryan at koryan@nasact.org.
CALENDAR

2015

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
July 8      |  Webinar: GASB Review
June 9-12   |  NSAA Annual Conference, Little Rock, AR
August 23   |  NASACT Executive Committee Meeting, Chicago, IL
August 22-26|  NASACT Annual Conference, Chicago, IL
September 22-25 | NSAA IT Workshop & Conference, Hartford, CT

NASACT MEMBERS: DON’T FORGET THE TRAVEL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM!

BY DONNA MALOY, CONFERENCE MANAGER

NASACT’s travel assistance program now makes it easier than ever for members to attend the annual conferences. Through the program, NASACT principals (or their designees) are eligible to receive the following benefits:

• $1,000 for the 2015 NASC Annual Conference
• $1,000 for the 2015 NSAA Annual Conference
• $2,000 for the 2015 NASACT Annual Conference

The travel assistance may be used to cover expenses related to the conference attendance (all assistance will be provided as a reimbursement after the conference).

For those planning to submit a reimbursement request for the 2015 NASC Annual Conference, visit www.nasact.org/2015_nasc_materials to download the reimbursement form. Also, be sure to take advantage of this benefit to attend the 2015 NSAA Annual Conference scheduled for June 9-12 in Little Rock, Arkansas, and the 2015 NASACT Annual Conference scheduled for August 22-26 in Chicago, Illinois.

Questions about NASACT’s Travel Assistance Program may be directed to Lori Slagle at slagle@nasact.org.

DO YOU HAVE A TOPIC IDEA FOR A WEBINAR?

Let us know about it! We are always looking for topics of interest to member offices to feature in a two-hour webinar! Information about NASACT’s webinars, including links to past webinar recordings, can be found at www.nasact.org/webinars.

Ideas for future webinars may be sent to Anna Peniston (apeniston@nasact.org).