NASACT ACCEPTING HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS

2nd CLASS OF HONOREES WILL BE ANNOUNCED THIS AUGUST

NASACT is currently accepting nominations for its most distinguished award opportunity—induction into the NASACT Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame was created to recognize an elite group of individuals who over their professional careers have made major and enduring impacts on state government financial management. Hall of Fame inductees will not be selected based upon a single achievement, but rather to recognize careers filled with significant achievements and contributions and to recognize those who have reached the highest levels of performance in the profession. Additionally, recipients will embody characteristics including outstanding vision, inspiring leadership, and unwavering commitment to the highest professional and ethical standards and practices.

CRITERIA

Nominees will be evaluated by these criteria:

• Contributions that promote or enhance government accountability, efficiency or effectiveness.

• Contributions primarily focused on improving state government (contributions to federal or local government would be supplemental criteria to the selection process).

• Contributions making a major impact upon the lives of citizens or upon those employed by state governments.

• Other professional/peer recognition of excellence and achievement.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Nominations should be submitted electronically in PDF format via email by Friday, February 26, 5:00 p.m. Eastern time to Kinney Poynter, executive director, kpoynter@nasact.org.

To download the complete program guidelines and the entry form, visit www.nasact.org/nasact_awards.

WHAT WILL INDUCTEES RECEIVE?

Inductees will be announced and honored at the 2016 NASACT Annual Conference in August in Indianapolis, Indiana. Inductees will also be recognized in a gallery of winners at NASACT’s headquarters office in Lexington, Kentucky.

NASACT will pay expenses for Hall of Fame inductees to attend the annual conference.

QUESTIONS?

Questions may be directed to Glenda Johnson at gjohnson@nasact.org or (859) 276-1147.

NSAA ACCEPTING EXCELLENCE IN ACCOUNTABILITY AWARD SUBMISSIONS

The National State Auditors Association’s Excellence in Accountability Awards Committee is now accepting submissions for the 2016 Excellence in Accountability Awards. There are three award categories, comprising four separate award types: performance audits (large and small), forensic reports and special projects. Submissions are due by 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on Friday, February 26, 2016. Award winners will be recognized at the NSAA annual conference in June. For more information, visit www.nasact.org/nsaa_awards.

NSAA is also seeking judges for the awards program. Those interested in participating as a judge should contact Sherri Rowland at srowland@nasact.org or (859) 276-1147.
ASSOCIATION NOTES

COMPTROLLERS TO MEET SOON IN SALT LAKE CITY
BY KIM O’RYAN, NASC ASSOCIATION DIRECTOR

John Reidhead, director of the Utah Division of Finance and president of the National Association of State Comptrollers, will host the 2016 NASC Annual Conference on March 16-18 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Anna Maria Kiehl, state comptroller of Pennsylvania, chairs the Program Committee.

CONFERENCE HOTEL
The conference will be held at the Little America Hotel. The special negotiated room rate is $179/night (single occupancy) plus applicable taxes. The cut-off date to receive this rate is February 19, 2016. After this date, rooms will be offered on a space- and rate-available basis only. To book, call (800) 437-5288 and reference the NASC Annual Conference.

TECHNICAL AGENDA
The program will include a state update from Scott Pattison, executive director of the National Governors Association. Representatives from the Governmental Accounting Standards Board are scheduled to provide a GASB update. A representative from the U.S. Office of Management and Budget has been invited to discuss OMB’s recent activities. Additional sessions will also feature grants management, DATA Act, GASB 68, Big Data, Cloud success, the recent retirement wave, ERP sessions and other relevant topics. The program will also include a roundtable each day of the conference (see below for topics that were submitted via the annual survey).

TRAVEL ASSISTANCE
All NASC members in good standing (or their designees) are eligible to receive up to $1,000 of travel assistance to attend the conference. Travel assistance will be provided as a reimbursement after the conference.

REGISTRATION
Registration is now open at www.nasact.org:
• NASACT members and staff: $300
• Other government (agencies): $350
• Non-government: $550
• Spouse or guest: $150

Questions about the program may be directed to Kim O’Ryan (koryan@nasact.org); questions about the hotel may be addressed to Donna Maloy (dmaloy@nasact.org). Kim and Donna may also be reached at (859) 276-1147.

CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS
Resolutions for consideration at the conference should be sent to Resolutions Committee chair Ed Ross (KY) at edc.ross@ky.gov or Kim O’Ryan at koryan@nasact.org by Friday, February 26.

CALL FOR ROUNDTABLE TOPICS
Please email roundtable topics to Kim O’Ryan at koryan@nasact.org by Wednesday, March 9.

NASC 2016
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
March 16-18 | Salt Lake City, UT

2016 NASC ANNUAL CONFERENCE Register now at www.nasact.org!

Monday, March 14
— NASACT Strategic Planning Committee

Tuesday, March 15
— NASACT Executive Committee
— NASC Committee on Accounting and Financial Reporting
— NASC Executive Committee
— Opening Reception

Wednesday, March 16
— Conference Sessions
— Roundtable – Federal/State Issues:
  • ACA Reporting & DATA Act
  • Withholding Federal Draws
  • IRS Publication 1075
— Conference Banquet / Awards

Thursday, March 17
— Conference Sessions
— Roundtable – Operational Effectiveness:
  • Best Practices for Issuing CAFRs Faster
  • Tax Abatement Disclosures (GASB 77)
  • Pension Standards Challenges/Successes
— NASC Business Meeting
— Tour of the State Capitol (optional)

Friday, March 18
— Conference Sessions
— Roundtable – General Topics:
  • Travel Policies and Practices
  • Attracting New Talent
GAO’S WATCHBLOG EXAMINES FEDERAL GRANT MONEY TRAILS

The U.S. Government Accountability Office’s WatchBlog service posted a report that follows the money trail of federal grants, discusses ways to improve grant management, and explores some ways the federal government can help states and localities with their grants management.

GAO launched WatchBlog in January 2014 as part of its continuing efforts to reach its various audiences. The blog format allows GAO to provide more context about its work than it can offer on other social media platforms.

WatchBlog posts aim to tie GAO’s work to current events and the news, show how GAO’s work is affecting agencies or legislation, and highlight reports and issue areas where GAO does work.

The report noted that:

- There are no government-wide standards for the people reviewing grant applications—and deciding who receives what piece of the pie. GAO has recommended ways to improve government-wide grant management and training and is currently monitoring whether these recommendations are being implemented.
- Different programs define administrative costs differently. As a result, comparing administrative costs across programs may not be the best way to make policy decisions about federal grant expenses.
- Federal agencies lack clear standards for how to streamline their grant programs.

The report can be found at http://blog.gao.gov/2016/01/14/federal-grants-and-other-assistance.

APPLY NOW FOR THE INNOVATIONS IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AWARDS

Applications are now being accepted for the $100,000 Innovations in American Government Awards.

Offered by Harvard Kennedy School’s Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, the Innovations Award is the nation’s premier award for the public sector. It recognizes programs that demonstrate creative and effective government at its best.

All units of government—federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial—from all policy areas are eligible to apply for recognition.

This year, the Ash Center is also once again offering the Roy and Lila Ash Innovations Award for Public Engagement in Government, a special Innovations Award that will recognize government-led programs that demonstrate novel and effective approaches to increasing public engagement and participation in the governance of towns, cities, states, and the nation.

The winners of the Innovations in American Government Award and the Roy and Lila Ash Award will each receive a $100,000 grant to support replication and dissemination activities in 2017. Top finalists will also receive monetary grants.

Applications and additional information are available at www.innovationsaward.harvard.edu. Applications are due on April 15, 2016.

Stay Informed with the Washington Update and Weekly News Clips!

NASACT’s Washington Update is an e-newsletter that is published weekly when Congress is in session. Not on the list? Call (202) 624-5451 to be added. View past issues of the update at www.nasact.org/washington_update. NASACT’s Washington Office also publishes a weekly clips email with links to news about member offices. If you have a link you would like to include in the weekly clips email, send it to Neal Hutchko at nhutchko@nasact.org.

Questions about NASACT’s Washington-related activities may be directed to Neal or to Cornelia Chebinou (cchebinou@nasact.org).
ASSOCIATION NOTES

JONES RE-ELECTED AS IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

The NASACT Executive Committee recently voted to elect Ronald L. Jones, chief examiner of Alabama, as immediate past president. Jones will fill a vacancy on the committee created following the retirement of former Illinois Auditor General William G. Holland. Holland retired at the end of December. Jones served as president of NASACT in 2012. According to the association’s bylaws, any vacancies on the Executive Committee are filled by a majority vote of the other Executive Committee members.

For a complete list of NASACT’s Executive Committee members, visit www.nasact.org/executive. To view the bylaws, visit www.nasact.org/executive.

NASACT ANNOUNCES WEBINARS ON ANALYTICS & FRAUD ANALYSIS

ANALYTICS: THE WINNING EDGE IN THE BATTLE FOR TALENT
Thursday, February 25
2:00 - 3:50 p.m. Eastern

All employers, including state and local governments, are facing a long-term talent shortage–baby boomers are retiring and the percentage of the population of working age is shrinking. Talent that was plentiful is becoming scarce.

A battle for talent is taking place. In this session, you will learn about the nature of the challenge and whether the traditional talent management model will continue to work. Is there a better model for the future?

SPEAKERS
• Bill Kilmartin, Director, Public Service Strategy, Health & Public Service, Accenture
• Breck Marshall, Managing Director, Talent & Organization Practice, Health & Public Service, Accenture
• Paul Dietl, Chief Human Resources Officer, Human Resources Division (MA)

COST
$299 per group (unlimited attendance)
$50 per person
Use promo code: INDWEB to receive individual discount

CPE
Two credits are available.

FRAUD ANALYSIS & DETECTION: USING BENFORD’S LAW AND OTHER EFFECTIVE TECHNIQUES
Thursday, March 24
2:00 - 3:50 p.m. Eastern

Would you like to know how to mine data as part of a fraud investigation? If so, this highly interactive webinar will show you how to conduct fraud investigations using data analytics. You will also gain an understanding of the concepts behind Benford’s Law and how to apply statistical tools when reviewing financial records for fraudulent activity. You will also learn about other real world methods to identify outliers that could indicate fraud or performance issues. These techniques have been used by the Oregon Audits Division to help put many fraudsters behind bars.

SPEAKERS
• Ian Green, Senior Auditor, Audits Division (OR)
• Jamie Ralls, Principal Auditor, Audits Division (OR)
• Wendy Kam, Staff Auditor, Audits Division (OR)

COST
$299 per group (unlimited attendance)
$50 per person
Use promo code: INDWEB to receive individual discount

CPE
Two credits are available.

MORE INFORMATION
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.
**ASSOCIATION NOTES**

**NASACT MEMBER NEWS**

**KENTUCKY**

Mike Harmon was inaugurated in January as the forty-seventh auditor of public accounts. He previously served in the Kentucky House for 13 years. In addition to his background in public service, he learned the value of hard work and responsibility through his experience in business, particularly insurance and banking.

Harmon is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University with degrees in math, statistics and theater. Harmon replaces Adam Edelen.

Allison Ball was inaugurated in January as the thirty-eighth state treasurer of Kentucky.

Prior to her role as state treasurer, Ball practiced bankruptcy law and focused on consumer rights and commercial litigation. She spent four years as an assistant Floyd County attorney prosecuting child abuse and juvenile delinquency cases.

She holds a degree from the University of Kentucky College of Law. Ball replaces Todd Hollenbach.

**UTAH**

David Damschen was recently sworn in as Utah’s state treasurer. He was appointed to the position in December to replace Richard Ellis, who resigned from the post to work for the state’s nonprofit college savings program. Damschen served as an executive at American West Bank and U.S. Bank prior to his work at the treasury office.

**VERMONT**

Andrew A. Pallito was recently named Vermont’s commissioner of the Department of Finance and Management. He is a graduate of St. Peter’s College in Jersey City, New Jersey. He has a B.S. in accounting and joined the state of Vermont in 1992, after several years in public accounting.

Prior to being appointed as commissioner of finance, he served as commissioner of the Department of Corrections for seven years.

Pallito is a 2005 graduate of the Vermont Leadership Institute at the Snelling Center for Government.

He replaces James Reardon, who retired.

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**NASACT 2016**

**MIDDLE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE**

April 12-14 | Austin, Texas

NSAA and NASC have teamed up to provide the training needed by future leaders in your office!

**Register at www.nasact.org!**

**What do attendees say about the conference?**

“I had the opportunity to attend the 2015 NASACT Middle Management Conference in Raleigh, NC. I wasn’t sure what to expect, but I was intrigued by some of the topics on the agenda, and I knew if NASACT was running it, it would be top notch. The entire program exceeded my expectations and was well worth the time and money. There were so many valuable takeaways I was able to bring back to my office and immediately share. The technical sessions were terrific, but for me, the most memorable were the sessions focusing on grooming and forming better managers. Understanding people, how we think, how we communicate, and how we react to and deal with change is such an important part of being a good manager and leader. The skills acquired at these sessions certainly help today’s mid-level managers transform into future leaders.”

- Scott Olsen, MA Office of the Comptroller
The Governmental Accounting Standards Board recently issued three exposure drafts proposing accounting and financial reporting guidance related to fiduciary activities, certain asset retirement obligations, and pension issues.

The ED Certain Asset Retirement Obligations, would establish guidance for determining the timing and pattern of recognition for liabilities related to asset retirement obligations and corresponding deferred outflows of resources. An asset retirement obligation is a legally enforceable liability associated with the retirement of a tangible capital asset, such as the decommissioning of a nuclear reactor.

The ED Fiduciary Activities would establish guidance regarding what constitutes fiduciary activities for financial reporting purposes, the recognition of liabilities to beneficiaries, and how fiduciary activities should be reported. The proposed statement would apply to all state and local governments.

The ED Pension Issues addresses practice issues raised by stakeholders during the implementation of Statements No. 67, Financial Reporting for Pension Plans, and No. 68, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions.

“The proposals addressing fiduciary activities and certain asset retirement obligations would establish guidance in areas where little or none exists today. The Exposure Draft addressing pension issues comes in response to issues raised by GASB stakeholders as they carried out the process of implementing the recent pension standards. Together, these proposals are designed to improve consistency, comparability, and clarity in governmental accounting and financial reporting,” said GASB Chairman David A. Vaudt.

Each of the exposure drafts is available on GASB’s website at www.gasb.org.

NASACT MEMBERS — PROVIDE YOUR INPUT ON GASB EXPOSURE DRAFTS

In December, the GASB issued several exposure drafts for comment. NASACT, through its Committee on Accounting, Reporting and Auditing, will be preparing association responses.

The Board has asked for comments on all matters in the EDs, including comments on any aspects with which you agree as well as any with which you disagree.

The Board requests that you explain the reasons for your views, including alternatives that you believe should be considered. Where possible, please provide a paragraph reference for your comments.

Each ED can be downloaded at www.gasb.org.

Fiduciary Activities

The proposed statement describes four fiduciary fund types that would be required to be reported, if applicable: (1) pension [and other employee benefit] trust funds, (2) investment trust funds, (3) private-purpose trust funds and (4) custodial funds. A public hearing is scheduled for April 21, 2016 in Rosemont, IL.

Comments for inclusion in NASACT’s letter should be submitted by Friday March 4 to Kim O’Ryan (koryan@nasact.org) or Sherri Rowland (srowland@nasact.org). GASB’s comment deadline is March 31.

Pension Issues

The proposed statement addresses issues regarding: (1) the presentation of payroll-related measures in required supplementary information; (2) the selection of assumptions and the treatment of deviations from the guidance in Actuarial Standards of Practice for financial reporting purposes, and (3) the classification of payments made by employers to satisfy employee [plan member] contribution requirements.

GASB’s comment deadline is February 12.
ASSOCIATION NOTES

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

- The following technical inquiries from state comptrollers (members only content):
  - Single Transaction Limit
  - SEFA Reporting for Agency Transfers

LOOKING FOR COST-EFFECTIVE TRAINING?
Sign up for NASACT’s Training Seminars! Through the Training Seminars 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 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.

TRAVEL ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERS IN FY 2016
Travel assistance may be used by members in good standing (or their designees) for registration, travel or hotel costs.

All assistance is provided as a reimbursement following the conferences. The following travel assistance opportunities are available in FY 2016:

- 2016 NASC Annual Conference, March 15-18, Salt Lake City, Utah: State comptrollers in good standing (or designees) are eligible to receive up to $1,000 to attend this conference.

- 2016 NSAA Annual Conference, June 13-16, Beaver Creek, CO: State auditors in good standing (or designees) are eligible to receive up to $1,000 to attend this conference. New state auditors (who took office after the 2015 NSAA Annual Conference) are also eligible to receive a free registration to attend.

UPCOMING INFORMATION SHARING CALLS

FEBRUARY
NASC Electronic Payments Info Sharing Group – Feb 9
NASC Payroll Info Sharing Group – Feb 10
NASC Travel & P-Card Info Sharing Group – Feb 17

MARCH
NASACT Committee on Accounting, Reporting and Auditing – Mar 1
NSAA Performance Audit Information Sharing Group – Mar 8

APRIL
NSAA Human Resources Info Sharing Group – Apr 27

MAY
NASC Payroll Info Sharing Group – May 11
NASC Travel & P-Card Info Sharing Group – May 18

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

2016

February 25 | Webinar: Analytics – the Winning Edge in the Battle for Talent
March 14 | NASACT Strategic Planning Committee Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT
March 15 | NASACT Executive Committee Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT
March 16-18 | NASC Annual Conference, Salt Lake City, UT
March 24 | Webinar: Fraud Analysis and Detection
April 12-14 | NASACT Middle Management Conference, Austin, TX
April 27-28 | Tennessee Training Seminars, Chattanooga, TN
May 2-3 | Tennessee Training Seminars, Nashville, TN
May 9-10 | Tennessee Training Seminars, Morristown, TN
May 12-13 | Tennessee Training Seminars, Jackson, TN
June 13-16 | NSAA Annual Conference, Beaver Creek, CO
July 13 | Webinar: GASB Review
August 14 | NASACT Executive Committee Meeting, Indianapolis, IN
August 13-17 | NASACT Annual Conference, Indianapolis, IN
September 20-23 | NSAA IT Workshop & Conference, Phoenix, AZ

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND NASACT 2016 IN INDY!

BY DONNA MALOY, CONFERENCE MANAGER

Join NASACT President Calvin McKelvogue, chief operating officer of the Iowa State Accounting Enterprise, and host Paul Joyce, state examiner of the Indiana State Board of Accounts, along with co-hosts Suzanne Crouch, auditor of state (IN) and Kelly Mitchell, state treasurer (IN), for the 2016 NASACT Annual Conference in Indianapolis this August. The NASACT Training and Professional Development Committee will begin developing the technical program soon. Watch for the topics survey to provide your input!

CONFERENCE HOTEL – MARRIOTT INDIANAPOLIS DOWNTOWN

The conference will be held at the Marriott Indianapolis Downtown located in the heart of downtown Indianapolis, within walking distance of museums, entertainment venues, dining and shopping. The conference rate is $155 plus applicable tax. To reserve a room, call (317) 822-3500 and ask for the NASACT Annual Conference group rate.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Our conference hosts are planning a number of special events for the conference participants, including a reception at the Indianapolis Museum of Fine Art and a night at Lucas Oil Stadium, home of the Indianapolis Colts football team. A guest program will highlight other local treasures including the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Mark your calendars and plan to join us in Indianapolis in August for the 2016 NASACT Annual Conference. More information about the conference will be available soon at www.nasact.org.