SALT LAKE CITY SETS THE SCENE FOR NASC’S 35th ANNUAL CONFERENCE:
ACCOUNTING STANDARDS & HR/STAFFING ISSUES TOP AGENDA

BY GLENGA JOHNSON, COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

NASC President John C. Reidhead, director of Utah’s Division of Finance, recently welcomed state comptrollers to Salt Lake City, Utah, for the thirty-fifth annual conference of the National Association of State Comptrollers. The conference was held March 16-18 at the Little America Hotel. Over 150 were in attendance.

The conference was preceded on March 14 by a meeting of NASACT’s Strategic Planning Committee and on March 15 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 15 general sessions covering a diverse range of topics. PowerPoint presentations and speaker bios from the conference can be found at www.nasact.org/nasc_annual_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 Utah’s state capitol on the evening of Thursday, March 17.

AWARDS & RESOLUTIONS

At the conference banquet held on Wednesday, March 16, President Reidhead presented three awards to recognize exceptional achievements and service to the association. This year's recipients were:

- David Von Moll, state comptroller of Virginia, was presented with the NASC President’s Award to recognize his leadership as a participant on a number of committees and projects, including his work on NASC’s exchange program with the Mexico comptroller’s association.
- Robert Hamilton, comptroller of Oregon, was presented with the NASC Distinguished Service Award to recognize his noteworthy efforts as chair of the Committee on State Comptrollers: Technical Activities and Functions and his efforts to modernize the surveys for the book.
- Kathy Sheppard, deputy comptroller of Massachusetts, was presented with the NASC Distinguished Service Award to recognize her leadership in national Affordable Care Act implementation efforts.

Two resolutions were approved at the conference during the annual business meeting: one thanking President Reidhead for his service and one recognizing Glen B. Gainer III for his long and successful career (he will leave public service in May to become director of the National White Collar Crime Institute).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

NASC wishes to thank all those who helped with the conference, especially John Reidhead and his staff, and Anna Maria Kiehl, state comptroller of Pennsylvania 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.

Follow NASACT on Twitter & LinkedIn!
The sessions presented during the 2016 annual conference are listed below. To download handouts, PowerPoint presentations and speaker biographies, visit www.nasact.org/nasc_annual_materials.

SESSION A: ECONOMIC AND POLICY TRENDS IN THE STATES—2016 AND BEYOND
- Scott Pattison, Executive Director, National Governors Association

SESSION B: OFFICE OF FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT UPDATE
- Mark Reger, Deputy Controller, U.S. Office of Management and Budget

SESSION C: MODERNIZING YOUR ERP—GETTING THERE AND CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT
- Daniel Keene, Senior Vice President, CGI
- Doug Cotnoir, State Controller (ME)
- Ed Ross, State Controller (KY)
- Thomas L. White, Jr., State Comptroller (AL), and Secretary/Treasurer of NASC

SESSION D: TRACKING THE MONEY
- Nick Curcuru, Global Practice Leader, MasterCard
- Steve Tae, Vice President, North American Region Development, MasterCard

COMPTROLLERS’ ROUNDTABLE 1: FEDERAL–STATE ISSUES
- Moderator: Anna Maria Kiehl, State Comptroller (PA), and Vice President of NASC

SESSION E: CLOUD SUCCESS IN GOVERNMENT
- Robert Sabo, Executive Director, Public Sector Solutions, Oracle
- Thomas Shack, Comptroller of the Commonwealth (MA)

SESSION F: THE FUTURE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT
- Mark Howard, Global Public Administration Section Lead, Accenture
- Carol Kraus, Director, Grant Accountability and Transparency Unit, Governor’s Office of Management and Budget (IL)

SESSION G: LEVERAGING THE POWER OF YOUR ERP TO CONTINUOUSLY TRANSFORM OPERATIONS
- John Traylor, Executive Deputy Comptroller for Operations, Office of the State Comptroller (NY)

SESSION H: LEVERAGING BIG DATA ACROSS YOUR AGENCIES TO FIND FRAUD, WASTE AND ABUSE
- Heidi Leverton, Fraud, Waste and Abuse Specialist, SAP

SESSION I: GASB UPDATE
- David A. Vaudt, Chair, Governmental Accounting Standards Board

SESSION J: GASB 68—WHAT NOW FOR YEAR TWO, AND WHAT ABOUT OPEB?
- David Bean, Director of Research and Technical Services, Governmental Accounting Standards Board
- Eric Berman, Partner, Eide Bailly
- Marcie Handy, Assistant Comptroller, Division of Finance (UT)
- Rob Dolphin, Controller, Utah Retirement Systems

COMPTROLLERS’ ROUNDTABLE 2: OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS
- Moderator: Thomas L. White, Jr., State Comptroller (AL) and Secretary/Treasurer of NASC

SESSION K: PROTECTING CONFIDENTIAL DATA AGAINST UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS
- Vikas Bansal, Director, Cyber Risk Securities, Deloitte
- John C. Reidhead, Director, Division of Finance (UT), and President of NASC

SESSION L: GASB 77 TAX ABATEMENT DISCLOSURES AND REQUIRED GOVERNMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS
- Joe Huddleston, Executive Director, Tax Services, Ernst & Young

SESSION M: THE RETIREMENT WAVE—WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING
- Robert Childree, Senior Advisor, HJS PLLC, Workiva Advisory Council
- John Radford, Senior Advisor, HJS PLLC, Workiva Advisory Council
- Thomas Shack, Comptroller of the Commonwealth (MA)

SESSION N: HIGH PERFORMANCE GOVERNMENT NEEDS HIGH PERFORMING EMPLOYEES—ATTRACTING, RETAINING AND INSPIRING MILLENNIALS
- J.D. Williams, Executive Director, State and Local Government, Infor
- Kurt Steward, Ph.D., Vice President, Infor
- D. Clark Partridge, State Comptroller (AZ)

SESSION O: THE FEDERAL DATA ACT—IMPACTS ON FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS
- Sherry Amos, Managing Director, Government Industry Strategy, Workday
- Ray Elwell, Market Advisory Program Manager, Workday

COMPTROLLERS’ ROUNDTABLE 3: GENERAL TOPICS
- Moderator: Cynthia I. Cloud, State Auditor (WY)
President Reidhead (at podium) recognized the Executive Committee for their work during the year at the annual banquet held on March 16. Left to right: Anna Maria Kiehl (PA), David Von Moll (VA), Tom White (AL) Cynthia Cloud (WY), Diane Langham (MS) and Steve Barnett (SD). Not in attendance: Alan Skelton (GA).

Left: NASC continued its tradition of holding three roundtable sessions, one per day, during the conference.

Right: NASC Past President Glen Gainer (WV, left) and President Reidhead (right) at the conference banquet on March 16.
NASACT President John Reidhead (UT) honored three members with awards. Shown left to right: Thomas Shack (MA), accepting a Distinguished Service Award on behalf of Kathy Sheppard (MA); President Reidhead; David Von Mol (VA), who received the President’s Award; and Robert Hamilton (OR), who received a Distinguished Service Award.

Left: As chair of NASC’s Electronic Payments Information Sharing Group, Lynne Bajema (OK) gave a report during the March 17 business meeting.

Right: James Smack (far left, NV) gave a report on planning for the upcoming 2016 NASACT Middle Management Conference. Also pictured: Ron Knecht (center, NV) and Ron Carlson (far right, NE).

Left: Thomas Shack (MA) presented Kathy Sheppard (MA) with the NASC Distinguished Service award. Shack accepted the award on her behalf at the conference and presented it to her upon returning to Massachusetts.

Right: John Traylor (left, NY) spoke during a session to share his experiences on using ERP for continued improvement. The session was moderated by Jim Kennedy (right, OH).
At the March 17 business meeting, NASC members elected a new Executive Committee. Shown left to right: Steve Barnett (SD); Cynthia Cloud (WY), secretary/treasurer; Tom White (AL), vice president; John Reidhead (UT), immediate past president; Anna Maria Kiehl (PA), president; and Kristopher Knight (DE). Not pictured: Alan Skelton (GA) and Stacey Neal (MO).

Left: Conference attendees participated in a tour of the Utah state capitol building on Thursday, March 17.

Right: Utah State Auditor John Dougall (center, facing camera) shared history about the House chamber during the state capitol tour.

Left: GASB Chairman David Vaudt (at podium), David Bean (far left, GASB) and moderator Richard Eckstrom (center, SC), participated in a GASB update during the conference.

Right: Nominating Committee Chair David Von Moll (VA) put forth the proposed slate of Executive Committee members for 2016-17 at the business meeting on March 17.
NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

IRS PROPOSES AMENDMENT TO THE DEFINITION OF "POLITICAL SUBDIVISION" – WHICH COULD AFFECT THE FINANCING OF STATE INFRASTRUCTURE

The Internal Revenue Service has published for comment proposed rules regarding a modification to the definition of “political subdivision” for tax-exempt bond purposes. This proposed regulation will affect state and local governments that issue tax-exempt bonds and users of property financed with such bonds. A public hearing is also proposed.

Currently, a political subdivision is defined as any division of any state or local governmental unit which is a municipal corporation or which has been delegated the right to exercise part of the sovereign power of the unit. The proposed regulations provide that in order for an entity to qualify as a political subdivision, the entity must meet three requirements considering all the facts and circumstances: (1) sovereign powers, (2) governmental purpose and (3) governmental control. The requirement to be governmentally controlled is new.

Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code provides that interest on any obligation of a state or political subdivision not be included in gross income. The proposal clarifies that the continued tax exemption of an issuance of bonds depends on its issuer's continued status as a qualifying issuer of tax-exempt bonds.

State governments often use community development districts, rural utility districts and other entities to finance public infrastructure through the issuance of tax-exempt bonds. The proposed changes to the definition of political subdivision, if approved, could severely impact the amount and the way infrastructure is financed.

Comments on the new rules and requests to speak at a June 6 public hearing are due by May 23. A copy of the notice can be found at https://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=IRS-2016-0009-0001.

NASACT will be crafting an association response to the proposed rules. Please provide your comments for inclusion in NASACT’s response letter to Cornelia Chebinou at cchebinou@nasact.org by May 11.

OMB’S UNIFORM GUIDANCE AND GASB 68

At the recent annual conference of the state comptrollers, an issue related to the U.S. Office of Management and Budget's Uniform Guidance and GASB Statement No. 68 emerged.

In the case illustrating the issue, it appears that one of the federal cost negotiators is only allowing the “GASB 68 computed retirement expense” rather than what the state actually contributed to the pension fund—which for the state in question was 100 percent of the actuarial determined pension amount.

The reasoning for the interpretation is the Uniform Guidance 200.431 (g) Pension Plan Costs, (3):

“For entities using accrual based accounting, the cost assigned to each fiscal year is determined in accordance with GAAP. Beginning in FY 2015, GASB 68 is now GAAP for State and Local entities. Accordingly, it appears that the GASB 68 calculated pension expense should be the cost assigned to each fiscal year beginning in FY 2015 and, to the extent funded, used for billing purposes.”

NASACT will be hosting a call to further discuss this issue. The call will take place on Tuesday, April 19 at 12:00 p.m. Eastern time. The dial-in number is (512) 225-3050, guest code 67981#.

If you wish to participate, please email Cornelia Chebinou (cchebinou@nasact.org). Additionally, please indicate if your state has received a similar interpretation.
NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

FEDERAL REPORTING FOR PUBLIC PENSIONS?

Late in the first session of the 114th Congress efforts were made to move S. 2381, the Puerto Rico Assistance Act of 2015. The proposal contained two provisions of interest: (1) one requiring onerous public pension reporting to Treasury different than that required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, and (2) the other allowing states and local governments to offer annuities as an alternative to a defined pension plan. Although the bill did not advance, Congress is again working on a Puerto Rico relief bill, and it is rumored that the public plan reporting provisions could be included.

The previously proposed language (which is very similar to the Public Employee Pension Transparency Act discussed below) would require a costly and complex layer of federal reporting on top of existing state and local accounting and reporting already required by GASB and state policies and statutes. The language would also give federal regulators new power to impose duplicative requirements on state and local governments.

House Representative Devin Nunes (R-CA) reintroduced the Public Employee Pension Transparency Act (PEPTA) this month. If enacted, PEPTA will require reporting of pension costs using a risk-free rate of return and will challenge the validity of state and local government accounting rules and practices. The legislation would penalize state and local governments that fail to report by taking away the tax exclusion for their municipal bonds. In addition, the legislation would set a precedent for federal intervention into areas that are the financial responsibility of, and have been historically regulated by, the states and/or localities. Strong accounting rules and strict legal constraints are already in place that require open and transparent governmental financial reporting and processes.

Members of the Public Finance Network, of which NASACT is a member, have written a letter to Congress opposing such federal intervention and have also been setting up meetings with congressional staff to explain the existing disclosure regime. NASACT will continue to keep you apprised and may be seeking your assistance should the bill advance.

WHO IS THE PUBLIC FINANCE NETWORK? NASACT is a long-time member of the Public Finance Network. To see past response letters from the network on a variety of issues, visit www.nasact.org/congress_reg_comments. Participants in the Public Finance Network are:

American Hospital Association
American Public Gas Association
American Public Power Association
Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities
Education Finance Council
Government Finance Officers Association
International City/County Management Association
International Municipal Lawyers Association
Large Public Power Council

National Association of Counties
National Association of Health and Higher Education Facilities Authorities
National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies
National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers
National League of Cities
U.S. Conference of Mayors
The results are in for this year’s Washington Office survey. Seventeen offices from 15 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. OMB cost circulars/administrative rules
2. Public sector pension plans (disclosure and funding issues)
3. Timely disclosure of state financial reports
4. Fringe benefit and payroll issues
5. State budget issues

5 LEAST IMPORTANT ISSUES
1. Federal intervention/bankruptcy for states
2. Municipal market: congressional proposals
3. Municipal market: IRS rules and regulations
4. Municipal market: MSRB rules and regulations
5. Federal offset issues

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
- Timeliness of regulatory/audit guidance, i.e., compliance supplement.
- Delays/lack of management decisions on single audit findings.

What is the best thing in financial management going on in your state/office today?
- Implementation of electronic reporting of financial information of the 5,800+ local governments and schools.
- Transparency website and internal controls over financial reporting/ERP system.
- Implemented new accounting system on time and under budget.

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?
- Concerned about SWCAP issues and the federal government not being reasonable in their interpretation of OMB cost circulars and GASB guidance, as well as their ever-increasing review and questioning of submitted SWCAPs.

Would a NASACT Facebook page be a helpful initiative?
- On a scale of 1-5, I would put this as a 3. Has potential, if members or their staff would use it regularly.
- Facebook users may find this beneficial as another means of communicating information. However, those who aren’t part of the Facebook community will continue to seek information using other avenues.

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) 624-5451 or nhutchko@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. To find out more, contact Anna Peniston at (859) 276-1147 or apeniston@nasact.org.
ASSOCIATION NOTES: UPCOMING CONFERENCES

REGISTER NOW FOR MIDDLE MANAGEMENT 2016!

The 2016 NASACT Middle Management Conference will be held April 12-14 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Austin, Texas. The conference provides an excellent opportunity for continuing education and networking for emerging leaders in NASACT member offices.

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

- Internal controls
- Conflict management
- Ethics in government and fraud case studies
- Writing skills
- Emerging issues
- IT project management
- Recruiting, hiring and retaining talent

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 BEAVER CREEK FOR NSAA ANNUAL

The 2016 NSAA Annual Conference is scheduled for June 14-16 in Beaver Creek, Colorado, at the Park Hyatt Beaver Creek. The conference will be hosted by NSAA President and Colorado State Auditor Dianne Ray.

NSAA’s committees will meet on Monday, June 13 and conference sessions will follow on Tuesday, June 14 through noon on Thursday, June 16.

NOTE: This is a change from the normal format.

Hotel: The room rate at the Park Hyatt Beaver Creek is $169/night for single or double occupancy plus applicable taxes. To book your room, go to https://aws.passkey.com/g/51327546 or call (970) 949-1234 and ask for the NSAA Annual Conference group rate. The cut-off date is May 30, 2016.

Rooms in the block often sell out, so we recommend making your hotel reservation early.

CPE & Technical Agenda: Agendas for the committee meetings are posted online. Topics will include:

- Rock Star Communication, with Sari de la Motte, FORTE Nonverbal Solutions.
- State pensions, with William “Flick” Fornia, president, Pension Trustee Advisors, Inc.
- The CPA profession on fiscal responsibility, with Greg Anton, former chairman of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.
- Standards updates from the Governmental Accounting Standards Board

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

Getting There: The Park Hyatt Beaver Creek is approximately 120 miles from the Denver International Airport. Shuttle service is provided by Colorado Mountain Express. More information can be found at www.nasact.org/2016_nsaa_conference.

There are a limited number of daily flights into the Eagle County Airport. For more information, visit http://flyvail.com/.

Cost: Registration fees for the conference are:

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

Travel Assistance: State auditors (or their designees) can receive up to $1,000 in travel assistance to cover expenses related to attending the conference. All assistance will be provided as a reimbursement following the conference.

Registration & Additional Information: Registration is now available at www.nasact.org! Questions may be addressed to Sherri Rowland at srowland@nasact.org.
ASSOCIATION NOTES

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

- Gerry Boaz’s observations of the January 5-7, 2016, meeting of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board have been posted at www.nasact.org/member_content (members only content).

The following responses to technical inquiries from state comptrollers at www.nasact.org/technical_inquiries (members only content):

- Tax Accruals
- CPC Internal Controls
- Software for CAFR Production

PROVIDE INPUT ON GASB’S LEASES ED

In December, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board issued an exposure draft on Leases for comment. NASACT, through its Committee on Accounting, Reporting and Auditing, will be preparing an association response.

The proposed statement on Leases would provide guidance for lease contracts for nonfinancial assets, including vehicles, heavy equipment, and buildings, but exclude grants, donated assets, and leases of intangible assets (such as patents and software licenses). A public hearing is scheduled for June 29, 2016 in Burlingame, CA.

Comments for inclusion in NASACT’s letter should be submitted by Monday, May 2 to Kim O’Ryan (koryan@nasact.org) or Sherri Rowland (srowland@nasact.org). GASB’s comment deadline is May 31.

INFORMATION SHARING SPOTLIGHT

NASC PAYROLL – MAY 11, 1:00 P.M.

At the next meeting of the NASC Payroll Information Sharing Group, representatives from the Internal Revenue Service will participate. Topics will include Affordable Care Act reporting.

NASC TRAVEL & P-CARD – MAY 18, 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
NASACT call on OMB’s Uniform Guidance and GASB 68 – Apr 19
NSAA Human Resources Info Sharing Group – Apr 27

MAY
NASC Electronic Payments Info Sharing Group – May 10
NASC Payroll Info Sharing Group – May 11
NASACT Committee on Accounting, Reporting and Auditing – May 17
NASC Travel & P-Card Info Sharing Group – May 18

JULY
NSAA Human Resources Info Sharing Group – Jul 27

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

MISSISSIPPI

Mark Valentine is the new fiscal management director of the Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration. He replaces Diane Langham, who is now the director of the MAGIC Project, the state’s ERP solution.

TENNESSEE

Deborah Loveless, director of Tennessee’s Division of State Audit, Comptroller of the Treasury, was recently selected as the 2016 recipient of the Association of Government Accountants’ William R. Snodgrass Distinguished Leadership Award. Recipients were chosen for promoting excellence in government financial management and demonstrating outstanding leadership and high ethical standards.

WISCONSIN

Jeff Anderson accepted the position of state controller on March 9, effective immediately. Anderson has served as deputy state controller since 2014 and most recently as interim state controller.

After graduating from the University of Wisconsin School of Business, Anderson began his career at the Wisconsin Department of Administration in 1984 as an account specialist. He managed the state's cash management operations from 2004 to 2014 at which time he became the deputy controller. He was also asked by the U.S. Treasury to assist in identifying requirements for the transfer of federal funds to the states.

Anderson is a certified public accountant. Most recently, he has been involved in managing several conversion projects for the state's new financial system known as STAR.

NASBO NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mark Valentine The National Association of State Budget Officers recently announced the appointment of John T. Hicks as the association’s next executive director. Hicks is currently a deputy state budget director in Kentucky, where he has held a variety of positions in state budgeting for the past 32 years.

In his current position, Hicks oversees the budget development and budget execution process, and manages much of the budget and support staff in the office. Over the years Hicks has been the lead staff person in several areas including postsecondary education, capital projects and debt, criminal justice, workforce development and natural resources and environmental protection.

Hicks succeeds Scott D. Pattison, who was NASBO’s executive director since 2001, and recently became executive director/CEO of the National Governors Association.

Hicks is well known within the NASBO community, having served on the association’s Executive Committee (board of directors) from 2007 to 2013, and as NASBO’s president from 2011 to 2012. Hicks is the recipient of NASBO’s 1987 George A. Bell Service award and the 2013 Gloria Timmer award, which each recognize outstanding contributions and service to public budgeting and management in state government. Hicks received a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Kentucky and a bachelor’s degree in political science from Murray State University.

He will begin his new position with NASBO on April 11, 2016.
THE NATIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUDIT FORUM IS CURRENTLY ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR THE DAVID M. WALKER EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY AWARDS.

You are encouraged to nominate those audit professionals who have made continuous contributions to improve government performance and accountability through leadership in transforming government organizations.

Award criteria and the basis for evaluation, the nominating form, a list of past recipients, and other award information at www.auditforum.org. The National Intergovernmental Audit Forum (NIAF) presents an award at each of the three levels of government—federal, state, and local.

Nominations are due by Thursday, March 31, 2016. The awards will be presented on Wednesday, May 11, 2016 at the 21st Biennial Forum of Government Auditors in Kansas City, Missouri.

Questions may be directed to Luis Escalante, Jr., NIAF executive director, at (214) 777-5693.

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 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.
IT’S NOT TOO EARLY TO THINK ABOUT NASACT 2016 IN INDY!

BY DONNA MALOY, CONFERENCE MANAGER

The 2016 NASACT Annual Conference will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, on August 13-17. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this annual event!

Members (or their designees) will be eligible to request up to $1,500 in travel assistance to attend the conference.

CONFERENCE HOTEL

The Marriott Downtown is located in the heart of downtown Indianapolis. The room rate is $155/night plus applicable tax.

TECHNICAL AGENDA

The planning committee recently conducted the topics survey and is holding regular calls to establish the technical agenda, which will offer two and one-half days of continuing professional education for attendees.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The host state is working actively to plan the networking opportunities and social activities, which will include an evening reception at the Indianapolis Museum of Art and a dinner at Lucas Oil Stadium.

MORE INFORMATION

Go to www.nasact.org/2016_nasact_conference for additional details. Stay tuned for more details in the weeks to come!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNER OF THE CONFERENCE SURVEY DRAWING!

Names of all those who filled out the NASACT annual conference topics survey were entered into a drawing for a free registration to the 2016 NASACT Annual Conference. The drawing was held at the banquet at the recent NASC annual conference. The winner of this year’s drawing was Cecile Ferkul, deputy legislative auditor from the Minnesota Office of the Legislative Auditor. Congratulations Cecile!