

Public Pension Financial Focus



President's Message

Spring is a wonderful time of year. There is a special energy in the air. We witness the renewal of nature and we are invigorated. It creates the perfect environment for change and improvement.

January of this year, the Board convened a Strategic Planning meeting to reevaluate our purpose with an eye toward our future. In a nutshell, we found ways in which we, as an organization, can improve. You can read about it on page two of this newsletter. The committees are the workhorses of this organization; join one - you will be amazed at how much you learn. We can accomplish more together than we can alone.

Pension costs continue to be front page news and, as the financial professionals for public plans, we must continue to be a resource that provides timely and accurate information to our constituents. We must educate leaders, members and citizens. The political and economic turmoil will not end soon and timely accurate information is our best ally.

Our conference in New Orleans will be packed with relevant information at an affordable price and in an exciting location. Please make every effort to join us.

Thank you
Art Hewig
P2F2 President

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P2F2 Board meets in Denver, Colorado to discuss strategic direction



The P2F2 Board met in Denver, Colorado at the offices of Colorado PERA to review the purpose of P2F2 and to determine planning objectives in key areas for the near term. The Board reviewed the Purpose Statement, shown below left of this article, and reaffirmed the overall direction and purpose of the organization after reviewing input from the membership based on a short survey that was sent out in January 2012 by Art Hewig, President.

The Board identified seven key areas for emphasis in the near term: Education, Financial Advocacy-GASB, Financial Advocacy Other (taxes), Website Development, Membership Development, Annual Conference and Bylaw Review. Each specific objective was given a Board level chair and any P2F2 member interested in a particular area can participate by contacting the chair at the emails shown below:

- Annual Conference – Rhonda Covarrubias – rcovarrubias@tmrs.com
- Bylaws – Michele Nix – michelen@mosers.org
- Education – Karen Carraher – kcarraher@opers.org
- Financial Advocacy-GASB – Karl Greve - kgreve@copera.org
- Financial Advocacy-Other – Art Hewig – ahewig@nystrs.state.ny.us
- Membership Development – Michelle Camuglia – mcamuglia@osc.state.ny.us
- Website Development - - Michele Nix – michelen@mosers.org

P2F2 Purpose Statement

Promote excellence in public pension plan financial operations,

Provide educational programs of current interest to membership,

Create a medium for the consideration of common problems and the exchange of ideas and information that will facilitate the most efficient and economical operation of the financial operations and reporting between public pension systems,

Foster sound principles, procedures and practices in the field of public pensions related to the financial operations of such plans, and

Provide an appropriate national organization representing the financial operations of public pension systems throughout the United States, including providing comment to exposure drafts and other potential accounting pronouncements promulgated by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

For more detailed information on action steps for each area, please go to the website by using the following link – [Board Strategic Planning Objectives](#).

P2F2 Responds to GASB Again and Again

Luke Huelskamp, Past P2F2 President, Karen Carraher, Board member, Michelle Nix, Board member and Karl Greve, Board member, testified to the GASB Board for P2F2 on October 13, 2011 in San Francisco on the GASB exposure drafts related to pension plans. The basis for the testimony was the written responses on the exposure drafts which can be found on the P2F2 website by using the following links:

- [P2F2 GASB ED Plan Response Final Response](#)
- [P2F2 GASB ED Employer Response Final Response](#)

The GASB Board will continue their reexamination of the pension and financial reporting standards and will likely issue final statements in the summer of 2012. You can monitor the progress of the statements developments along with major tentative decisions on the [GASB website](#).

In addition to the pension plan exposure drafts, GASB has a preliminary view document on financial projections. Karl Greve, Board member, represented P2F2 at the March 29, 2012 public hearing in Los Angeles. The basis for this testimony can be found on the P2F2 website by using the following link:

- [P2F2 GASB PV Financial Projections Final Response](#)

P2F2, as part of its financial advocacy role, will continue to monitor and respond to the various documents that are issued by the GASB. If you are interested in becoming part of this process please contact Karl Greve at kgreve@copera.org.



New Orleans Tidbits

Population: 1,167,764 (New Orleans Metropolitan Area)

Elevation: One to two feet below sea level

Louisiana was claimed for French King Louis XIV in 1699 and is the only state that was once a French royal colony. *La Nouvelle Orleans* was founded in 1718 and ruled by France and then Spain for nearly 100 years. It is the only U.S. city where French was the predominant language for over a century.

New Orleans has many nicknames. It is variously known as “the Crescent City,” “the Big Easy,” and “the City that Care Forgot” and “America’s Most Interesting City”.

New Orleans experiences snowfall only on rare occasions. Don’t bring your snow skis.

What to Do:

New Orleans is one of the top ten most visited cities in the United States.

Please use links below for more information:

[New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau](#)

[Free City Guide](#)

[New Orleans Maps](#)

[Travel Channel – Video Tour of New Orleans](#)

Upcoming New Orleans Conference

The Conference Committees are doing a fabulous job of planning and coordinating our October event. We will again offer a variety of educational sessions in accounting, investment accounting, employer reporting and tax. And we will be welcoming back some of our most highly-rated speakers.

Most importantly, we continue to adjust our conference by listening to our membership to bring you the best public pension accounting conference in the country. The conference brochure, registration, and hotel information will soon be available on the [P2F2 website](#).

Conference Details - October 7-10, 2012
[New Orleans Marriott at the Convention Center](#)

Register by August 31, 2012 and receive a free copy of speaker Ellen Schultz’s book “Retirement Heist”.



Public Pension Financial Forum Benefits for You

Excellence, Education & Interaction

Delivered to you through the

Annual conference,
Member forum,
Contacts you develop,
Newsletter,
Website, and the
Board responding to GASB & GFOA

Suggestion Box

Please email your suggestions to
kgreve@copera.org



GAO Report: Economic Downturn Spurs Efforts to Address Costs and Sustainability

The US Government Accountability Office (GAO) has issued a new report titled “State and Local Government Pension Plans: Economic Downturn Spurs Efforts to Address Costs and Sustainability.” For a copy of the report use the following link: [GAO 12-322](#).

California Actuarial Advisory Panel is working a Model Actuarial Funding Policy

The California Actuarial Advisory Panel is working on developing a model policy and best practice for public retirement pension and other postemployment benefit plans. The document develops the principal elements and parameters of a model actuarial funding policy for representative California public pension and OPEB plans, as well as other similar U.S. public sector plans. The development of this document is being closely watched, as the GASB moves away from a funding approach, which is the standard funding practice of many plans. You can follow the development of this document at the following website – [California Actuarial Advisory Panel Meetings](#).

AGA Develops Fraud Prevention ToolKit

The Association of Government Accountants has developed a Fraud Prevention ToolKit which provides current, state-of-the-art tools for federal, state, local and tribal government financial managers to use in preventing and detecting fraud. It can be found at the following website – [ToolKit](#).

See you in The Big Easy!

