

NCPERS 2011 Annual Conference and Exhibition: The Path to Recovery

CONFERENCE RECAP



Pat McElligott, NCPERS president, delivered the Welcoming Address at the 2011 Annual Conference and Exhibition, held May 22–26 in Miami, FL. In his Welcoming remarks, Pat addressed pensions beginning the recovery from the Great Recession. He also noted that states are starting the climb back towards positive revenue, including those that have been hardest hit such as Florida, Wisconsin and Ohio. Lastly, President McElligott talked about the ever widening gap between the public and private sectors when it comes to retirement security. He stated that a solution for

retirement security for all working Americans that NCPERS would be advancing is the Secure Choice Pension plan, a public – private partnership to bring back pensions to private sector workers who don't have any.

Attendance at the Conference stayed in line with previous years with just under 1,000 registrants and 49 exhibitors. Presentations from the conference are available on this website by clicking here (hyperlink once site is up). Some highlights include:



Dr. David Altig, senior vice president and director of research at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta delivered Tuesday morning's keynote address. Altig shared his insights on the day's most pressing economic and monetary issues including interest and unemployment rates.

Wednesday's keynote speech was given by the Honorable Donna Shalala, University of Miami president and former secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She gave an eye-opening review on the history of Social Security dating back to Franklin Roosevelt and Medicare. Shalala shared with the audience the role the Social Security and Medicare play in maintaining the standard of living of middle aged, middle class Americans and the vital safety net they provide senior citizens.

NCPERS announced the launching of the "Retirement Security for All" campaign based on the creation of a state-sponsored, multiple employer pension plans that would bring back pensions to private sector workers. This new public-private partnership will provide private sector employers and their employees an important new path towards retirement security. The launch of this campaign is set for September 2011.

During the conference the members also elected the following officers to one-year terms:

- Pat McElligott, of Tacoma, WA, president
- Mel Aaronson, of New York, NY, first vice president
- Daniel Fortuna, of Chicago, IL, second vice president
- Richard Wachsman, of Dallas, TX, treasurer
- Tina Fazendine, of Tulsa, OK, secretary

Dale Chase, Howard County Retirement Board, Ellicott City, MD was elected to his first term on the board. For the names of all board of directors that members elected to continue on the board, visit www.ncpers.org.

NCPERS continues the tradition of charitable work, and for the fourth year the NCPERS Charitable Foundation raised funds for a worthy organization in the conference's host city. The campaign in Miami resulted in contributions of nearly \$25,000 to help fund the United Teachers of Dade Teaching Excellence Foundation. The UTD Teaching Excellence Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3). In a special collaboration, the UTD Teaching Excellence Foundation partnered with Miami Southridge Senior High School with the express goal of supporting student achievement through improved access to technology. The foundation sought the support of the NCPERS Charitable Foundation to help fund a computer lab for the school.

Foundation contributions come from two sources: for each fund member attending the annual conference, NCPERS donated \$10, and NCPERS members also made direct contributions. Direct contributors were Loomis, Sayles & Company, NCPERS, Klausner & Kaufman, Alliance Bernstein, Invesco, JP Morgan Asset Management, LSV Asset Management, Mesirow Financial, Munder Capital Management, State Street Global Advisors, William Blair Company, JP Morgan Worldwide Securities Services, Standard & Poor's, Standard Life Investments, Jimmy Beloff, NCPERS Staff, Richard & Marilyn Wachsman, Gallagher Benefit Services, Newton Capital, Terry Mumford, and Intech Investment Management, LLC

As a sign of NCPERS' continuing commitment to training, the organization again hosted the highly regarded Trustee Educational Seminar (TEDS). TEDS benefits new and novice trustees seeking education and skills to help them better serve their pension funds. The two day program covered topics such as the public pension promise and its implications, elements for all trustees, best practices, actuarial issues, WEP and GPO offsets, and legal issues for new trustees.

On the second day of the two-day training event, the participants took part in the annual Managers Challenge, an interactive team investment exercise. The winners, pictured at left/right/above/below were William Chenowith, Howard County Retirement System; Richard Wachsman, Dallas Police & Fire Pension System; Gerard Grysko, Wayne County Employees Retirement System; Barbra Phillips, School Employees Retirement System of Ohio and Bill Lundy, Arkansas Local Police & Fire System. More photos from the Annual Conference and Exhibition can be viewed in the Online Photo Gallery. (link to photo gallery once it's up)