Welcome to the Annual Conference & Exhibition in San Diego! I look forward to welcoming you and providing you first-rate education as well as a venue to network with your colleagues and other pension professionals.

The year 2016 marks a milestone in NCPERS history. The National Conference on Public Employees Retirement Systems was established in 1941. That makes us 75 years old! At this year’s ACE, we will be celebrating NCPERS, diamond anniversary. We will be celebrating not only the long-seasoned tenure of the oldest national trade group for public pensions, but also the success that public pensions have had for over 150 years in the United States.

We are very proud of our long history and that of our member plans. What public pensions have achieved for tens of millions of hardworking public employees over 150 years is nothing short of amazing. Providing retirement security in an efficient, low-cost, and sustainable way to teachers, public safety personnel, and other state and local public servants is a major achievement.

Those who seek to undermine our plans still refuse to acknowledge our mission, history, and success. They attack public pensions as dinosaurs that have outlived their usefulness or as special interests pitting public pension versus taxpayers. These assaults come from a variety of places, including the US Senate, federal bankruptcy courts, state legislatures, and even well-known foundations with positive public personas, but with dark and – until recently – hidden agendas.
LETTER FROM THE NCPERS PRESIDENT

NCPERS is undaunted! In fact we see much to be optimistic about. For instance, our effort to bring retirement security to the private sector is gaining ground and recognition. State initiatives for retirement security are further along now than we could have ever dared to dream back in 2011 when we launched our Secure Choice Pension proposal.

I am excited about the challenges and opportunities ahead. While I cannot see 75 years into the future, I am certain that NCPERS will continue to play a leading role in that future.

I encourage you to attend the sessions and take back to your plans all that you have learned. Our futures depend on your actively exercising your fiduciary responsibility of learning (and applying what you’ve learned) for the benefit of your participants. Have a great conference!

Melvyn Aaronson
NCPERS President