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STATE AUDITOR

# STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

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## **\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\***

### **Office of the State Auditor to Hold Training Sessions for Volunteer Firefighter Relief Associations**

*~ Free sessions to take place in Owatonna, Duluth, Grand Rapids, Marshall,  
Alexandria, Albany, New Ulm, and St. Paul, March 5<sup>th</sup> through April 10<sup>th</sup> ~*

**Contact:** Jeff Falk, Office of the State Auditor, (651) 297-3683, [jeff.falk@state.mn.us](mailto:jeff.falk@state.mn.us)

**ST. PAUL (2/25/2008)** – The Office of the State Auditor’s Pension Division is offering free training sessions to volunteer firefighter relief association officers, municipal trustees, and accountants or auditors. The 13 training sessions, in eight different communities, will take place between March 5<sup>th</sup> and April 10<sup>th</sup>.

**“The successful administration of firefighter pension plans is a goal that we share with relief association trustees across the state,”** State Auditor Rebecca Otto said.

**“I am a firm believer in being more proactive and preventative in government and in getting ahead of problems before they occur. These training sessions serve that purpose.”**

The training sessions will include interactive bylaw and investment policy components, and discussions of reporting requirements and reporting forms. Attendees are asked to bring copies of their relief association bylaws and investment policy for use during the training session.

An update on the legislative session will also be included. Relief association trustees are encouraged to attend the training sessions to learn about legislative proposals that could impact their pension plans. Office of the State Auditor pension analysts will be on hand to answer questions.

To register and for more information on the training sessions, please contact Gail Richie at (651) 282-6110 or [Gail.Richie@state.mn.us](mailto:Gail.Richie@state.mn.us).

### **Training Locations, Dates and Times**

#### **Owatonna**

Where: Owatonna Fire Hall  
When: March 5<sup>th</sup> – 6 to 9 p.m.

#### **Duluth**

Where: Fire Training Center  
When: March 12<sup>th</sup> – 6 to 9 p.m. &  
March 13<sup>th</sup> – 9 a.m. to 12 Noon

**Grand Rapids**

Where: Grand Rapids Fire Hall  
When: March 13<sup>th</sup> – 6 to 9 p.m. &  
March 14<sup>th</sup> – 9 a.m. to 12 Noon

**Alexandria**

Where: Alexandria Fire Hall  
When: March 20<sup>th</sup> – 6 to 9 p.m. &  
March 21<sup>st</sup> – 9 a.m. to 12 Noon

**New Ulm**

Where: New Ulm Fire Hall  
When: April 8<sup>th</sup> – 6 to 9 p.m.

**Marshall**

Where: Marshall Fire Hall  
When: March 19<sup>th</sup> – 6 to 9 p.m. &  
March 20<sup>th</sup> – 9 a.m. to 12 Noon

**Albany**

Where: Albany City Hall  
When: March 26<sup>th</sup> – 6 to 9 p.m.

**St. Paul**

Where: Office of the State Auditor  
When: April 4<sup>th</sup> – 1 to 4 p.m. &  
April 10<sup>th</sup> – 9 a.m. to 12 Noon

The Office of the State Auditor is a constitutional office that is charged with overseeing more than \$20 billion spent annually by local governments in Minnesota. The Office of the State Auditor does this by performing audits of local government financial statements, and by reviewing documents, data, reports, and complaints reported to the Office. The financial information collected from local governments is analyzed and is the basis of statutory reports issued by the Office of the State Auditor.

The Pension Division reviews investment, financial, and actuarial reporting for approximately 730 public pension plans. Its objective is to ensure compliance with state statutes governing the administration of plans covering approximately 20,000 members.