

# Public Pension Financial Focus



## President's Message

Dear P2F2 Members,

The 2015 conference is coming up in just a few months. A preliminary schedule of speakers/sessions and the registration form are now available on the P2F2 website home page. We believe we've reserved enough rooms this year so we won't need an overflow hotel, but register early. The deadline for receiving the early bird registration rate is September 18th. I'm excited about the location and the speakers, and believe this will be a fantastic conference!

At this year's GFOA Special Review Executive Committee meeting I was informed that GFOA is looking for a few more pension plan CAFR reviewers. Most of you submit your CAFR to GFOA in an attempt to earn their Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. If you work on your CAFR and have received that Certificate, you're qualified to be a CAFR reviewer! I've been reviewing CAFRs for almost 20 years, and it's been a great way to see what other public pension plans are doing and learn the latest rules on financial reporting. The time commitment is minimal (a couple of hours per CAFR, and about 6 CAFRs per year). If you're interested in becoming a reviewer, you can apply using this [form](#). It's a great learning experience!

See you in San Diego!

**Dave DeJonge**

Dave DeJonge, P2F2 President, [dave.dejonge@mnpera.org](mailto:dave.dejonge@mnpera.org)

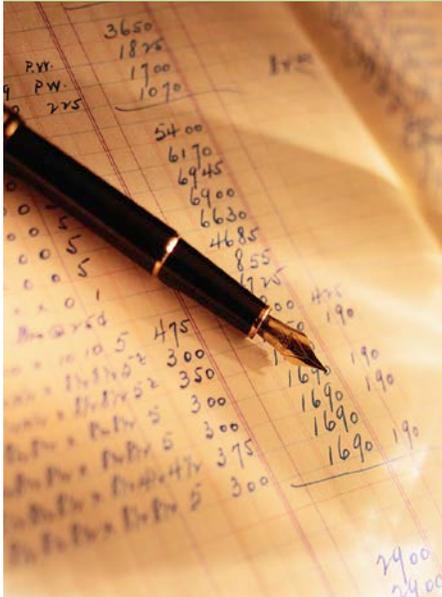
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## GASB OPEB Resources

GASB Resources:

- [“GASB in Focus”](#) fact sheet
- [“What is OPEB”](#) video - GASB Chair and Project Team Discuss New OPEB Statements

## P2F2 Web Resources

[GASB 67/68 Toolkit](#)

[Audit RFPs](#)

[Job Postings](#)

[Newsletters](#)

[P2F2 Letters and Responses](#)

[Member Forum](#)

[Past Conference Presentations](#)

[How to Volunteer](#)

## New GASB Standards Released

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued two Statements that intend to improve the accounting and financial reporting by state and local governments for postemployment benefits other than pensions (OPEB).

- GASB Statement No. 74, *Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans* - effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2016
- GASB Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions* - effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2017

Additionally, GASB issued another pension statement which establishes requirements for those pensions and pension plans that are not administered through a trust.

- GASB Statement No. 73, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions and Related Assets That Are Not within the Scope of GASB Statement 68, and Amendments to Certain Provisions of GASB Statements 67 and 68* - effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2015—except those provisions that address employers and governmental nonemployer contributing entities for pensions that are not within the scope of Statement 68, which are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2016

To access the new standards please use the following link - [GASB Pronouncements](#).

## Audit RFPs on the Web

Are you facing the task of finding a new auditor? Unsure where to start in preparing the request for proposal (RFP)? Look no further than the P2F2 website. A new professional resource has been added to the website to assist you and it can be accessed on the [Audit RFP page](#). What you will find is a number of RFPs from other P2F2 member plans. We hope you will find this useful.

During the 2015 annual strategic planning meeting, the Board identified the P2F2 website as an opportunity to provide additional benefits to the membership. The Audit RFP page is one example of how we are trying to make improvements and we welcome your comments and feedback regarding the website at any time. Suggestions and comments can be submitted to: [webmaster@p2f2.org](mailto:webmaster@p2f2.org).

## Letter to GASB on Covered-Employee Payroll

P2F2 joined GFOA, NASRA, NCPERS, and NCTR in a letter to GASB over the definition of covered-employee payroll in GASB 67 & GASB 68. The letter originated by P2F2 and discussed the issue of the definition of covered-employee payroll in the recent statements.

For reference, below are the definitions of covered-employee payroll and covered payroll from the glossaries of both GASB 67 and GASB 25:

- GASB 67 Covered-Employee Payroll: The payroll of employees that are provided with pensions through the pension plan.
- GASB 25 Covered Payroll: All elements included in compensation paid to active employees on which contributions to a pension plan are based. For example, if pension contributions are calculated on base pay including overtime, covered payroll includes overtime compensation.

The difference between the two definitions can be summarized as follows:

- GASB 67 Covered-Employee Payroll: Total payroll.
- GASB 25 Covered Payroll: Pensionable payroll.

It was brought to GASB's attention that most multi-employer plans do not currently have total payroll data or need that data for their current operations.

Dave DeJonge, the President of P2F2, was very instrumental in bringing together the different organizations to review and support the letter to GASB.

The organizations stated that they are very concerned about the change in definition and have strongly urged GASB to change the definition back to pensionable payroll. For a copy of the letter you may access it at the P2F2 website by using the following link: [Covered-employee payroll letter](#).

For more background information on the covered employee payroll issue, you may download the GFOA Finance Review article by Stephen J. Gauthier using the following link: [April 2015 Government Finance Review](#).

### P2F2 Mission and Purpose

#### P2F2 Mission Statement

Public Pension Financial Forum's mission is to serve its membership through education, pension advocacy, and networking by promoting financial excellence for public pension plans.

The purposes of the P2F2 are to:

- Promote excellence in public pension plan financial operations.
- Advocate for and represent public pension systems by responding to and collaborating with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board and other related organizations.
- Provide education to membership in areas of financial importance for public pension plans.
- Create networking opportunities for members to exchange ideas and information.

### Bank Account Analysis Statements

It is important to pay attention to those monthly account analysis statements; your organization may be able to realize significant savings.

What to consider:

- Ask for training session with bank to understand each item
- Monthly review can detect pricing fluctuations
- Compare multiple bank relationships
- Review line item detail and usage
- Monitor fluctuations in usage and trends

For more items to consider please use the following link: [GFOA Public Investor](#).



## 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference San Diego, California

Our 12<sup>th</sup> annual conference will be held October 25-28 in San Diego, California at the [Hyatt Regency Mission Bay Hotel](#). Our Speakers, On-site/Hospitality and Sponsorship committees have been working hard to make this another outstanding conference for our membership.

What to look forward to in this year's conference:

- Preconference – GASB 72 Fair Value Measurement and Application
- Conference Sessions – Generational training, AICPA Audit and Accounting Guide, Census Data Audit Panel, GASB 68 Employer Communication, Ethics, GASB Update, PAFR Panel, Identity Theft, Stress Management, Affordable Health Care Act, Public Pensions and the News, Small Pension Plans Internal Controls, and so many more
- Speakers – Marianne Jennings, Reggie Butler, Michelle Czerkawski, Leigh Snell, Sherri Petro, Mary Beth Braitman, David Levine
- Evening Event – Sea World
- Weather – Perfect - daily highs around 73°F (it's San Diego)

A good conference can be a great opportunity for learning, connecting, and having fun. But as with any other opportunity, what you get from it will be based on what you put into it.

- Introduce yourself to other members
- Take notes-one takeaway from every session
- Share what you learned with others
- Follow up with those you have met
- Thank your Boss for allowing you to attend

### P2F2 Board Members:

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### Outdoor San Diego

Looking for some outdoor activities when visiting San Diego? Check out some of these ideas:

Kayaking: [Mission Bay sea kayaking](#)

Mission Bay bike path: [12 mile bike path around the bay](#)

Bird Watching: [Kendall Frost Marsh and Northern Wildlife Preserve on Mission Bay](#)

### Important San Diego Dates

Early-Bird Registration Deadline:  
Friday, Sept. 18, 2015

Hotel cut-off date: Friday, Oct. 2, 2015  
or earlier if room block sold out

Conference Registration Cut-off:  
Friday, Oct. 2, 2015

## San Diego Facts

San Diego produces more avocados than any other place in the country.

San Diego is edged with seventy miles of beaches

Hypnotism is banned by public schools in San Diego

San Diego International Airport is the busiest one-runway airport in the country

## P2F2 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

## P2F2 Board Minutes

[Board minutes](#)

## Suggestion Box

Please email your suggestions to [kgreve@copera.org](mailto:kgreve@copera.org)



*Excellence, Education, & Interaction*

[www.p2f2.org](http://www.p2f2.org)

## Excel Tip by Mundy

### Changing capitalization in Excel

Have you ever had a file of data in Excel and wished you could easily fix the capitalization? Well Excel has some formulas that may just help you with that problem. Excel has three functions that allow you to change the case of text and they are listed below:

- UPPER function – changes text to all uppercase
- LOWER function – changes text to all lowercase
- PROPER function – capitalizes the first letter in each word

Below please find an example of how to fix the data and use the formulas. The formulas used in A3, A4 and A5 are shown in B3, B4 and B5.

	A	B
1		
2	oscaR the grOUch	
3	OSCAR THE GROUCH	=UPPER(A2)
4	oscar the grouch	=LOWER(A2)
5	Oscar The Grouch	=PROPER(A2)
6		

For more info use this link – [Changing Text](#).

## Quotes to Ponder

“You can’t have everything. Where would you put it?” – Steven Wright

“I think Smithers picked me because of my motivational skills. Everyone says they have to work a lot harder when I’m around.” – Homer Simpson

“The trouble with the rat-race is that, even if you win, you’re still a rat.” – Lily Tomlin