

"Leadership in Trustee Education"

New Pension Certification Program

Public sector pension plans date back to the late 1800's and today these plans are under attack. Now is the time that every public pension system, not only in Pennsylvania but across the United States, needs to prepare for a full political and financial attack. In most cases, the attack has already begun through the media outlets, primarily as a result of the 2008 market crash. Annual state and local budgets need a culprit to blame during this trying time and pension plan benefits along with healthcare benefits are topping the list. With the public pension industry under siege, it is time for everyone involved to step up and educate each other so that long term retirement security may be preserved.

PAPERS is proud to announce that it is stepping up to today's challenges and has developed its own "Trustee Certification Program". PAPERS has reached out to the Florida Public Pension Trustee Association (FPPTA), our equivalent organization in Florida, to assist our organization with providing a "Certified Public Pension Trustee (CPPT)" certification program with a curriculum that focuses on every aspect of the public pension industry. The FPPTA has been providing this nationally recognized certification program to its members for the last twelve years and PAPERS is pleased to be working with FPPTA to establish a similar CPPT program in Pennsylvania. This educational program will better equip and educate the public pension systems and industry professionals across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Although labeled a "trustee" certification program, this designation is applicable to pension system administrators and staff along with the industry professionals who are so much a part of the public pension industry. Everyone involved with a public pension system **MUST** always remember that the plans they represent or work with have a promise to fulfill ... *a promise to millions of public workers to provide a guaranteed pension benefit after a career in public service.*

PAPERS is pleased to unveil its newly designed Certification Program to its membership. The first course offerings will be available to anyone attending the upcoming **PAPERS Fall Workshop scheduled for September 23rd at The Desmond Great Valley Hotel & Conference Center in Malvern, Pennsylvania. As an added incentive, pension fund trustees/staff will receive free registration for the Workshop.**

In establishing a certification program for its members, PAPERS will be offering this newly formalized program on two levels. The first level begins with PAPERS' Fall Workshop in September 2010 and the second level will begin in 2011 at the annual PAPERS Forum.



The administrator of the PAPERS CPPT program will be Mr. Peter Hapgood. Mr. Hapgood of Sturbridge, MA, founded Public Pensions Incorporated (PPI), a public pension consulting firm that specializes in providing educational resources and services to public pension systems, organizations and related industry firms and professionals in 2003. PPI handles all of the trustee education programs for the Florida Public Pension Trustees Association (FPPTA).

The PAPERS CPPT* Program Goals and Objectives

(*Certified Public Pension Trustee)

- To provide an educational setting that is conducive to developing well informed public pension trustees, pension administrators and staff, as well as the industry professionals who work closely with pension systems.
- To provide an educational setting that enables trustees, pension administrators and staff, as well as the industry professionals who work closely with pension systems, to be actively and meaningfully involved in the management of the pension plans they represent.
- To provide an educational setting to prepare trustees, pension administrators and staff, as well as the industry professionals who work closely with pension systems, to meet the standards their fiduciary role demands upon acceptance to their position involved with a public pension system.
- To develop and enhance public pension trustees, pension administrators and staff, as well as the industry professionals who work closely with pension systems, with a level of education and industry competency so that each individual working with the retirement system in their capacity protects retirement security for the public pension plan beneficiaries of Pennsylvania.

PAPERS Certificate Program (Level 1)

The first level will be the “PAPERS Certificate Program”. Level 1 will be offered for FREE and everyone who has registered to participate in the program will be given a certificate upon completion.

1. The certificate program (**Level 1**) will consist of 12 total hours of specialized public pension industry education.
2. Participants will have the opportunity to register for Level 1 at the PAPERS Fall Workshop on September 23, 2010.
3. Attendance at all sessions of the PAPERS Fall Workshop will provide 6 hours of education toward earning the Certificate.
4. PAPERS will offer the additional 6 hours for program completion via its newly established “Online Training Network” from November 2010 to April 2011. A schedule for online courses will be provided at the Fall Workshop.
5. If you prefer NOT to participate with the PAPERS Online Training Network, the additional (6) course hours for your PAPERS Certificate Program will be offered at next year’s Annual Forum (spring 2011).
6. Once registered, the participant has **one year** to complete the Certificate Program.
7. Completion of the PAPERS Certificate Program will require obtaining 12 hours of training, a combination of hours from attending the Fall Workshop along with participating in either the PAPERS Online Training or the spring 2011 Forum.
8. After you have successfully completed the Certificate Program, you will be eligible to participate in the PAPERS CPPT Program’s next cycle of course offerings. Completion of the Certificate Program is a pre-requisite to participate in the Level 2 Certification Program.

PAPERS Certification Program (Level 2)

Level 2 of the PAPERS CPPT Program will consist of a curriculum of an additional 24 hours. Level 1 (the PAPERS Certificate Program) MUST be completed first.

To achieve the CPPT designation, the participant will complete the course of study as diagrammed below. One-half of the required hours must be obtained by attending 12 hours at the annual PAPERS Forum. The remaining 12 hours can be obtained through the PAPERS Online Training Network and/or by attending PAPERS Fall Workshops.

The first PAPERS Level 2 CPPT Program will start at the organization's 2011 Annual Forum. Level 2 will be more comprehensive and participants will have to pass a competency test to receive their PAPERS CPPT certification. More details, including any fees for Level 2, will be available at the September 2010 Workshop.

PAPERS CPPT Program (Level 2) (Starting in 2011)

