IGFOA Professional Education Committee presents the
2025 PENSION INSTITUTE WEBINAR SERIES
Wednesday, March 19 – Thursday, March 20, 2025
Virtual Seminar Via GoToWebinar

AGENDA

DAY 1: MARCH 19, 2025

9:00 AM – 9:50 AM **Economic Outlook for the US and Illinois**
Speaker: **Floyd R. Simpson III,** CFA, Director, *PFM Asset Management*

This session will cover current global economic conditions accompanied by longer-term trends in markets and the investment landscape. Particular attention will focus on the U.S., China, and EuroZone economies. The presentation will also highlight drivers of current inflation and trends going forward, as well as capital markets both in the U.S. and internationally. Special attention will be given on Illinois during the economic section of the presentation.

Learning Objectives: *Participants completing this session will be able to:*

- Gain a better perspective of the factors driving the economy;
- Understand the reaction of the capital markets to the current economic environment; and
- Gain a better appreciation of how investment returns have the potential to impact local police and fire pension funds in Illinois.

Program Level: Update **Field of Study:** Economics - Technical **NASBA CPE:** Earn About 1.0 CPE

10:00 AM – 10:50 AM **Alternative Investments: Consolidated Pension Investment Funds**
Speaker: William Atwood, Executive Director, *Firefighters' Pension Investment Fund*
Greg Turk, Deputy Chief Investment Officer*, Illinois Police Officers' Pension Investment Fund*

This seminar will present a high-level overview of alternative investments and the pension investment industry's use of alternatives in mature portfolios to achieve asset diversification. In addition, speakers will review what Article 3 and 4 pension funds, and their employer sponsors can expect to see in regard to reporting, timing of reporting and other factors as asset allocation strategies of IFPIF and IPOPIS are achieved. Status of future allocation strategies will also be covered.

Learning Objectives: *Participants completing this session will be able to:*

- Gain a basic understanding of Alternative Investments and their use in the Pension investment industry;
- Become aware of the alternative investments currently held by IFPIF and POPIF; and
- Learn about future allocation strategies.

Program Level: Intermediate **Field of Study:** Finance - Technical **NASBA CPE:** Earn About 1.0 CPE

11:00 AM – 12:20 PM Stop, Drop, and Roll! Actuarial Amortization Periods/Methods, DROP, Potential Impact of Tier 2 Changes

Speaker: **TBD**

This seminar will present an all-encompassing look at a benefit that is being discussed for Article 3 and 4 and is common in the pension space – a DROP. In addition, the session will provide an overview of other Actuarial Methods that are being adopted by many employers and pension funds. With the closed amortization period window closing in on 15 years, this session will explore the impact and benefits of a transitioning to a rolling amortization period. Status of legislative updates related to Tier 2 changes will also be covered.

Learning Objectives: *Participants completing this session will be able to:*

- Gain a basic understanding of the types of DROP benefits that are offered in the pension industry;
- Become aware of other actuarial methods that are available; and
- Learn about legislation that has been introduced regarding Article 3 and Article 4 Tier 2 changes.

Program Level: Intermediate **Field of Study:** Specialized Knowledge **NASBA CPE:** Earn About 1.5 CPE

1:30 PM – 2:20 PM Understanding the Social Security Fairness Act and Planning for Retirement

Speaker: **Dan Ryan,** Project Coordinator, *IPPFA*; Past President, *IGFOA*

The Social Security Fairness Act, adopted in January 2025, will be explained and its impact on benefits for Illinois police and fire retirees will be examined.

Learning Objectives: *Participants completing this session will be able to:*

- Understand the new law;
- Understand that their police and fire employees are treated the same as all other workers under Social Security;
- Understand the mechanics of the implementation of the new law; and
- Recognize how these changes affect certain retirement planning issues.

Program Level: Overview **Field of Study:** Finance - Technical **NASBA CPE:** Earn About 1.0 CPE

DAY 2: MARCH 20, 2025

9:00 AM – 10:20 AM PEDA and PSEBA

Speaker: Shawn Flaherty, Attorney, *Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo, Ltd.*

This seminar will present a high-level overview of the PEDA and PSEBA acts and their role in pension practices. In addition, best practices will be discussed that will cover both the employer and pension board viewpoints. Status of past and pending litigation will be covered.

Learning Objectives: *Participants completing this session will be able to:*

- Gain a basic understanding of both PEDA and PSEBA;
- Become aware of the best practices from both an employer and pension board perspective; and
- Learn about legislation that has impacted the administration of PEDA and PSEBA and touch on any pending legislation.

Program Level: Intermediate **Field of Study:** Specialized Knowledge **NASBA CPE:** Earn About 1.5 CPE

10:30 AM – 11:20 AM Evaluating and Modernizing 457(b) Plans; Fiduciary Best Practices and Enhancing Retirement

Speaker: **Tom Lyons,** *Village of Vernon Hills*
Justin Pisellini, *The 457 Consulting Group*

457 Plans are playing an increasingly greater role in employee recruiting, retention and their retirement readiness. Join Tom Lyons and Justin Pisellini in this informative session that will provide insights and updates on utilizing "open architecture" fund platforms, appropriate fund fee levels, fiduciary best practices, as well as, participant financial/retirement education tools and resources. This session will cover these topics with information on recent case studies.

Learning Objectives: *Participants completing this session will be able to:*

- Become aware of current practices in DC Recordkeeping and Administration service levels and Investment Menu construction;
- Evaluate the pro and cons of having multiple plans and
- Understand and better manage the fiduciary responsibilities of a plan sponsor to a 457 Plan

Program Level: Overview **Field of Study:** Finance - Technical **NASBA CPE:** Earn About 1.0 CPE

11:30 AM – 12:20 PM Legislative Update

Speakers: **Mark Fowler, NWMC**

Learning Objectives: *Participants completing this session will be able to:*

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Program Level: Update **Field of Study:** Finance - Technical **NASBA CPE:** Earn About 1.0 CPE

IGFOA reserves the right to modify the agenda, sessions, and speakers.