



PA Association of Public Employee Retirement Systems
PO Box 61543
Harrisburg, PA 17106-1543

March 22, 2011

Dear PAPERS Member:

On behalf of the PAPERS Board of Directors I am pleased to announce that the PAPERS Certified Public Pension Trustee (CPPT) Program will officially begin with the upcoming PAPERS Spring Forum in Harrisburg on May 24th and 25th.

As PAPERS has progressed as an organization, it has become evident to the Board that it would be beneficial to provide the members an opportunity for a more formal education program. With the creation of the PAPERS CPPT Program, the organization can now offer our pension trustees, pension administrators, pension staff and industry professionals the ability to better prepare themselves for the challenges they face as public pension plan professionals and fiduciaries, demonstrating a level of competency and excellence that the beneficiaries of all Pennsylvania public pension funds will appreciate.

To achieve this goal, PAPERS has partnered with the Florida Public Pension Trustee Association (FPPTA) and will follow a core curriculum and testing program that has been extremely successful since 1998 in Florida. By establishing this relationship, PAPERS did not have to reinvent the wheel and can now hit the ground running with the implementation of our certification program, a program that the PAPERS organization and membership should be proud of.

The PAPERS Board realizes that the key ingredient for success is all about participation. Getting involved is definitely up to you. Whether you are a pension trustee, work for a pension system or a pension professional providing services in the industry, attaining certification illustrates your commitment and dedication to the role you play in providing retirement security for all of your beneficiaries.

The following information will explain the PAPERS CPPT Program. I am sure you will have questions, so please be patient and register for the upcoming PAPERS Spring Forum in Harrisburg and we will assist you with enrolling in the certification program. If you cannot join us in May, please send me an email at perryja1@comcast.net and I will help you through the enrollment process.

Sincerely,

James A. Perry

James A. Perry
PAPERS Executive Director

Explanation of the PAPERS CPPT Program

The PAPERS CPPT Program aims to:

Develop and enhance public pension trustees, pension administrators and staff, as well as industry professionals who work closely with pension systems. The program curriculum will provide participants with two levels of education and industry competency.

Following a core curriculum, the certification program will be made up of participating in 36 hours of course credits over a (3) year period of time.

Level One of the certification program requires **18 hours of course credits** attained by attending the Spring Forum, Fall Workshop, PAPERS Online courses, or some combination of the two. You must pass the Level One PAPERS certification exam before participating in Level Two.

Level Two of the certification program requires an additional **18 hours of course credits** by participating in the educational forums offered by PAPERS, along with the successful completion of the PAPERS Certification Exam. Upon course and exam completion, the individual will be awarded the Pennsylvania Certified Public Pension Trustee (PAPERS CPPT) designation.

Course Credits:

- A minimum of 18 hours **MUST** be obtained by attending course offerings at the PAPERS Annual Spring Forum.
- A maximum of **18 hours** may be obtained by attending the PAPERS Annual Fall Workshop.
- A maximum of **18 hours** may be obtained through participating in the PAPERS Online Program.

Certification Testing:

- Level One – successful completion of certification exam
- Level Two – successful completion of certification exam
- Online testing will become available once a participant has attained the required number of course credits. Testing **MUST** take place within two weeks of course completion.

Program Cost and Duration:

- Total CPPT Program - \$300
- Minimum payment at registration for Level I Program - \$150
- Final payment at registration for Level II Program - \$150
- Annual post-certification fee - \$30

Program Participation:

Please remember that participating in the PAPERS CPPT Program is voluntary. The Board of Director's has endorsed the program, but if you decide **NOT** to participate, the Board still recommends that you attend both the Spring Forum and Fall Workshop to enhance your skills and better prepare yourself for your duties as a Public Pension Trustee.

PLAN TO ATTEND ...The PAPERS Spring Forum being held in downtown Harrisburg at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on May 24-25, 2011. This year's Forum theme:

PENSIONOMICS ...”Sustainability of Defined Benefit Plans”

Special Note: Attendees of the Fall Workshop (September 2010) who indicated they would like to participate in the PAPERS Certificate Program may count up to 6 hours of course credit. If you do not know if you indicated you would like to participate in the CPPT Program, please contact us.