



State Auditor  
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## OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

# *E-Update*

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publication of the Office  
of the State Auditor*

November 4, 2011

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### **1. Meeting: Collaborative Governance Council**

The next meeting of the Collaborative Governance Council will be held on Wednesday, November 16 at 1:00 p.m. in the League of Minnesota Cities building, 145 University Avenue West, St. Paul. Council meetings are open to the public. For more information on the Council and to access meeting materials, please go to:

<https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20111103.000>.

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### **2. Reminder: OSA Annual Training**

There are still openings available for the Office of the State Auditor Annual Training, which will be held on Wednesday, November 16, 2011, at the Crowne Plaza St. Paul Riverfront Hotel in St. Paul.

Information on the conference, including a complete agenda and registration form, can be found at:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=trainingopportunities>.

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### **3. Update: Second Certification for 2011 Fire State Aid**

The Office of the State Auditor is pleased to announce that 55 volunteer fire relief associations met all reporting requirements to be certified as eligible for receipt of 2011 fire state aid for the second round of aid disbursements. State aid will be disbursed on or about November 15 for the certified relief associations.

In total, 691 volunteer fire relief associations and other local public pension plans have been certified as eligible for their 2011 state aid. Only 69 volunteer fire relief associations have yet to meet their reporting requirements to be certified. The next certification deadline for 2011 state aid eligibility is March 1, 2012.

A list of the 2011 fire state aid amounts is available on the Office of the State Auditor's website at:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20110927.002>.

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#### **4. Pensions: Updated Selected Relevant Statutes Booklet & Summary**

Updated versions of the Selected Relevant Statutes booklet and summary are now available. The booklet contains many of the state laws applicable to volunteer fire relief associations including law changes enacted during the 2011 legislative session. The summary provides a short, easy-to-read companion.

Relief association trustees are encouraged to download both documents for reference when updating bylaws, making investment decisions, and calculating benefit payments. The booklet and summary can both be accessed by going to:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20070105.001>.

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#### **5. Avoiding Pitfalls: Hearings on Municipal Liquor Store Losses**

Cities operating municipal liquor stores must hold a public hearing on or after November 17 regarding the future of the liquor store if the operation of the liquor store has experienced losses, before transfers, in at least two of the past three consecutive years.

The governing statute is [Minn. Stat. § 340A.602](#). The public hearing must be held not more than 45 days prior to the end of the fiscal year following the three-year period. For example, a city with liquor store operations that experienced two years of losses during the three-year period ending December 31, 2010 must hold a public hearing on or after November 17, 2011.

For more information on the hearing requirement, see our Statement of Position on Municipal Liquor Store Hearings, which can be found at:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20110607.024>.

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