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Office of the State Auditor to Hold Training Sessions for Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Associations

~ Free sessions to take place in Marshall, Morris, Rochester, Bemidji, Duluth, St. Cloud, Mankato and St. Paul March 6 through April 4 ~

Contact: Jeff Falk, Office of the State Auditor, (651) 297-3683, jeff.falk@state.mn.us

ST. PAUL (2/21/2007) – The Office of the State Auditor's Pension Division is offering free training sessions to volunteer firefighters' relief association officers, municipal trustees, accountants and auditors. The 11 training sessions in eight different communities will take place between March 6 and April 4.

The training sessions will cover issues such as bylaws, investments, pension benefit calculations, reporting requirements and reporting forms. Sample documents, including sample bylaws and an investment policy, will be provided to training participants.

“The successful administration of firefighter relief association pension plans is a goal that we share with relief association trustees across the state,” State Auditor Rebecca Otto said. **“I am a firm believer in being more proactive and preventative in government and getting ahead of problems before they occur. These training sessions serve that purpose.”**

An update of the 2007 legislative session will also be included in the training program. Relief association trustees are encouraged to attend the training session to learn about legislative proposals that could impact their pension plans. Office of the State Auditor pension analysts will be on hand to answer questions.

Training Locations, Dates and Times

Marshall

Where: Lyon County Government Center
When: March 6 – 6 to 9 p.m.

Morris

Where: Best Western Inn Prairie Inn
When: March 7 – 6 to 9 p.m.

Rochester

Where: Rochester City Hall
When: March 15 – 6 to 9 p.m.

Bemidji

Where: Bemidji State University
When: March 20 – 6 to 9 p.m.

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Duluth

Where: Fire Training Center
When: March 21 – 6 to 9 p.m. &
March 22 – 9 a.m. to 12 Noon

St. Cloud

Where: Public Utilities, Waste Water
Treatment Plant
When: April 12 – 6 to 9 p.m.

Mankato

Where: Mankato City Hall
When: March 28 – 6 to 9 p.m.

St. Paul

Where: Office of the State Auditor
When: March 27 – 1 to 4 p.m.
March 28 – 9 a.m. to 12 Noon
April 4 – 6 to 9 p.m.

To register and for more information on the training sessions, please contact Gail Richie at (651) 282-6110 or Gail.Richie@state.mn.us.

The Office of the State Auditor is charged with overseeing more than twenty billion dollars that is spent annually by local governments in Minnesota. The State Auditor's Office does this by performing audits of local government financial statements, and by reviewing documents, data, reports, and complaints submitted to or gathered by the Office. The financial information collected from local governments is analyzed and is the basis of statutory required reports issued by the State Auditor's Office.

The Pension Division of the Office of the State Auditor monitors investment, financial and actuarial reporting for approximately 720 public pension plans. Its objective is to ensure compliance with state statutes governing the administration of plans covering approximately 20,000 members.