

2012 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Scottsdale, Arizona

NCSSSA INTERNET ADDRESS: <http://www.ncsssa.org>

To: State Social Security Administrators, State Officials,
Federal Officials, Retirees and Guests

From: Angie Dowdy
First Vice President, NCSSSA

Re: 62nd Annual NCSSSA Conference (Scottsdale, Arizona)
Sunday, July 29, 2012 through Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Date: March 28, 2012

It is my pleasure to invite you to the 62nd annual conference of the National Conference of State Social Security Administrators (NCSSSA) being hosted by the great State of Arizona, July 29 - August 1, 2012 at the Doubletree Paradise Valley Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona.

The NCSSSA annual conference offers an important opportunity for State Social Security Administrators, Social Security Administration (SSA), Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and other federal officials to interact and communicate on important issues. The conference program is designed to cover a variety of topics, relevant to both state and federal partners, encouraging active exchange among attendees and invited guests.

Who Should Attend the Conference and Why?

- New State Social Security Administrators and/or new staff or other state officials.
- Current State Social Security Administrators and staff or other state officials.
- Public Pension Plan officials and staff.
- State payroll/wage reporting officials and staff.
- IRS officials and staff involved with state and local FICA and/or employment tax matters.
- SSA officials and staff involved with state and local governments' coverage, benefits, and W-2 reporting matters.
- Anyone interested in discussing and sharing matters of concern and interest to state and local government employers throughout the country.

The NCSSSA annual conference involves the discussion of topics of current interest and importance to state and federal officials involved in state and local Social Security/Medicare and employment tax matters.

If you have any suggestions for topics, are willing to participate in the presentation of information, would like to be a panelist or the moderator of a group discussion at the conference, please contact Angie Dowdy, First Vice President, as soon as possible, but *no later than May 18, 2012*. E-Mail to: angie.dowdy@la.gov.

The specific topics and timing of the sessions vary from year-to-year, depending on which issues are of the most immediate concern. The specific agenda items and schedule for the 2012 conference are currently being finalized, but some anticipated (not all-inclusive) topics are listed below.

- **Consolidated Entities including successor and predecessor issues**
- **Mandatory Social Security and the effect on Public Pensions**
- **218 Council Update**
- **Legislative and regulatory update regarding WEP/GPO, mandatory (universal) Social Security, financial status of the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds and implications for the national budget & long-term sustainability of both Trust Funds, national health care issues/status & impact on state and local governments, etc.**
- **Mandatory and Optional Exclusions, What they are and what they mean**
- **Election Worker Exclusion Recap**
- **“FICA Equivalent” and “Qualified” plans**
- **Rehired Annuitants**
- **IRS – Status of Assessment Tool**
- **SSA – Elected officials exemption**

NOTE: Agenda items in the program that are marked “*Closed Business Session (State Officials Only)*” are for any State Social Security Administrator, state payroll or wage reporting officials, and/or state staff and officials attending the conference.

Additional topics and ideas are welcome. If you are interested in discussing other topics, please send an email by **May 18, 2012**, to: angie.dowdy@la.gov.

We will update conference details on-line as we receive feedback and finalize details. Please periodically check the NCSSSA website for new information about the conference agenda. (www.ncsssa.org)

Please note:

Members of the Program and/or Hospitality Committees should plan to arrive on Friday, July 27th.

Members of the Executive Committee should plan to arrive in time for the Executive Committee meeting scheduled for Saturday, July 28th.

All other Committee members should plan to arrive Saturday, July 28th, to attend Committee meetings called for Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning.

All state representatives participating in the 2012 conference should plan on attending the Conference Business Session & Regional Caucuses, scheduled to begin at 1:00 PM on Sunday, July 29th. IRS and SSA officials are invited to join the Regional Caucus meetings, beginning at 3:30 PM, on Sunday, July 29th.

Conference registration will be held in the Hospitality Room on Saturday, July 28th from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM, and Sunday, July 29th, from 9:00 AM to Noon.

****New state administrator training (condensed version) will be provided on Wednesday, August 1, 2012 from 10:00am – 4:00pm. Please note on your registration form in the field provided if you plan to attend this training. IRS and SSA officials are invited to attend.**

NCSSSA 62nd Annual Conference Conference Registration Information

The Early Bird Conference Registration fee is **\$375** for state administrators, federal officials, and governmental employer representatives and staff members **if paid by June 30, 2012**. **After June 30th the Conference Registration rate is \$400**. If you intend to bring family members or guests that you would like to include in any meals, please contact Kathleen D. Baxter at the number below for additional information. The registration fee for retired state administrators and staff members has been waived but we will need a completed registration form.

To receive the Early Bird rate, submit your registration forms and the total registration fees no later than **June 30, 2012**. Make your payment by check payable to NCSSSA (NCSSSA Taxpayer Identification Number: 23-7413834). **If you wish to pay by credit card, please contact Kathleen D. Baxter directly at (334) 242-4857**. All attendees must pre-register by completing and returning the enclosed registration form to:

Kathleen D. Baxter, NCSSSA Treasurer
Alabama Department of Finance
RSA Union Bldg.
100 North Union Street, Suite 274
Montgomery, AL 36130-2602
Fax (334) 353-0147

If you are unable to remit the registration fee prior to June 30, 2012, forward your completed registration form(s) no later than the early bird registration deadline of June 30, 2012. Please indicate on the form(s) that you will attend and that the full **\$400** conference registration fee will be paid at a later date or at the Conference. The NCSSSA provides, on request, reasonable accommodations including auxiliary aids and services necessary to provide individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in all programs and services. Please contact Kathleen D. Baxter **no later than July 15, 2012**, at kathleen.baxter@comptroller.alabama.gov (334) 242-4857 to advise of any special accommodations that may be required. **TTY users, please call the Relay Service at 711.**

Refunds will be granted for requests received in writing by **July 15, 2012**. Refunds will not be granted after this date. No shows are responsible for full payment.

Substitution Policy: If you are unable to attend the conference and have already registered, you may designate another person to take your place. Just complete a registration form for the new attendee and indicate the name of the individual that is being replaced.

**National Conference of State Social Security Administrators
(NCSSSA)
CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM**

**62nd Annual Conference
Scottsdale, Arizona
July 29 - August 1, 2012**

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------|-----------|
| State or Organization: | | | | | | |
| Will you be attending the New State Administrator Training on August 1, 2012? | | | | | YES | NO |
| Anticipated Arrival Date: | | Anticipated Departure Date: | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Name | | Title | | # Days Attending | | |
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| TOTAL Number of Registrants | | x | \$400.00 | = | \$ | |
| EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT FOR <u>PAYMENTS RECEIVED</u> PRIOR TO JUNE 30---\$25 Per participant | | X | -\$25.00 | | \$- | |
| GRAND TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE PAID: | | | | | \$ | |
| Please list any special dietary needs or accommodation requirements: | | | | | | |

Conference Registration Fee includes participant materials, admission to all sessions, and all meals/events being provided by the Conference.

If family or other guests are accompanying Conference participants and would like to participate in any meal or event, please contact the number below for specific costs that can be paid individually.

Fax form to (334) 353-0147 and call Kathleen D. Baxter at (334) 242-4857 for credit card payment, OR return this form along with a check payable to "NCSSSA" to: Kathleen D. Baxter, NCSSSA Treasurer, Accounting Director, Alabama Department of Finance, RSA Union Bldg., 100 North Union Street, Suite 274, Montgomery, AL 36130-2602. **NCSSSA's TIN #: 23-7413834**

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Continuing Professional Education (CPE) may be available, depending on the individual certification requirements. People needing CPE credits should contact their licensing/regulatory officials to determine how to obtain CPE credit for attending NCSSSA annual conference sessions.

MAKING RESERVATIONS

DoubleTree

Paradise Valley Resort

Scottsdale, Arizona

The DoubleTree Paradise Valley Resort is located at 5401 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, Arizona 85250. You may contact the hotel directly at 1-480-947-5400, you must identify yourself as a member of NCSSEA 2012 Annual Meeting, or online at http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/P/PHXSJDT-NCS-20120724/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG.

Reservations must be made by June 26, 2012 to ensure the government room rate of \$89.00 plus tax for our block of rooms. Should you decide to upgrade, pricing may be different.

The **Doubletree Paradise Valley Resort/Scottsdale** hotel, winner of the prestigious AAA Four Diamond Award, offers luxury, resort amenities, and visually stunning Sonoran Desert views on 22 acres of lush, tropical paradise in Scottsdale, Arizona. This *Diamond in the Desert* is just minutes from **Scottsdale Fashion Square Mall** (the largest mall in the Southwest), Arizona State University, and the hundreds of shops, boutiques, galleries, pubs, and eateries in historic **Old Town Scottsdale**.

Ground Transportation from the Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport to DoubleTree Paradise Valley Resort

Rental cars are available at the Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. You may want to make reservations ahead of time. The drive from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport to the DoubleTree Paradise Valley Resort is approximately 12 miles (20 minutes).

Self parking and valet parking is complimentary.

Another alternative is Super Shuttle service is available to and from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX). Contact Super Shuttle at 1-602-244-9000 or use the website link: <http://www.supershuttle.com>. The average cost is \$17.00 per person (subject to change).

Inside Scoop: Downtown Scottsdale

- 100+ [art galleries](#)
- 85+ [restaurants](#)
- A vibrant [nightlife](#) scene, boasting 50+ bars, lounges and nightclubs
- More than 50 [public artworks](#)
- Hundreds of boutiques and shops, and [Scottsdale Fashion Square](#), home to Arizona's first and only Barneys New York
- 20+ hip, urban [hotels](#), offering rooftop pools, patio bars and upscale lounges
- Free [Downtown Trolley](#) service - 7 days a week, 12 months a year
- Free parking