



Mid-America Intergovernmental Audit Forum

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Date: October 14, 2011

To: Members, Associates, and Participants

From: 

Executive Director – Luis Escalante, Jr.

Subject: Winter 2011 Meeting

The Mid-America Intergovernmental Audit Forum's (MAMIAF) winter meeting will be held on Thursday and Friday, December 1-2, 2011, at the Kansas City Airport Marriott Hotel, Kansas City, Missouri. The meeting's theme is “**Auditing in a Time of Scarce Resources.**” It seems that government never has the resources its practitioners would like, but now, with high unemployment and an uncertain revenue picture, jurisdictions at all levels continue to feel the squeeze. December's Forum speakers address the money crunch from a variety of viewpoints:

- Government efficiency often starts with spending money where it's most needed. **Ben Hart**, Former City of Olathe, Kansas, Director of Resource Management, **John Curran**, Olathe, Kansas, City Auditor, and **Gary White**, Kansas City, Missouri, City Auditor, will share their experiences with using *Performance Measures and Citizen Surveys* to take stock of service delivery in their cities.
- Fraud in government programs is a constant problem, never more so than in times of scarce resources. **Glenn Brock**, Computer Specialist, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will head up a panel session on *Data Mining and Fraud Investigations*.
- It can be a struggle to convince policymakers that auditing adds value, and that cutbacks in audit agencies' budgets are counterproductive. **Scott Frank**, Kansas Legislative Post Auditor and **Tom Schwiech**, Missouri State Auditor, will touch on this and more when they talk about *Issues Facing the Forum's Newest State Auditors*.
- Soaring interest rates is only one of the possible effects of what's around the corner if the federal government can't rein in spending. **Sue Irving**, Director for Federal Budget Analysis, U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), will give us a preview of the *U.S. Public Debt: Measurement, Trends, Fears, & Facts*.
- Doing more with less can mean being resourceful. **Justin Stowe**, Deputy Post Auditor, and **Dan Bryan**, Senior Auditor, of the Kansas Legislative Division of Post Audit, have some tips for *Taking Advantage of Free (or Nearly Free) IT Products*.

In addition, we'll have presentations on changes you need to know about *2011 Government Auditing Standards* (Marcia Buchanan, Assistant Director, U.S. Government Accountability Office), the *10 Most Common Audit Issues* (Tom Schwiech, Missouri State Auditor), and *High Impact Audits* issued by Forum attendees.

The meeting's two-day registration fee of **\$165** includes breaks, a continental breakfast and lunch on Thursday, December 1st, and 11 continuing professional education (CPE) credits. A one-day registration fee is available for **\$145**. The Kansas City Airport Marriott Hotel is offering a standard room rate of \$99.00 per night [prevailing federal government lodging per diem rate], plus applicable taxes. The hotel is holding a limited number of rooms, so please reserve your room on or before Tuesday, November 8th, by calling (800) 228-9290 or (816) 464-2200 and identifying yourself as an attendee of the Mid-America Intergovernmental Audit Forum.

By way of background, the MAMIAF's area covers the states of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. The MAMIAF is an association of audit representatives from federal, state, and local governments and representatives of state societies of certified public accountants. The primary purpose of the association is to promote communication, coordination, and cooperation among the members' audit agencies to facilitate the effectiveness, efficiency, and usefulness of audits.

You may view the tentative agenda, register for the meeting, and obtain updated information on the Forum's website at <http://www.auditforum.org/onlineregister.htm>. If you have any questions about the meeting or hotel accommodations, please contact me at (214) 777-5693 or by e-mail at escalantel@gao.gov. Or, contact Sally Manning at (214) 777-5704, or by e-mail at mannings@gao.gov. If you register for the meeting, please ensure that your office's computer system will accept my email address, for I will periodically communicate with meeting registrants via email. We look forward to seeing you in Kansas City for a terrific program!