

Event Agenda

NCPERS 2026 Annual Conference & Exhibition (ACE)

Sunday, May 17, 2026

12:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Registration Location: Palace Registration Desk
1:45 PM - 2:45 PM	First-Timers Reception Location: Florentine Ballroom I, Promenade Level
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Speaker Lounge Location: Tarranto Room, Emperors Level
3:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Opening General Session Location: Palace Ballroom I Speakers: Hank Kim, Kabrina Feser
3:15 PM - 4:00 PM	General Session: Staying the Course When It's Hard: Lessons in Pension Funding Discipline Location: Palace Ballroom I Speakers: Ryan Barrow, Mike Lamb, Danny White ; Facilitator: Hank Kim
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Exhibit Hall Opening Reception Location: Palace Ballroom

Monday, May 18, 2026

6:00 AM - 7:00 AM	ACE Fun Run (RSVP requested) Location: Palace Ballroom Foyer
6:30 AM - 5:30 PM	Registration Location: Palace Registration Desk
6:45 AM - 7:45 AM	Breakfast Location: Florentine Ballroom
8:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Speaker Lounge Location: Tarranto Room, Emperors Level
8:00 AM - 8:15 AM	General Session Opening Address Location: Palace Ballroom I Speaker: Hank Kim
8:15 AM - 8:50 AM	General Session: Economic & Market Outlook: Navigating Risk and Opportunity for Public Pension Funds Location: Palace Ballroom I Speakers: Lee Ferridge, Marta Norton, Scott Dohemann ; Moderator: Hank Kim
8:50 AM - 9:30 AM	General Session: Annual Investment Consultant Panel: Strategic Perspectives for Public Pension Funds Location: Palace Ballroom I Speakers: Sam Frymier, Ian Leverich, Jarred Glansbeek ; Moderator: Hank Kim
9:45 AM - 10:30 AM	Breakout Session: Uncorrelated Returns - Using Real Assets and Private Capital Strategies to Engineer and Enhance Total Fund Performance Location: Emperors Ballroom I Speakers: Benjamin Blakney, Jay Braden, Bob DeBolt ; Moderator: Liam Guilfoyle

9:45 AM - 10:30 AM	Breakout Session: Securities Litigation Update: Key Trends and Considerations for Public Pension Funds Location: Emperors Ballroom II Speakers: Frederic Fox, Serena Hallowell, Joshua Ruthizer
9:45 AM - 10:30 AM	Breakout Session: Private Credit Opportunities in Maritime Location: Roman Ballroom III Speaker: Bryan Schneider ; Facilitator: Will Dupree
9:45 AM - 10:15 AM	30-Minute Insights: Building a World Class Investment Office to Secure Our Members' Future Location: Roman Ballroom IV Speaker: Robert Holley ; Facilitator: Tracy Scott
10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	30-Minute Insights: Private Real Estate in a Shifting Macro Environment: What Should Allocators Be Watching? Location: Roman Ballroom IV Speaker: Sean Armstrong ; Facilitator: Tracy Scott
10:30 AM - 5:30 PM	Exhibit Hall Open Location: Palace Ballroom III
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Paws for Wellness Location: Palace Ballroom III Foyer
11:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Exhibit Hall Refreshment Break Location: Palace Ballroom III
11:45 AM - 12:30 PM	Breakout Session: The Future of Public Pensions: Leading Through AI-Driven Transformation Location: Emperors Ballroom I Speakers: Sherrie Grabot, Dillon Edwards, Mike Kelly ; Facilitator: Mike Linynsky
11:45 AM - 12:30 PM	Breakout Session: A New Global Investment Regime: Where Growth Is Emerging and How to Invest Location: Emperors Ballroom II Speakers: Olga Bitel, Patrick Riley ; Facilitator: John Neal
11:45 AM - 12:30 PM	Breakout Session: Evolving Pension Plan Design: Case Studies and Practical Strategies Location: Roman Ballroom III Speakers: Melanie Walker, Michelle Boyles, Jordan McClane, Tom Viciente, Brad Ramirez ; Facilitator: Kathy Harrell
11:45 AM - 12:15 PM	30-Minute Insights: What Does the Future Hold? Actuarial Projections and Risk Analysis Reporting Location: Roman Ballroom IV Speakers: Kelly Adams, Maria Simmers, Matthew Eckel
12:30 PM - 1:00 PM	30-Minute Insights: Future-Proofing Public Pension Systems Location: Roman Ballroom IV Speaker: Dexter Cunningham
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Lunch & Lecture: Wealth Conversations That Matter Location: Palace Ballroom I Speaker: Brian Leitner
2:15 PM - 3:00 PM	Breakout Session: Managing Pension Risk in a Complex Economic Environment Location: Emperors Ballroom I Speakers: Kevin Woodrich, Julian Regan, Amrit Summan ; Facilitator: David Harer
2:15 PM - 3:00 PM	Breakout Session: How Investing Is Changing: Technology, Data, and the Blurring of Market Boundaries Location: Emperors Ballroom II Speakers: Rodolfo Martell, Ben James ; Facilitator: Thomas Ross
2:15 PM - 3:00 PM	Breakout Session: From Framework to Implementation: Integrating Evergreen Private Equity and Asset-Backed Private Credit in Pension Portfolios Location: Roman Ballroom III Speaker: Philip Bauer ; Facilitator: Bob Parise

2:15 PM - 2:45 PM	30-Minute Insights: From Back-Office Check to Front-Line Defense: Death Audits & Fraud Prevention Location: Roman Ballroom IV Speaker: John Bikus ; Facilitator: Tracy Scott
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM	30-Minute Insights: The Bigger Picture: What's The Real Cost of Bond Investing? Location: Roman Ballroom IV Speaker: Danny Sarnowski ; Facilitator: Tracy Scott
3:45 PM - 4:30 PM	Service Providers Town Hall Meeting Location: Emperors Ballroom I
3:45 PM - 4:30 PM	National Committee Election Location: Emperors Ballroom II
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM	Exhibit Hall Networking Reception Location: Palace Ballroom III

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

6:45 AM - 5:30 PM	Registration Location: Palace Registration Desk
6:45 AM - 7:45 AM	Breakfast Location: Florentine Ballroom
8:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Speaker Lounge Location: Tarranto Room, Emperors Level
8:00 AM - 8:45 AM	General Session: The U.S. Housing Landscape: Market Dynamics, Consumer Trends, and Investment Implications Location: Palace Ballroom I Moderator: Steve Hagenbuckle ; Speakers: Nick Vician, Deborah La Franchi, Michael Chiao
8:45 AM - 9:30 AM	General Session: CIO Perspectives: Positioning Public Pension Portfolios Location: Palace Ballroom I Moderator: Steven Meier ; Speakers: John Skjervem, Stephen Gilmore, Hank Kim
9:45 AM - 10:30 AM	Breakout Session: Beyond Core Allocations: Unlocking Alpha Through Asset-Based Private Credit, U.S. Lower Middle-Market Private Credit and Extended Equity Location: Emperors Ballroom I Speakers: Chris Schiavone, Scott Couto, Colin Caneff ; Moderator: Perry Giovannelli
9:45 AM - 10:15 AM	30-Minute Insight: Beyond Fortune Tellers and Oracles: What is Investment Skill? Location: Emperors Ballroom II Speakers: Rick Ratkowski, Matthew Eckel
9:45 AM - 10:15 AM	30-Minute Insights: Pension Plan Hygiene Location: Roman Ballroom III Speaker: Eric Atwater ; Facilitator: Tracy Scott
10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	30-Minute Insights: The Important Role of Venture Capital in Public Employee Retirement Systems Location: Emperors Ballroom II Speakers: Kwesi Quaye, Michele Chow-Tai, Matthew Eckel
10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	30-Minute Insights: Empowering Better Retirement Decisions Through Modern Financial Literacy Tools Location: Roman Ballroom III Speaker: Joshua Merck ; Moderator: Steph Robinson
10:30 AM - 3:30 PM	Exhibit Hall Open Location: Palace Ballroom III

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Exhibit Hall Refreshment Break Location: Palace Ballroom III
11:45 AM - 12:30 PM	Breakout Session: Essential Infrastructure as Fixed Income: From Credit Framework to Capital Deployment Location: Emperors Ballroom I Speakers: Sarah O'Malley, Jason McGaugh ; Facilitator: Frank Ramagnano
11:45 AM - 12:30 PM	Breakout Session: Shifting Power in U.S. Markets: What Deregulation Means for Investors Location: Emperors Ballroom II Speaker: Darren Robbins ; Facilitator: Thomas Ross
11:45 AM - 12:15 PM	30-Minute Insight: United States Power Market Location: Roman Ballroom III Speakers: Saad Qais, Matthew Eckel
12:30 PM - 1:00 PM	30-Minute Insight: AI Comes for Fixed Income Markets Location: Roman Ballroom III Speakers: Anthony Woodside, Matthew Eckel
1:00 PM - 2:15 PM	Awards Recognition Luncheon Location: Palace Ballroom I
2:30 PM - 3:15 PM	Breaktout Session: Agriculture and Farmland Investing: Diversification and Income Opportunities for Public Pension Portfolios Location: Emperors Ballroom I Speakers: Julie Koeninger, Jamie Shen ; Facilitator: David Harer
2:30 PM - 3:15 PM	Breakout Session: Modernize or Optimize? A Practical Roadmap for the Future of Pension Administration Location: Emperors Ballroom II Speakers: Frank Karpinski, Jessica Hurley
2:30 PM - 3:00 PM	30-Minute Insight: What Social Security Can Learn from Public Pension Plans Location: Roman Ballroom III Speaker: Jaininne Edwards ; Facilitator: Tracy Scott
3:15 PM - 3:45 PM	30-Minute Insight: Trustee Oversight in a Changing Disability Landscape: Actuarial Risk, Legal Drivers, and Best Practices Location: Roman Ballroom III Speakers: Patrick Messmer, Tracy Scott
4:00 PM - 4:30 PM	National Committee Executive Board Election Location: Roman Ballroom IV
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM	Networking Reception Location: Emperors Ballroom

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

6:45 AM - 7:45 AM	Breakfast Location: Florentine Ballroom
7:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Registration Location: Palace Registration Desk
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Speaker Lounge Location: Tarranto Room, Emperors Level
8:00 AM - 8:45 AM	General Session: The Institutional Intelligence Advantage: How Artificial Intelligence Transforms Value Creation Location: Palace Ballroom I Speakers: John Polis, Angela Rodell, Patrick Messmer

8:45 AM - 9:30 AM

General Session: Securities Litigation in Transition: Regulatory Shifts, Trustee Strategy, and Market Accountability

Location: Palace Ballroom I

Speakers: Omar Davis, Erin Woods, Jonathan Compretta

9:30 AM - 10:00 AM

General Session: Pension Plan Administration: Best Practices for Trustees and Administrators

Location: Palace Ballroom I

Speaker: Todd Flessner ; Facilitator: Ginger Sigler

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM

General Session: Retiree Healthcare and OPEB: Trends, Costs, and Sustainable Strategies

Location: Palace Ballroom I

Speakers: Suzanne Taranto, Christian Goodman, Steve Schatt

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM

General Session: The Downside of Comingled Investments

Location: Palace Ballroom I

Speakers: Domenico Minerva, Lisa Strejla

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

General Session: The Hidden Costs of Indexing: Passive Indexing May Be More Active than You Think

Location: Palace Ballroom I

Speaker: Robert Harvey