

IC 9/13



Monica I. Mezzapelle
COMMISSIONER OF THE TREASURY

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
STATE TREASURY
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May 19, 2020

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

The State Treasury requests to place this item on the Consent Calendar.

The New Hampshire State Treasury requests authority to continue its membership and participation in the National Association of State Treasurers ("NAST"), 449 Lewis Hargett Circle, Suite 290, Lexington, KY 40503, vendor code 175889 (R001), for fiscal year 2021, in the amount of \$15,700 for continued access to information, communication, subscription to the daily NAST newsletter, publications, and resources and conference briefing materials. The funds are 44.6% General Funds, 55.4% Other Funds (College Savings Plan management fee revenues and Abandoned Property Program).

Funds are available in the following accounts:

		<u>FY2021</u>
01-38-38-380010-1050-Treasury Operations	026-500251 Organizational Dues	\$ 7,000
01-38-38-380510-8021-Abandoned Property	026-500251 Organizational Dues	\$ 2,700
01-38-38-381010-1047-UNIQUE Program	026-500251 Organizational Dues	<u>\$ 6,000</u>
		<u>\$15,700</u>

EXPLANATION

The National Association of State Treasurers promotes the highest ethical standards, fosters education and the exchange of innovative advances, builds professional relationships, develops standards of excellence, and monitors public policy for the benefit of the citizens of the states. Membership is comprised of all state treasurers, or state finance officials with comparable responsibilities, from the United States, its commonwealths, territories, and the District of Columbia. NAST is instrumental in developing and promoting standards of excellence regarding ethical conduct, policy guidelines, accountability, and other best practices. A copy of the 2021 membership renewal invoice is attached for your review.

Listed below are the State Treasury's responses required for Governor and Council organizational dues and membership approval submissions.

1. How long has this organization been in existence and how long has this agency been a member of this organization?

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NAST has been organized as an affiliate of the Council of State Governments since 1985. Former New Hampshire Treasurer Georgie Thomas became a member of the organization in 1987, and the NH State Treasury has remained a member since that time.

2. Is there any other organization which provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to?

No. As the only association which solely represents the interests and views of state treasurers, NAST provides important resources to treasurers and members of their staff by offering education, advocacy, and outreach. Members have exclusive access to valuable expertise through internet-based and live educational forums, conferences, and networking with peers.

3. How many other states belong to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member?

All 50 states are members of NAST and its three affiliated networks. There are no other NH state agencies with membership in NAST.

4. How is the dues structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on state population, based on other criteria, etc.)

The dues structure for Treasury Operations is based on the population of a state. There are five pricing tiers, with New Hampshire in the lowest-cost tier based on population.

The National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators, State Debt Management Network, and College Savings Plan Network dues are established as a standard fee for all states.

5. What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?

NAST serves its members through educational conferences and webinars, a variety of working groups, policy advocacy and publications that provide information about developments in public finance.

The state receives the following benefits from its participation in the four programs:

- Voting privileges for the business of all four program affiliates
- Reduced conference fees for all Treasury employees who attend a NAST Conference and up to \$4,000 in scholarship funds to defray the cost of conference attendance (please see #8 below)
- Access to all NAST publications
- Promotion and recognition on all four association websites: www.nast.org, www.collegesavings.org, www.sdmn.org, www.unclaimed.org
- NAST monitors federal legislation and promotes public policy that benefits state agencies who administer the four programmatic areas listed above, as well as the citizens of all 50 states
- Treasurers are kept informed regarding best practices and innovations to equip their offices to be more efficient and secure in the management of data

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- Most recently, as we deal with the economic and fiscal impact resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, NAST has been actively involved and leading with legislative formulation as well as working with agencies to implement the new laws.

6. Are training or educational/research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included? Explain in detail.

Yes, NAST provides training/education opportunities in a number of formats:

- NAST conferences provide state agencies a forum to learn about and discuss best practices and innovations in the four programmatic areas listed above. The conferences also provide attendees with numerous networking opportunities with their peers in other states. Registration fees are charged to states' members at the discounted rate of \$500-600 as compared to the nonmember rate of \$850-900 depending on the conference.
- NAST provides webinars to members in all four programmatic areas listed above. These webinars are provided free of charge to members.
- NAST maintains a repository of state-issued RFPs, RFIs, and other similar documents in all four areas listed above. These documents are provided free of charge to any member seeking this type of assistance from NAST.

7. Is the membership required to receive any federal grants or required in order to receive or participate in licensing or certification exams? Explain.

No.

8. Is there any travel included with this membership fee? Explain in detail any travel to include the number of employees involved, the number of trips, destination if known, and purposes of membership supported trips.

No travel is required, however travel to and from NAST Conferences can be expected, although the Treasury exercises discretion in the frequency of its attendance at NAST Conferences. As a member of the Treasury Operations program, an annual scholarship in the amount of \$4,000 is available to help defray travel expenses to attend NAST Conferences scheduled throughout the year (a maximum of \$2,000 per conference).

9. Which state agency employees are directly involved with this organization? (Indicate if they are members, voting members, committee members, and/or officers of the organization.)

The Treasurer is a voting member of NAST, State Debt Management Network ("SDMN"), College Savings Plan Network ("CSPN") and National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators ("NAUPA"). In fiscal year 2020, NAST implemented an enhancement that allows each State Treasurer to designate an unlimited number of staff members as associate members of NAST and its affiliates. In prior years, there was a \$100 surcharge to assign these privileges to each additional staff member.

10. Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if the Agency did not belong to this organization.

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The Treasurer and staff would not have access to cost-effective training/education opportunities and research materials available to NAST members. Additionally, the Treasurer might not be informed regarding critical issues affecting Treasury operations and developments in public finance, particularly as we deal with the fiscal and economic impact resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Through New Hampshire's membership in NAST, the State has had a voice in many significant changes in government finance and other programs benefiting the citizens of this state.

Respectfully requested,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Monica I. Mezzapelle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'M' at the beginning.

Monica I. Mezzapelle
Commissioner of the Treasury

National Association of State Treasurers

Invoice

Including College Savings Plans Network, State Debt Management Network, and National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators

Date	Invoice #
4/22/2020	300000982

Bill To
Monica Mezzapelle New Hampshire State Treasury 25 Capitol St., Rm 121 Concord, NH 3301 United States

Member Information
Monica I Mezzapelle New Hampshire State Treasury 25 Capitol St., Rm 121 Concord, NH 3301 United States

PO	Terms	Due Date
	July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021	July 1, 2020

Date	Description	Amount
4/22/2020	Treasurer Tier 1	\$6,000.00
4/22/2020	CSPN Voting Membership	\$6,000.00
4/22/2020	NAUPA Agency Head	\$2,700.00
4/22/2020	SDMN Voting Membership	\$1,000.00
	Total	\$15,700.00
	Balance Due	\$15,700.00

Alternative Payment Methods

- **Check** – Make payable to NAST and mail to 449 Lewis Hargett Circle, Suite 290, Lexington, KY 40503
- **Electronic Payment** – If you wish to pay by ACH, fax, or other form of payment, please contact Kathleen Young at (859) 276- 1193 or at registration@statetreasurers.org.