



The AFP of Western New York presents its  
March 2026 Meeting

**Sponsored By**



**Wednesday March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
**Located at DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel**

**1111 Jefferson Road, Rochester NY 14623**  
**(585) 475-1510**

**THE ASSOCIATION FOR FINANCIAL PROFESSIONALS OF WESTERN NY**

The Association for Financial Professionals of Western New York is a non-profit, educationally oriented organization, which provides a forum for the active and open exchange of concepts and techniques related to the practice of cash and treasury management. Today's membership represents a wide cross section of local industry professionals. Membership is open to individuals from businesses and non-profit organizations, financial service vendors and banks. A free flow of ideas and information is encouraged and maintained among the Association's members.

Each year, the AFPWNY bases its education program decisions on participant response to the previous year's programs. This process ensures that topics addressed during each seminar reflect the most prevalent issues, and that the information provided is on leading edge technologies. Conference attendance continues to flourish resulting from feedback received from attendees.

AFPWNY encourages member participation in the National Association for Financial Professionals (AFP). In addition to offering a wide range of continuing education opportunities, professional certification and industry standards programs, the AFP has become an invaluable resource for disciplines represented in organizational and corporate treasury areas. Together with affiliate organizations, AFP works to increase professional skills and to enhance the recognition and credibility of the treasury management profession.

**Conference Schedule and Speaker Information**

*This Conference is requesting approval for up to 1.2 CTP/CCM and 1.2 FP&A recertification credits by the Association for Financial Professionals at the rate of one credit for each 50 minutes of attendance.*

**Registration: 12:00 PM**

**Lunch: 12:15 – 1:00 PM**

**Program: 1:00 – 2:00 PM**

**Topic:** “Rates & the Dollar: Navigating Markets in an Age of Uncertainty”

**Speaker:** Ralph Axel, Director U.S. Rates Strategist – Bank of America Global Research

**Session Description:** As global markets navigate one of the most uncertain macro environments in years, understanding the path forward for U.S. interest rates and the dollar has never been more critical. We are honored to welcome Ralph Axel, Director and U.S. Rates Strategist at BofA Global Research, whose expertise has shaped market thinking for more than a decade. Ralph will share his outlook on the future trajectory of rates and the U.S. dollar, highlight the structural forces shaping today's markets, and discuss what treasury and finance professionals should be preparing for as volatility and uncertainty evolve throughout 2026

## **Speaker Information**



**Ralph Axel**  
**Director, U.S. Rates Strategist**  
**Bank of America Global Research**

Ralph Axel, who joined Bank of America in June 2010, is a specialist in government and agency funding markets with special interest in swaps and futures. He focuses on drivers of interest rates and how changes in rates impact our economy. Research publications include Global Rates Weekly, Liquid Insight and World at a Glance. He was a #1 ranked analyst in the 2021-2025 Institutional Investor /Extel Surveys. Previously, Ralph was a rates strategist at Deutsche Bank Securities, where he specialized in European agency bonds. Before that, he was a proprietary bond trader at Lehman Brothers in NYC. He received a Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Illinois after his bachelor's in mathematics from UMass.

## Menu Information (In-Person Attendees)

### Lunch:

- Plated lunch option of Grilled Salmon, Grilled Chicken, or Kabobs with Shrimp
- Mixed greens salad
- Warm rolls & butter
- Seasonal vegetable
- Chef's starch selection
- Coffee, tea, and lemonade