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A View From the SOA's Staff Fellow for Retirement

By Andrew Peterson

In the June issue of *Pension Section News*, this column highlighted financial wellness as a current hot topic and the call for essays on that subject conducted by the SOA's Committee on Post-Retirement Needs and Risks (CPRNR). The June issue featured the first prize essay, "Calculating ROI: Measuring the Benefits of Workplace Financial Wellness," by Greg Ward and this September issue features two more essays from among the prize winners: "Fighting Procrastination for Financial Wellness: Harness the Power of Inertia" by Tianyang Wang and "My Financial Wellness Solution: The 401(k) as a Lifetime Financial Wellness Solution" by Jack Towarnicky.

Continuing on the theme of writing opportunities, I'd like to highlight a new call for essays. Over the last several years, the SOA's CPRNR has invited essays that address diverse risks in retirement and financial wellness. The call for 2017 focuses on the theme "Securing Future Retirements: Innovations in Planning Strategies, Financial Products and Employee Benefit Plan Structure." The primary motivation of this call is to identify potential solutions, whether they are existing products or strategies or innovative ideas that will assist workers and retirees to better prepare for retirement. The intent is to include not just planning strategies but also financial products that can be used for individuals or benefit plans.

The deadline for essay submission is Nov. 1, with winners selected by Dec. 31, 2017. As an incentive to participate and encourage strong entries, \$10,000 in prize money has been allocated for this call for essays. The prize committee will



select the leading essays and determine how to allocate the prizes. Depending on how many essays are received and the diversity of the topic areas, suitable venues for publication and dissemination will be selected. Typically we have featured select essays at an SOA meeting, webcast, or other professional development event. More information is available at www.soa.org/research-ops/2017-securing-future-retirements/.

I encourage you to think about what ideas you can contribute to this year's CPRNR essay call. As always, we welcome your feedback, ideas and suggestions. ■



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