



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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## Section Highlights

# THE VALUE OF SECTION MEMBERSHIP

BY MEG WEBER

**WHY DO PEOPLE** belong to SOA professional interest groups, aka “sections”? To ensure sections stay relevant, we ask members this question frequently. We ask them via the SOA member and candidate surveys. We ask them in individual section surveys. We ask them in person. We also ask people why they don’t belong to sections. Sections are the grassroots organizations of the SOA. We use these answers as well as other sources to keep member benefits current.

Why people say they belong:

### ENHANCE JOB PERFORMANCE

*“Sections provide me with specific and practical information to enhance job performance and opportunities.”*

- Section members are people engaged in their careers. Sections attract a variety of people: non-actuaries, younger members looking ahead, members breaking into new roles, and actuaries who want to be up to date with technical and industry trends in their areas of practice. From low interest rates to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), these times are rich in content! While all sections have stepped up the frequency and depth

of their member communications, in 2013 a few are taking it to a new level. The following sections are piloting new online services available to their members only:

- Health Section members only—*Health Affairs*
- Investment Section members only—EBSCO news feed
- Management & Personal Development Section members only—getAbstract.

If you are a member of one of these sections, don’t miss out on these resources. Access is password protected and is contracted for members of those sections only.

### NETWORKING IS A PLUS

*“Sections provide networking for me.”*

- The 2012 Annual Meeting had over 20 face-to-face section-sponsored networking events. During the course of the year, over 60 events were held. A similar number is expected in 2013, and some events are held in conjunction with local clubs.

- Virtual networking. Seventeen of 19 sections have members’ only LinkedIn groups. Joint Risk Management has the most discussions and participants.

### ENHANCED PERSONAL REPUTATION

*“Section membership enhances my personal reputation or brand.”*

- The purpose of sections is to advance the profession by assisting members with education, research, networking and other specialized needs that arise. Members want to be a part of these groups in a recognized way.

Although officers and voting rights have some restrictions, section membership and opportunities to participate are open to anyone. What keeps you current with your profession? Let me know. 

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**LEARN MORE** about professional interest sections at [SOA.org/sections](http://SOA.org/sections).