



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

Article from:

Product Matters!

June 2013 – Issue 86

Chairperson's Corner

Hats off to Our Volunteers!

By Paula Hodges

The more time I spend involved in SOA activities, the more amazed I become at the proportion that is completed through the efforts of its numerous and talented volunteers. Currently serving in my third year on the Product Development Section Council, I am very grateful to be part of such a great organization.

Much of the activity you see being done by the Society of Actuaries would be impossible without the involvement and generous contributions of its member volunteers. The following is just a small snapshot of examples where members, just like you contribute their ideas, knowledge and expertise. Not to mention their valuable time:

- **Research projects.** Volunteers are responsible for selecting research topics, determining how much section funding to make available for each topic, serving as members of the Project Oversight Group (POG) which is responsible for reviewing research results, and following through to ensure that research results are communicated to section membership.
- **The Life and Annuity Symposium.** Did you know that volunteers create the agenda, write the session descriptions, and recruit the speakers for the sessions—and many speakers are volunteers as well?
- **Our upcoming Preferred Underwriting Seminar**, which will be held in August. The idea for this was conceived by one of our very active Friends of the Council, Al Klein, and, as with the Life and Annuity Symposium, the entire agenda and speaker recruiting is done by volunteer efforts.
- **Product Matters!** We publish this newsletter three times per year, with articles recruited, written and edited by volunteers.
- **Webcasts** are like single-session meetings and are scheduled to communicate important information to our membership and others in a manner that reaches more people than those who attend the other meetings. Like sessions at the meetings, they are choreographed and recruited by volunteers.
- **The SOA Annual Meeting.** While the Life and Annuity Symposium is focused more directly on the subject matter that is the heart of our section, the Annual Meeting hosts about a dozen sessions that are sponsored by the Product Development Section, which means that the volunteer members of this section are responsible for the content and delivery.

Your membership in our section helps to fund many of these activities, and we constantly seek to provide more value to you. If it weren't for the tireless contributions of our volunteers, the cost of these offerings would be prohibitively higher.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the support of the SOA staff in delivering these as well. They provide exceptional organization, structure and continuity to the volunteers. So thank you to the staff of the SOA as well.

When the section council election ballot is delivered to your inbox in a few weeks, please understand the role that will be undertaken by those who choose to enter their names on that ballot. Make your vote count, and thank those who are willing to take on the challenge of maintaining the quality programs that the SOA provides. □



Paula Hodges, FSA, MAAA, is 2nd vice president and associate actuary with Ameritas Life Insurance Corp., responsible for Corporate Actuarial Operations. She can be contacted at phodges@ameritas.com.