



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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Chairperson's Corner

By Audrey Chervansky

Thanks to all of you who completed the survey that we sent to all members last May. In the survey, each respondent was asked to choose up to five activities that they wanted the Section to support. Based on the results shown below, the consensus seems to be that educational opportunities are the top priority for our members. Of course, this is based on only 190 responses (out of 2,091 members)—so perhaps those of you with more altruistic tendencies were too busy helping others to respond!



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Answer	Response	%
Sponsor general seminars on various topics of interest to our membership (i.e., legislative updates, risk transfer, capital solutions).	134	71%
Advanced Reinsurance Topics seminar (similar to boot camp format).	123	65%
Sponsor reinsurance forums for various functions (i.e., administration, valuation, contracts) to share best practices/ideas/concerns.	113	59%
Consolidated listing of reinsurance resources (i.e., literature request) for use by members and non-members.	93	49%
More/major research.	77	41%
Sponsor quality outside speakers at industry conferences.	74	39%
More promotion of LEARN (Life Insurance Education and Reinsurance Navigation)—make available as podcast, online course.	63	33%
Sponsor social/networking events at industry conferences.	38	20%
Sponsor meeting attendance (i.e., ReFocus, ARC, AHOU) both to provide educational support and sharing within the section.	30	16%
Academic scholarships.	9	5%
Matching Actuarial Foundation/Actuarial Foundation of Canada donations from section members.	2	1%
Charitable contributions.	2	1%

Our plan is now to take this information and formulate our short- and long-term plans. On January 29th, the Section Council met face-to-face for an

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intensive planning session. Although we do meet monthly, we find that there is never enough time during our regular phone calls to think long term.

Some of the questions that we addressed are:

- How should we coordinate our activities with those of both the SOA and the American Academy of Actuaries' Reinsurance Section?
- How do we want to "brand" our Section? What are our goals and how do we want to achieve them?
- When should we offer the seminars and boot camps? Is it necessary to tack on to an SOA meeting or would we be able to draw enough attendees as a stand-alone event?
- How can we make the most of our networking events? Are they even needed? For the last few years, we have been promoting an event at both the L&A Symposium and the Annual Meeting.
- What is the best way to get more members involved?
- Why isn't research a higher priority for our membership? Is our budget too low to support truly important studies?
- There seems to be a good amount of interest in holding forums supporting the non-actuarial reinsurance functions as well. Have we been overlooking this segment of our membership/potential members?

Unfortunately, we will have to share the results of our planning session in the next newsletter—given the publishing deadlines. However, please feel free to share your own ideas with me or any of the council members at any time. We are always interested in your input! ■