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Joseph Koltisko, Newsletter Editor
(Chief Editor of this issue)
New York Life Insurance Co
51 Madison Avenue rm 1113
New York, NY 10010
ph: 212.576.5625 f: 212.447.4251

Nino A. Boezio, Newsletter Editor
(Chief Editor of next issue)
Segal Rogerscasey Canada
65 Queen St. West, Suite 2020
Toronto, ON M5H 2M5
ph: 416.642.7790 f: 416.304.0570

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SOA STAFF

Sam Phillips,
Staff Editor
e: sphillips@soa.org

Jill Leprich,
Section Specialist
e: jleprich@soa.org

Meg Weber,
Staff Partner
e: mweber@soa.org

Julissa Sweeney,
Graphic Designer
e: jsweeney@soa.org

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To join the section, SOA members and non-members can locate a membership form on the Investment Section Web page at www.soa.org/investment

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CHAIRPERSON'S CORNER 2012-2013 COUNCIL YEAR IN REVIEW

By Thomas Anichini

This year we initiated a few new efforts to keep you engaged and contribute to your continuing investment education syllabus. Here are a few highlights.

EBSCO BUSINESS SOURCE CORPORATE PLUS (EBSCO)

At the 2012 Annual Meeting, the Investment Section Council agreed to purchase access to EBSCO for section members. (Read my piece describing EBSCO elsewhere in this issue, "Your newest member benefit...") If you do not otherwise have access to EBSCO outside the SOA Investment Section, I think you will find this one of the most valuable aspects of your section membership.

Response to this new benefit has been stellar. The week we rolled out EBSCO, I received an unsolicited email from a section member that began: "Tom: Wow – this is truly awesome. Thank you so much for getting it done. And BTW I've never written the SOA to complement them before ..." So if you have not yet explored EBSCO, take some time to explore it and discover what one of your fellow section members finds so "truly awesome."

INVESTMENT SYMPOSIUM AUDIO RECORDINGS

For the first time, the Investment Symposium sessions have been recorded, thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Investment Section, and these audio recordings are available for purchase (\$20 for non-members, \$0 for Investment Section members) via the SOA web store. Visit the SOA website's Professional Development / Presentation Archives / 2013 Presentations page, where you will find a link to the 2013 Investment Symposium presentations.

The SOA's media team synchronized the audio recordings with the presentations, which I find makes the viewing experience virtually like that of a webcast. If you like what you hear make sure you attend next year's Symposium in person.

INVESTMENT CONTEST

Back in the fall, the council was contemplating some ideas to prompt social networking. Some ideas we considered included prediction contests, e.g., guess the price of gold, the price of oil, the level of the Dow, the yield on the 10-year Treasury, etc. Then we eschewed the notion of merely guessing numbers in favor of actually building portfolios and decided to hold an asset allocation contest.

In April, we solicited entries from section members and received about 120 entries. Entrants had to build portfolios using combinations of 10 exchange-traded products (ETPs). We are offering prizes in three categories: cumulative return, lowest volatility,

and highest reward/risk ratio, measured over nearly a six-month period. We will announce winners at our hot breakfast at the 2013 Annual Meeting.

The original intent of the contest was as a catalyst to social activity—so visit the section home page and look for the “2013 Investment Contest” link. You can see all the entrants’ names, results to date, and if you unhide all the sheets, their allocations and predictions.



Thomas M. Anichini, ASA, CFA, is a Senior Investment Strategist at GuidedChoice. He may be reached at tanichini@guidedchoice.com.

INTERACT WITH YOUR FELLOW SECTION MEMBERS AND YOUR COUNCIL

Chances are, on the contest workbook or our LinkedIn sub-group page, you will see some names of friends and former colleagues—ping them via email or say hello via LinkedIn. You may find most council members listed in the SOA member directory, and several of us are members of our LinkedIn sub-group. Share your feedback and suggestions with the council. As a team of volunteers, we are here to facilitate your ideas. 🍪

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE. VOLUNTEER.

WATCH A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY UNFOLD.

<http://www.soa.org/volunteer>

