



Article from

Risks & Rewards

February 2016

Issue 67

Chairperson's Corner We Are Lucky

By Jeff Passmore

As investment actuaries, we have the good fortune of working in one of the most dynamic and resilient areas of actuarial practice. It is dynamic in that change can come from the capital markets or by expanding and adapting an existing practice into a new geography or through new investment modeling techniques. Whatever the source, change presents us with professional challenges to keep our skills relevant. One important role of the Investment Section is to help us respond to these challenges.

As Investment Section members, we have the good fortune of having a large section with many talented professionals—almost 3,000 strong. We are also fortunate to have a financially strong section—this is a byproduct of both our large membership and the careful financial stewardship of prior section councils. We also have the benefit of having an energetic group of people on the council. Finally, we are fortunate to have wonderful support from the board and the Society of Actuaries (SOA) staff.

As a council, our challenge is to use these resources wisely to deliver value to you through your Investment Section membership. Some of this will be continuing to do those things our membership values. Some will be trying some new things—to deliver more value to existing members and to attract new or returning members. How? I am glad you asked.

PLANNED FOR 2016

Professional Development—Within the SOA, the sections provide the lion's share of the professional development content at SOA meetings and symposia. The Investment Section will continue to develop relevant professional content for investment actuaries and deliver this through our traditional venues:

- The Investment Symposium (NYC, March 14-15),
- The Life and Annuity Symposium (Nashville, May 16-17),
- The Valuation Actuary Symposium (Ft. Lauderdale, Aug. 29-30), and
- The Annual Meeting (Las Vegas, Oct. 23-26).

Networking Events—We will continue to reach out to other organizations to jointly sponsor social events and presentations for continuing education. When we are choosing where to hold these events, we look for other organizations with similar interests and venues where we have a significant presence with the potential to grow our membership. In 2016 these networking events will include:

- Networking Event and Presentation with the Society of Quantitative Analysts in New York City;
- Networking Event and Presentation with the CFA Society of Toronto; and
- Networking Event and Presentation with Premia in Washington, D.C.

Webcasts and podcasts—These are cost effective ways to deliver valuable professional development content to our membership in a format that is conveniently accessible. We are planning a number of these for 2016 beginning with the winner of the Redington Prize for an Outstanding Investment Actuarial paper. "Optimal Portfolios under Worst Case Scenarios" will be presented by its team of authors in late January, 2016.

Contests—We are working to keep our members engaged and have some fun with a number of contests including our annual Asset Allocation Contest, our Award for Outstanding Newsletter Article and through a membership drive to grow our ranks and make our section even stronger and more effective.

I hope that you share my enthusiasm for this exciting area of actuarial practice in which we work. I also hope that you feel fortunate for the many ways that the Investment Section helps you in your investment actuarial work. Please send me an email and let me know how we are doing and what we could do to be even more helpful to you.

Regards,

Jeff Passmore ■



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