



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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# Small Talk

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# What Is the Professional Development Committee and What's in It for You?

By Beth Grice, Terry Long and Judy Powills

## *The Professional Development Committee's Top 10 Facts:*

10. Otherwise known as the PDC, the Professional Development Committee is an SOA board of directors appointed committee.
9. The PDC was formed in 2009.
8. The PDC has overall responsibility for managing the development of the professional development (PD) curriculum (the content, method of delivery and resources provided to facilitate learning) reflecting the SOA's competency framework.
7. The PDC is charged with providing the highest quality learning experiences.
6. The PDC ensures that the PD program is focused on both current and forward-looking technical and non-technical content (state of the art).
5. The PDC ensures that the PD program makes use of instructional technologies to assure timeliness of, and broad access to (globally accessible), relevant and engaging programming.
4. The PDC fosters career-long learning.
3. The PDC is charged with ensuring that the SOA's PD program meets the needs of the profession and is aligned with the SOA strategic plan.
2. The PDC represents the SOA's constituencies including Canadian and international.

And No. 1 ...

The PDC represents you and your PD needs!

Approximately 75 percent of content developed for, and delivered to, SOA members comes from you—the sections! The sections and volunteers play vital roles in the planning,

development and delivery of the SOA PD program. 2014 looks to be an exciting year for section-sponsored PD offerings—section plans reflect an array of offerings targeted to member needs—meeting sessions, seminars, webcasts, podcasts and more. Congratulations to the sections!

If 75 percent of content comes from the sections, where does the rest of the SOA's PD programming come from? The SOA partners with other organizations, actuarial and non-actuarial. The SOA also enters into strategic alliances with other organizations. The PDC is responsible for considering these strategic alliances. For example, if an organization is interested in delivering a seminar, it is required to submit a strategic alliance form to the PDC. The PDC has the responsibility and authority to evaluate the proposals and make a decision as to the appropriateness of the relationship. The PDC also looks to SOA staff to set goals in support of the PDC's initiatives to develop and deliver quality curriculum to meet members' PD needs and support lifelong learning. Remember that the prequalification curriculum with new additions is available to the PD audience, too.

Learning technologies are rapidly changing. The PDC evaluates and makes recommendations for the adoption of new technologies to apply to PD programs—the best in webcasting, virtual sessions and podcasting. And, our e-Learning portfolio continues to expand, offering more for members' technical and non-technical knowledge and skill development.

In addition to overseeing the PD program for members, the PDC sets priorities on an annual basis to provide a comprehensive, progressive curriculum to meet upcoming needs. 2014 priorities include building/enhancing PD offerings for pension actuaries and actuaries internationally, offering more in the areas of business analytics and general insurance, conducting market research to better understand member needs and gaps, and letting you know about offerings and tools available. Did you know, for example, that

you can purchase a group of business and communication skills e-courses from BizLibrary: <http://www.soa.org/bizlibrary/>? Do you know about Tools for Actuaries: <http://toolsforactuaries.org/>? Check it out to find tools relevant to your development including books, e-books and training opportunities.

The PDC is a resource for you. Current PDC members representing the sections are:

- Beth Grice (PDC chair)—Health and Long Term Care Insurance Sections and liaison to the Health Meeting: [bgrice@humana.com](mailto:bgrice@humana.com)
- Peter Hayes—Pension and Social Insurance Sections: [phayes@eckler.ca](mailto:phayes@eckler.ca)
- Donald Krouse—Investment and Joint Risk Management Sections and liaison to the Investment Symposium and ERM Symposium: [dkrouse@aegonusa.com](mailto:dkrouse@aegonusa.com)
- Terry Long (PDC vice chair)—Product Development, Financial Reporting, Marketing & Distribution, Reinsurance, Smaller Insurance Company, and Taxation Sections and liaison to the Life & Annuity Symposium and Valuation Actuary Symposium: [tlong@lewisellis.com](mailto:tlong@lewisellis.com)
- Kevin Pledge—Actuary of the Future, Education & Research, Entrepreneurial Actuaries, Forecasting & Futurism, International, Management & Personal Development and Technology Sections and 2014 Annual Meeting Chairperson: [kevinpledge@gmail.com](mailto:kevinpledge@gmail.com).

The other PDC members are Jennie McGinnis (board partner), Lorne Schinbein (Education Executive Group curriculum chair), Genghui Wu (international constituency), Mike Boot (SOA managing director—Sections & Practice Advancement) and Judy Powills (SOA senior director of Curriculum and Content Development). PDC members are also assigned to board-appointed teams including the Issues Advisory Committee, the International Committee and the Transfer Knowledge Team.

The PDC wishes to thank the sections for their contributions. Feel free to call upon us as your sounding boards for your ideas about PD content and delivery! ●

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**Beth Grice**, FSA, MAAA, is actuarial director at Humana, Inc. in Louisville, Ky. She can be reached at [bgrice@humana.com](mailto:bgrice@humana.com).



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**Terry Long**, FSA, MAAA, is senior VP and consulting actuary at Lewis & Ellis, Inc. in Overland Park, Kan. He can be reached at [tlong@lewisellis.com](mailto:tlong@lewisellis.com).



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**Judy Powills** is senior director, Curriculum & Content Development, Education, at the Society of Actuaries. She can be reached at [jpowills@soa.org](mailto:jpowills@soa.org).

