



Article from

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CHAIRPERSON'S CORNER

By Pam Hutchins

By the time you read this, my year as chair of the Smaller Insurance Company Section (SmallCo), along with my three-year tenure on the council, will be winding down. Being part of SmallCo has been a great experience. It is an opportunity to practice leadership and more importantly, to help make a difference for smaller company actuaries. It is also an opportunity to work with a great group of council members and “friends” of the council. While we have nine council members, I count 27 “friends” of the council on our listserve, with at least one-half of those actively involved in our regular activities. For many years, Norm Hill was one of our most active “friends” (and a former council member). Norm recently passed away while attending the SOA Life and Annuity Symposium. He was a mentor and good friend to me and he will be sorely missed. Norm is the subject of the cover article in this edition of *Small Talk*. I think you would have to look back more than 10 years to find an edition of *Small Talk* where he did not contribute at least one article, so we will all notice his absence.

Our friends and council members contribute in many different ways, some with just a few hours contribution on a specific task and some with many hours on tasks like organizing a webinar or editing this newsletter. It is important to know that we welcome both small and large contributions and that all the contributions contribute to SmallCo's purpose.

The SmallCo bylaws contain a “Purpose” section which states:

The purpose of the **Smaller Insurance Company Section** within the Society of Actuaries is to encourage and facilitate the professional development of its members and affiliates through activities such as meetings, seminars, and the generation and dissemination of literature pertaining to the unique problems which face actuaries employed by small life insurance companies. The section focuses on methods, techniques, and solutions that do not require the more extensive actuarial resources available to large companies, and provides a forum where professionals working in a small company environment can discuss their special concerns.

Your section council continues to keep this purpose in mind and to focus especially on generating practical information to help you do your job as a smaller company actuary.

By the time you read this, SmallCo will have sponsored four webcasts and various sessions at the Life and Annuity Symposium and the Valuation Actuary Symposium, and planned sessions for the annual meeting. While we had plans for five webcasts at the start of this year, additional opportunities to co-sponsor webinars with other sections have arisen so SmallCo will likely have been part of seven webinars by the end of 2015.

SmallCo continues to search for opportunities to participate in research, focusing on research with practical implications that go along with SmallCo's purpose. SmallCo currently participates on two SOA research project POG's—the first related to the Low Interest Rate Environment and the second to New Product practices. Through the webcasts we sponsor, we raise funds that we then spend on research that benefits our members. If you have research ideas, please contact any of the council members.

Thanks to section members who completed the member survey sent out in May. We had excellent participation on the survey and we are actively working on analyzing the information that was gathered. On June 23, we sent emails to those survey participants who won a gift card in the random drawing.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

We can always use additional volunteers. As noted earlier, you don't have to be an elected member of the council to contribute to SmallCo. We welcome additional volunteers and we will work with you to find a role of interest to you. I plan to continue my involvement after my last year is completed because I find that being involved generates more back to me and my company than I give, and, it is fun and interesting. If you are interested in volunteering, our calls are usually on the third Thursday of each month between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. central time. Contact Jennifer Foster (jfoster@soa.org) at the SOA for details and to be added to the contact list. To contact any council member, look for contact information on the [SmallCo Web page](#).

Enjoy this edition of *Small Talk*. ■



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