



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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# The Value of Section Membership

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Leaders build talent for the future even as they manage for today's needs, always asking themselves, "Am I prepared for what's next?" As they do so they invest in themselves by constantly learning better ways to lead others, their company and themselves. The goal of the section, its council and the Society of Actuaries (SOA) is to give our members the tools to do just that through the use of the educational outlets available through the SOA. In addition, we are exploring additional features that we can add to section membership this year that are outside the normal scope of the SOA.

As the Management and Personal Development (MPD) Section embarks on its 2013 season, we can reflect on what we've learned and accomplished for our members in the past and determine the section's future direction through the results of our recent member survey. The section had over 200 respondents to the yearly survey this year. The results of our survey indicated that we've been successful in providing our members with valuable experience and ideas through our *Stepping Stone* newsletter, educational sessions at SOA meetings, and book reviews and discussions. All notes indicate that *The Stepping Stone* is a key benefit of section membership and that the annual breakfast/book review and networking sessions at SOA events are also well received.

In the future we feel that we have the opportunity to improve the section experience by adding additional webcasts, focusing on topics involving leadership and negotiation skills, and continuing the high quality of *The Stepping Stone* newsletter. It is worth noting that the idea of additional section webcasts was received with great enthusiasm, and that individuals as well as companies are interested in pursuing this option, especially if they can qualify for professionalism credits. In addition, we hope to offer our members additional benefits over the next year with a greater use of Web-based communications, including the MPD website at [www.soa.org/mpd](http://www.soa.org/mpd), and our new LinkedIn group at <http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4397530>.

In conclusion, I can welcome you all to the 2013 season of the MPD Section. With every issue throughout the year I'll be updating you on the progress of the council, the achievements of our members, and the leadership events we have upcoming. As always, feel free to contact me directly through the LinkedIn group with any thoughts, ideas or suggestions. ●



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