



Article from

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First Time for Everything

By Michael Adams and Steven Chin

We would like to thank Madeleine Zhang for all her wonderful years serving as the editor for the *Actuary of the Future (AOF)* biannual newsletter. She has done a great job transitioning us as co-editors for this newsletter. The Fall 2015 issue is the first issue we had the opportunity to work on together, and there were things that we needed to prepare for.

Writing an article is never an easy task; editing a newsletter is a whole different ballgame.

The timeline for publishing a newsletter is a lot wider in time than we had anticipated. To get an *AOF* newsletter published by November, we like to have all articles submitted and reviewed by September. This gives the Society of Actuaries (SOA) ample time to review, format and publish these articles. As a professional organization, we are grateful for the quality checks the SOA performs and all the support that Karen Perry, outgoing publications manager, has given us throughout this process.

In order to get enough articles to create a full and rich newsletter, we coordinate and contact any volunteers who would like to write an article. Sometimes this involves reaching out to ex-

perts in the field to gauge their interest in publishing. This process affords us the opportunity to meet very bright individuals and explore different actuarial disciplines to which we aren't accustomed. Additionally, we've learned how similar being an editor is to project management with your internal team and the client. Communication and project management play a key role in acquiring enough writers and getting quality articles submitted for publication.

Potential article topics are screened by the AOF Section Council to ensure that they align with our goals.

We generally allot a few months for authors to work around their schedules and write their content with the aid of a stylistic guide that we provide. We do our best to respond to any questions in a timely manner, but everybody involved in the process understands that we are all donating our time outside of business hours to accomplish this goal.

We admire all the volunteers who take the time to write a unique article and all the hard work they put into it. Without all of our volunteers submitting articles, we wouldn't have a newsletter to publish that holds up to the high standards of the

AOF. The actuarial industry has such a unique blend of individuals, and we enjoy the privilege of hearing what people have to say about their careers and what they are passionate about. The process brings to light the fact that we work with such great people who are driven toward spreading the word of actuaries and who we are as a profession. We can both agree that all the people we get to work with through the SOA and the AOF Section are some of the brightest minds we have encountered. ■



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