



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

Article from:

CompAct

January 2008 – Issue 26

Letter from Incoming editor

by Howard Callif



The Technology section council met at the annual SOA meeting in Washington, D.C., and discussed plans for the next year. There was a luncheon for all section members, and Paula Hodges was presented with a memento for her hard work and leadership as council chair (see accompanying picture). A hearty "thank you" to all of the council members for their hard work and effort for the Technology Section over the past year.

As part of the transition, I will be taking over as Editor of CompAct from N. D. Shyamalkumar (a.k.a. Shyamal). Shyamal has done a superior job as editor, and he will be a tough act to follow. Our goal is to provide valuable information in every issue, and Shyamal has done more than his share to ensure that the

newsletter is useful to all of our members. We extend a special "thank you" to him for his hard work!

We will definitely try to address some major items from the survey of our members in upcoming issues of the newsletter. Several areas stood out as items members wanted to learn more about: Actuarial software (valuation and pricing), Communication software; Project management software; Data warehousing/management, and Grid computing/distributed processing. We already have someone working on an article on Grid computing for the next issue. We will be working to provide articles on many of the other topics, but we will need your help. Addressing some of these topics is difficult, since they require technical and detailed understanding of complicated topics. The members of this section have this knowledge, and we need you to volunteer to "step up" and share it with the community.

For example, a specific suggestion from the survey was to have an independent assessment of various valuation platforms, and how companies are using each. This could be a comprehensive review of the software, including how it is used "in the field." Although this type of article would require a significant amount of input and expertise, we could provide a valuable resource to the actuarial community. We could also review pricing software, either as part of the same article, or as a separate project. If you are interested or able to provide guidance on this topic, please contact me, or one of the council members.

We also welcome other suggestions and comments, especially regarding ideas you have on how this newsletter can provide value to you.

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