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SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

Technology  
Section

# CompAct

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER



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## COMPACT EDITORIAL

by Rich Junker

It seems difficult to imagine, but a recent survey by the Society of Actuaries' Section Membership Value Team was directed to a significant number of actuaries who are not members of ANY Sections. More difficult to imagine, the most frequent reason cited was that they were not aware of the existence of the Sections! I believe that this lack of awareness is attributable not entirely to deficiencies in the SOA's promotional efforts, but also to actuaries who are not fully meeting their responsibilities as members of a professional organization.

I understand well the demands of work, family and community that tug at all of us, particularly during the child-rearing years. Yet the best security we can provide our family and community lies in keeping our professional skills and our bonds with fellow actuaries strong.

Francis Bacon spoke long ago to our responsibility to our profession. I've not heard it recited in recent literature as often as in the past: I hold every man a debtor to his profession, from which as men of course do seek to receive countenance and profit, so ought they of duty to endeavor themselves by way of amends to be a help and ornament thereunto.

Speaking for myself, I have been episodically active as a volunteer through my career. Perhaps you, too, have been active in the past, and are considering how to identify an ideal new volunteer option. Maybe you are feeling stuck temporarily in the inertia of indecision. I

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suggest that writing for the Technology Section newsletter is an ideal way to make your reentry into service to your beloved profession.

The commitment is modest. A short article describing your joy in a simple Smartphone app qualifies as a valuable contribution. The benchmark of erudition is not at the level of a footnoted and integral-laden treatise à la the North American Journal!

Do give it thought, readers. And then begin to cascade your Technology Section leaders with your contributions!

#### **In this issue**

The subject apps for actuaries is a hot topic in the Technology Section right now. In "Apps for Actuaries," Kevin Pledge and Eddie Smith discuss several mobile apps that might be useful to you on the job. I also provide some interesting results from a technology survey I conducted at the Southeast Actuaries Conference meeting of June 15-17 in Naples, FL.

Rich Junker  
Co-editor CompAct

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