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SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES



Technology
Section

CompAct

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER



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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

by Jeff Pomerantz

Greetings! In this edition of my quarterly letter, I would like to highlight some of the key issues and hot topics for the Technology Section.

LinkedIn

As you may already be aware, we have a private LinkedIn group for section members. It is a great place to network and to share and gather information. LinkedIn provides an invaluable opportunity to keep abreast of the latest developments in technology as it continues to shape the future of our industry. There have been some interesting discussions out there on actuarial mobile apps, Microsoft Office 365, Technology Section webinars, and more. Currently, there are only 130 members in the group. That's only 12 percent of the Technology Section membership! I encourage you to join, check out the discussions, and participate (LinkedIn.com).

Section Elections

Section council elections are just around the corner, and we have an excellent slate of prospective council members who have volunteered to be on the ballot and take a leadership role for the different sections. They will be introduced to you soon, as part of the SOA election process. We have five candidates running for the Technology Section Council: Andrew Chan, Joe Chou, Richard Junker, Albert Moore, and Larry Zhao. Please check out their bios when available and vote!

I would like to thank our five candidates for their interest in serving

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[Howard Callif, Editor](#)

SOA Staff

[Meg Weber, Staff Partner](#)

[Sue Martz,](#)

[Section Specialist](#)

[Sam Phillips, Staff Editor](#)

the Council and also thank all of our current council members and friends of the council who work hard to keep our section going! Volunteers are critical to advancement of the profession, so if you haven't volunteered to serve the profession in some capacity, please consider doing so. I know that I and others have found it to be very rewarding and beneficial on many levels.

Other Technology News

SOA Table Manager

In case you hadn't noticed, the SOA just made it easier for you to search for and retrieve one or more of the 900-plus mortality and other rate tables stored on the SOA website. You can link to them via the Resources section on the [Technology Section home page](#) or at <http://mort.soa.org>. With just a few clicks, the data in these tables will be available in your own personal XLS, CSV or XML file.

Also, a Table Manager software update is coming as well. Version 4.0 is under development and was expected to be released in June. Future maintenance of the tables' database will make use of the XtbML file format for each table, rather than the binary format used by the Table Manager software, versions 3.0 and prior.

Professional Development E-Learning Opportunities

Recently, I was navigating the Technology Section site to see what else might be interesting that people may not be aware of. I found a link to PD e-Learning opportunities from the Technology Section web page. Check it out!

Mobile Online SOA Directory

The SOA launched a new mobile interface to the Online Directory. Access it on your mobile phone at <http://m.ActuarialDirectory.org>

Life and Annuity Symposium

I am happy to report that we had two engaging technology sessions at the Life and Annuity Symposium in New Orleans in May—one on high performance computing and one on apps for actuaries (slides are available online). There were also two technology sessions at the Health meeting in June in Boston. Thanks to Bill Scheel, Adam DeConinck, Meg Weber, Kevin Pledge, Jason Flick, Tim Moberly and Jennifer Gillespie for speaking at these sessions.

On a related note, there will be a regular feature in future CompAct newsletters on apps for actuaries, so be on the lookout for that as well.

Southeast Actuaries Conference

Rich Junker, an active Technology Section member and CompAct co-editor, presented on technology topics at the Southeast Actuaries Conference on June 16. Thanks, Rich! As I mentioned before, volunteers are critical to our success.

Section Membership Value

Back in April, we had a meeting of Section Chairs in which we discussed membership value—what it means and how best to enhance it. Whether it's enhanced networking opportunities, better online resources, more communication (e.g., from the SOA), or something else, I am interested in hearing what the SOA, and the Technology Section specifically, can do for you to make your membership more meaningful. Please also consider getting involved as a volunteer as well. Please feel free to contact me directly at jeff.pomerantz@qrm.com or e-mail sections@soa.org and provide your feedback.

Please reach out to any of the council members listed inside the front cover of this newsletter with your ideas or to volunteer.

Thanks, and happy reading!

Jeff Pomerantz
2011 Section Council Chair

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