



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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FROM THE CHAIR

REFLECTIONS ON THE PAST YEAR

By Steven C. Chamberlin

This is our last issue of 2011 and my last column as section chair. Past council members don't tend to fade away in this section, but continue to contribute as Friends of the Council. Serving on the section council has been a rewarding experience for me and I plan to remain active.

Before passing the torch to next year's chair and our newly elected council members, I'd like to look back at some of our accomplishments over the past year:

- *TAXING TIMES* continues to be recognized as an important forum for life insurance taxation. Our newsletter has addressed important topics such as the implications of Actuarial Guideline 43 on variable annuity tax reserves, developments in principle-based reserves and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and how they might impact tax reserves, various Section 7702 issues and a myriad of other issues of interest to life insurance companies and their policyholders.
- What could be more fun than spending a couple days in Orlando in March learning about life insurance tax reserves? That was a popular way to spend spring break as our Tax Reserves Seminar was well-attended. Our section recognizes that many actuaries don't have formal training in this area, and there are always new developments. We'd like this seminar to become a fixture on the SOA calendar every couple of years.
- Our section also sponsored a "What is CARVM?" webinar to discuss actuarial guidelines and their implications for tax reserves. It provided current guidance on tax reserves for in-force variable annuity guaranteed living benefits, Actuarial Guideline 43 implementation issues and current annuity reserve audit issues.
- At the Life and Annuity Symposium, we sponsored a breakfast and three other sessions providing current information with an emphasis on tax issues of interest to product actuaries.
- At the Valuation Actuary Symposium, we are also sponsoring a breakfast and a session on current federal income tax topics for life insurers. After the symposium, we are

sponsoring a seminar on "U.S. Federal Income Taxation of Life Insurance Companies." It is designed to provide an overview of the key tax issues faced by life insurers and insight into the computation of taxable income of life insurers.

- We are sponsoring four sessions at next month's annual meeting in Chicago. Be sure to join us for an "Introduction to Company Tax," "Health Tax Reserve Issues," "Introduction to Life Insurance Product Tax Issues" and "Current Developments in Life Insurance Federal Income Tax."
- Our section organized the Necessary Premium Task Force last year. This group created a survey designed to gather information on how companies' administrative systems are currently applying the necessary premium test. Results of that survey will be presented at our breakfast session at the annual meeting.

I'd like to thank the other council members for their hard work over the past year. In addition, I greatly appreciate the contributions of the newsletter authors and editors and the speakers at sessions we have sponsored in the past year. Our affiliate members have provided a lot of that content, and we benefit greatly from their accounting and legal perspectives. I'd also like to thank our SOA staff partners, Meg Weber and Christy Cook, for their support in the past year.

Last, but certainly not least, I'd like to thank Jim Reisky for giving me a push when I needed one three years ago. I was unsuccessful the first two times that I ran for this council. I was ready to give up at that point, but Jim convinced me to give it another try. I have gained a lot from this experience and I would encourage others to contribute to our profession any way that they can. You truly do get more out of it than you put in. ◀

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