



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

Article from:

# The Financial Reporter

June 2012 – Issue 89

### 2012 Section Leadership

Rob Frasca, Chairperson  
Matthew Clark, Vice Chairperson  
Daniel Harris, Secretary/Treasurer  
Craig Reynolds, Board Partner  
Mark Alberts, Council Member  
Henry Egesi, Council Member  
John Roeger, Council Member  
Craig Ryan, Council Member  
Bill Sayre, Council Member  
Mark Yu, Council Member  
Kerry Krantz, Web Site Coordinator

### Content Managers

Lisa Markus, Newsletter Editor  
e: [lisa.markus@pacificlife.com](mailto:lisa.markus@pacificlife.com)

Michael Fruchter, Associate Editor  
e: [mfruchter@kpmg.com](mailto:mfruchter@kpmg.com)

### SOA Staff

Sam Phillips, Staff Editor  
e: [sphillips@soa.org](mailto:sphillips@soa.org)

James Miles, Staff Partner  
e: [jmiles@soa.org](mailto:jmiles@soa.org)

Christy Cook, Project Support Specialist  
e: [ccook@soa.org](mailto:ccook@soa.org)

Julissa Sweeney, Graphic Designer  
e: [jsweeney@soa.org](mailto:jsweeney@soa.org)

Published by the Financial Reporting Section  
Council of the Society of Actuaries

This newsletter is free to section members. Current issues are available on the SOA website ([www.soa.org](http://www.soa.org)). To join the section, SOA members and non-members can locate a membership form on the Financial Reporting Section Web page at [www.soa.org/fr](http://www.soa.org/fr).

This publication is provided for informational and educational purposes only. The Society of Actuaries makes no endorsement, representation or guarantee with regard to any content, and disclaims any liability in connection with the use or misuse of any information provided herein. This publication should not be construed as professional or financial advice. Statements of fact and opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily those of the Society of Actuaries.

© 2012 Society of Actuaries.  
All rights reserved.

## Chairperson's Corner

By Rob Frasca

The special interest sections in the Society of Actuaries are grass roots organizations formed by actuaries with a common interest and the desire to advance that interest through collaboration with other actuaries (and related professionals) around the world. The sections started in 1981, with the formation of the Health Section, and the number has grown over the years to the 19 special interest sections in existence today.

The Financial Reporting Section was one of three sections formed in 1982 (the Pension Section and the Product Development Section were the other two), and it has grown in time to become the largest section, currently with more than 3,800 members. From its start, the Financial Reporting Section has sought to provide a forum in which actuaries interested in financial reporting could organize and communicate, to develop the means of addressing the needs unique to their specific area of interest. Out of this shared interest arose many of the educational activities that support the financial reporting actuary today. Financial reporting specialty seminars, the financial reporting sessions at actuarial meetings, the *US GAAP for Life Insurance* textbook and the periodic webcasts on emerging financial reporting issues are all products of the Financial Reporting Section. In addition, the Financial Reporting Section has funded research in a wide range of emerging areas, from fair value reporting to model efficiency to financial statement disclosure. Through its education and research activities, the contribution that the Financial Reporting Section has made to the financial reporting actuary, and to the actuarial profession in general, is evident.

Yet, as the Financial Reporting Section prepares to celebrate its 30th birthday, we must recognize how its role continues to evolve in the face of a changing world and a changing profession. The boundaries between actuarial interests, as represented by the various sections, continue to shift and to overlap, requiring us to collaborate more closely with other sections in order to address our members' needs. Financial reporting issues are becoming more global, requiring us to expand our reach beyond the United States and Canada to include the range of relevant perspectives. Even the definition of what an actuary does continues to shift, requiring us to reach out to other professions (accountants, economists and information technologists, for example) to cover aspects of financial reporting issues that actuaries need to appreciate but cannot understand fully on their own. All of these developments will require the Financial Reporting Section to change and to adapt.

Although the details of how it fulfills its goals may change, the fundamental mission of the Financial Reporting Section remains the same—to provide a forum in which financial reporting actuaries may communicate, exchange ideas, obtain education and conduct research in order to advance their distinct corner of the actuarial universe. While it may seem odd to consider a 30-year-old organization with close to 4,000 members as a grass roots movement, it is important for us all to consider the value that we as members of the Financial Reporting Section bring to our profession and to recommit to the sharing of knowledge and the development of research into financial reporting topics that brought us together as an organization in the first place. ■



Rob Frasca, FSA, MAAA, is executive director for Ernst & Young LLP. He can be contacted at [rob.frasca@ey.com](mailto:rob.frasca@ey.com).