



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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Actuarial Meetings

- Nov. 21, Seattle Actuarial Club
 Nov. 28, Actuaries' Club of Des Moines
 Nov. 29-30, Actuaries' Club of the Southwest; Fort Worth, Tex.
 Dec. 11, Actuaries' Club of Hartford; Springfield, Mass.
 Dec. 13, Baltimore Actuaries Club
 Dec. 17, Chicago Actuarial Club
 Dec. 19, Seattle Actuarial Club
 Dec. 19, Actuaries' Club of Des Moines

To be Continued

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istics as to younger groups.

Otherwise the results should prove very useful to students of geographical differences. Some of the statistical strengths of these indices, particularly compared with other information available, are the following:

(1) In total there are more than 20 million life-years of exposure, for a comparatively recent time period.

(2) The two health insurance packages studied are uniform over all geographical areas, and not too atypical of hospital and physician packages in the private insurance area.

(3) The results should not be materially affected by varying degrees of insurance coverage, since essentially everybody over 65 is a Medicare enrollee, and neither program has particularly heavy cost-sharing.

(4) Both claims and exposure are classified by county of patient residence, rather than by the place where the service was rendered. This avoids the confounding which might otherwise result from persons crossing county lines to get medical attention.

(5) Although only one calendar year of experience has so far been published, results for 1970 can be expected soon. The county indices will be found to exhibit a good deal of time stability, at least over a one-year interval.

These indices throw considerable light on the facts of geographical variation of health insurance claims within the United States, but they are silent as to the causes of this variation. Those who believe that health claims are a function of climate, population density, average family income, number of physicians or hospital beds per thousand of population, or any other "explanatory variable" will find an opportunity to prove, or to disprove, their hypotheses. □

COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

by Paul A. Campbell

This Committee of more than 20 members was created in 1970 as a Special Committee. Its charge: identify and explore opportunities for the Society to help its younger members gain professional and personal benefit from membership and contribute effectively to the actuarial profession and the Society.

The initial efforts of the Committee consisted of research into every phase of Society activities, supported by an excellent heritage of actuarial literature as well as discussions held in nearly every actuarial club. The result of these studies was a comprehensive set of observations about the professionalism of the Society and its relevance to younger actuaries.

Nearly 20 specific recommendations were made and their effect, either direct or indirect, can be seen in several aspects of today's Society: informative programs about the Society for its members, studies of the feasibility of an actuarial research foundation, liaison between the Society and local actuarial clubs, and increased attention to actuarial principles and a "living" code of ethics. Perhaps the most important outgrowth is the creation of a Standing Committee on Professional Development.

During the last year a successful transition to full committee status was accomplished. The scope of Committee activities was expanded to recognize its relevance to all Society members, and another function was added: examination of the adequacy and attractiveness of Society activities to the members.

Three areas of activity have therefore been created: (1) examination of Society activities; (2) professional development of Society members; (3) motivated channeling of skills to meet the needs of the Society and the profession.

In our "think tank" sessions we have recognized the elusiveness of the concept of "professionalism." It is impossible to define as a simple specific goal in itself. However, the Committee has identified what it feels are the components of professionalism and thus established a number of potential research programs. These include the following:

- Actuarial responsibilities today and tomorrow.
- Development of mature actuaries.
- Actuaries and public positions.
- Independence of actuaries.
- Future needs for actuaries.
- Professional development in other organizations.
- A handbook for Society members.

Undoubtedly the Committee will create additional research topics in the future. Among the above issues, however, priorities have been established and three projects are underway.

One subcommittee is conducting research into the development of the F.S.A. into a mature actuary. This project involves creation of an initial definition of professionalism, programs to involve younger actuaries in the Society organization, formats for discussions of current real-life problems and short-and-long term orientation programs for younger actuaries.

Another subcommittee is developing a catalog of actuarial functions in order to identify present actuarial skills and establish the scope of our profession. This study could create a source of information for public relations and recruiting programs and serve as a base for identifying future actuarial skills. It is possible that research in this area could even contribute to the "supply and demand" issues of the future.

The third subcommittee is developing a handbook for members of the Society which would supplement the Year Book by providing descriptions of committees in some detail, guides to taking an active part in committees and meetings, public relations information about actuaries, and information about preparation and conduct of meetings.

Under the Committee procedure a number of members will retire at the end of this year. We would be glad to hear from any persons interested in serving on the Committee on Professional Development. Interested members should get in touch with the Executive Director, with H. Douglas Lee, or with the author.

Each of the above projects is an exciting program, and the list of subjects to be explored in the search for professionalism is endless. □