In The Public Interest

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IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

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This newsletter is free to section members. Current issues are available on the SOA website (www.soa.org).

To join the section, SOA members and non-members can locate a membership form on the Social Insurance & Public Finance Section Web page at *http://www.soa.org/sipf/*.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

By Rachel W. Killian

Dear SI&PF Section Member,

As I reflect on this publication, the first thought that comes to mind is what a fantastic group of actuaries we have that contributed articles for this round. There is so much going on in the actuarial arena right now and many actuaries are working long hours. However, even with all of that work, we found a group of authors willing to contribute their valuable free time to volunteer by writing thought provoking articles for our newsletter. Due to work and personal commitments, it wasn't easy, but they have delivered. Kudos for their hard work!

The social insurance and public finance sector encompasses a large actuarial audience. Given that, we have attempted to include articles that touch on the many different areas that the SI&PF section covers. Not only does the section include members in the United States but also other countries. In tribute to our international members, we begin this publication with an article written by Joseph De Dominicis on the Social Security system in Canada. By looking at the social insurance programs in other countries, we can compare and contrast the issues faced in the U.S. programs. We can do just that as we read another article contributed by Sam Gutterman. Sam has written a larger article that can be found on the SOA website. Unfortunately, due to its length, we are unable to include his original paper in its entirety; however, we have included an abbreviated version that will be published in two parts. The paper includes a link to the full paper for those readers interested in the subject.

For many, the "hottest" topic at the moment is health care reform. Thanks to Bob Tate and Dwight Bartlett for two articles related to the subject. Many do not realize the links of health care reform to social insurance and so we hope these two articles broaden your thoughts on the subject. Often people also think that health care reform is just about commercial insurance. However, it also touches both Medicaid and Medicare. Thanks to Rebecca Owen for providing a look into the population of dual eligibles that cross over both of those programs.

In continuation of inclusion of articles regarding the work of our section, the Pension sub-committee has included a piece on the valuable research that they are undertaking. We'll keep you posted on the outcomes of that research.

Also included in this publication are three additional articles that I hope you enjoy as much as I did. Did you know our section is four years old? Thanks to Valerie Paganelli for sharing her thoughts on how the section started and what it has accomplished. Further, we accomplished our first spotlight article on an actuary working in the public interest. Thanks to Bruce Schobel for participating in an inspiring interview on his role working as an actuary in the public interest. Lucky for me, I had the opportunity to be "the fly on the wall" during this interview. I learned so much from Bruce in the interview that I felt I had lived a lifetime with him. The article can be found under the section of the newsletter, "Let's Talk."

Last but not least, we have our second round of our Actuarial Tips and Tricks Corner through Andy Large's inspiring piece of what we should all consider in addition to our certification into the ranks of fellows in the Society of Actuaries. It's a light-hearted piece but one that can provide much thought.

Again, thanks to all who contributed. We couldn't do this without you!

Sincerely,

Rachel W. Killian

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