


LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

by Ardian Gill

For this, the Section's first newsletter, we ask tolerance for any rough edges that we have failed to hone. Aside from expressing thanks to the various contributors of the screeds appearing here, we want to acknowledge, with gratitude, the splendid efforts of the SOA staff who made the newsletter happen. In particular we are grateful for the help of Jill Leprich, Andy Peterson, Sam Phillips, Susan Lamczyk and Meg Weber. There are undoubtedly others who worked behind the scenes and we extend our thanks to them as well.

Readers of Jan Carsten's summary of our first Council face to face meeting must acknowledge the progress made on a number of fronts. For our fledgling efforts we have broadly addressed our mission of education and research into those public programs that need actuarial expertise. Now comes the hard part: we must identify at least one pilot project, structure that project, find the researchers and provide the funds to carry it out. The Council has scheduled monthly conference calls to further this effort. Aside from identifying what is wrong with a given program, we must propose ways to fix it.

Social Security and Medicare are obvious targets. The current situation with regard to these programs and various troubling projections of their financial future were laid out in a panel discussion at the annual SOA meeting. The presentations can be found on the SOA Web site for the panel "Forgive Us Our Debts," program number 127. Some general "fixes" were put forth which will serve as a starting point for the Section's work in these areas. We would welcome contributions from members and non-members on these or any other relevant public programs. Articles should be 1500 to 2500 words long. Please send them by e-mail to sipfsection@gmail.com 



Ardian Gill, FSA, MAAA

is president of Gill and Roser Life Intermediaries, Inc. in New York. He can be reached at agillr@aol.com