

SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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EDITORIAL

POUR ENCOURAGER LES ANCIENS

N GENERAL, the Society's treatment of its retired members is enlightened and humane. If our dues waiver system had not been adopted long ago, many of our five hundred pensioners would have succumbed to procrastination about paying those ever-climbing annual dues. The loss would have been theirs and ours.

We applaud also the choice more recently given these oldtimers: either to pay nothing and receive only general announcements (including this newsletter); or to remit a modest sum to get also the Transactions and other volumes. This has been beneficial to them and to the rest of our members.

But a correspondent has raised a question that we've never heard discussed: What meeting registration fee should be assessed to a retired member? Presently we charge the full, rather formidable, fee that applies to those who come to gain professional and business advantage from sessions, workshops and the helpful corridor conversations.

Our correspondent doesn't urge that a reduced or waived registration fee system be introduced for all who have qualified for dues waiver. He just wonders whether those who would like to come just to meet old friends and sample what is going on might be granted the privilege of paying only for "goods received", i.e., the reception and any luncheons or dinners. (He didn't mention the complimentary breakfasts). Such an arrangement would be made upon the member's personal request to an appointed authority; its availability would be mentioned in the meeting notice.

We commend this idea for discussion and experiment. Surely such requests will be few; the advantage would be measured in the pleasure given to them and to the active members who have known them or heard of them.

One other point. Our correspondent sent this suggestion, not recently, to the Society and Academy Presidents, but neither of these letters was ever acknowledged. This problem, associated doubtless with organizational growth and complexity, deserves attention.

FOR YOUR READING

The up-to-date edition of Robert J. Myers' famous Summary of the Provisions of the OASDI, HI and SMI Systems is ready for gratis distribution to those who request it by letter to Harry C. Ballantyne, Chief Actuary, Social Security Administration, Altmeyer Bldg. Ste. 700, Baltimore, MD 21235. Firms, Classes and Clubs: Please don't deplete the supply by ordering in bulk; request one copy and do your own duplicating!

"Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1981: Legislative History and Summary of OASDI and Medicare Provisions", by Commissioner of Social Security John A. Svahn, is to be found in Social Security Bulletin, October 1981/Vol. 44, No. 10, pp. 3-24.

"Graduation by Piecewise Polynomials: A Historical Review", by Hilary L. Seal, appears (in English) in Deutsche Gesellschaft Fur Versicherungsmathematik, Band XV, April 1981, pp. 89-114. This is of major historical interest in its field, covering graduation pioneering back to John Finlaison in 1829, and listing references up to modern times.

Actuaries aiming to delve into legal views of the Manhart case and of such questions as the significance and durability of life expectancy differences will do well to consult "Sex Discrimination in Employer-Sponsored Insurance Plans: A Legal and Demographic Analysis" by Lea Brilmayer et al, and "Reprise on Manhart" by Spencer L. Kimball. The former is in The University of Chicago Law Review, 47:505, 1980; the latter is in the American Bar Foundation Research Journal, 1980:915.

WELCOME NEWS

We extend hearty congratulations and best wishes to Harry C. Ballantyne, A.S.A., M.A.A.A., as he assumes the key post of Chief Actuary of the Social Security Administration. Harry has been in SSA actuarial posts since 1958.

E.J.M.