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Linda Emory



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## Editorial

# Evolution of the 'Year in Review'

by Linda B. Emory

This special report on the Society of Actuaries 1989-90 program year evolved from a desire to communicate the significant events of the year. SOA members expect an account from their Board of Governors of activities, and so the Publications Policy Committee proposed that an issue of *The Actuary* be entirely devoted to an "annual report," similar to those prepared by other organizations.

The Board adopted the proposal and the Committee gave *The Actuary's* editorial board a few general suggestions about content. The only directives were to "work with the outgoing and incoming Presidents and the Society office staff" and to, above all, "make it interesting."

With no precedent to follow, the Society Communications staff and I approached this first "annual report" with some trepidation. Many activities and events had to be considered for coverage in this brief document. How do you say enough and not repeat in-depth articles already presented? Does the Presidential Address say it all?

The first logical step seemed to be to poll all Board members, asking

them to let us know what they considered to be key SOA events and significant activities in the past year. We also studied Board minutes for major actions and asked for input by Society staff directors and department heads. After analyzing all the feedback, it seemed that an underlying current ran through most of the year's actions — laying the groundwork for programs that would continue to expand the reach of the Society and the scope of the actuarial profession. That led to the unifying theme, "Building bridges that span the globe."

After sifting through all the possible topics, we decided to briefly report significant events already covered extensively in previous articles in *The Actuary* and refer the reader to past issues for more detailed explanations. More space could then be devoted to other areas of importance that had not been previously reported in detail.

Thus, the SOA "Year in Review" evolved. If it presents valuable information to the SOA membership in an interesting way, then we have fulfilled our mission. Your comments and suggestions are most welcome.

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