



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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## IACA Meets, Reduces Dues 55%

**A**t the April 1998 biennial meeting of the International Association of Consulting Actuaries in Cape Town, South Africa, the organization's committee—its governing board—agreed to reduce annual IACA dues 55%, from US \$55 (or its non-US-currency equivalent) to US \$25. The reduction reflects the financial health of the IACA treasury, and is designed to encourage more consulting actuaries to join the IACA and participate in its conferences.

The committee also approved the next biennial meeting, to be held June 4 - 8, 2000, in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

The Cape Town meeting was attended by consulting actuaries from Australia, Canada, China and Hong Kong, Germany, India, Mexico, Netherlands, Philippines, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States, and Zimbabwe. National reports from each location covered the current status of government, finances, social insurance, pensions, private insurance, and the actuarial profession.

Professional papers were presented on the following subjects:

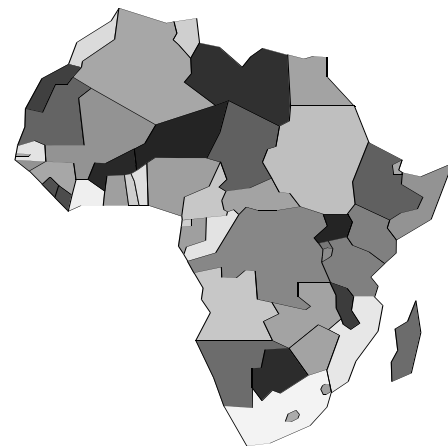
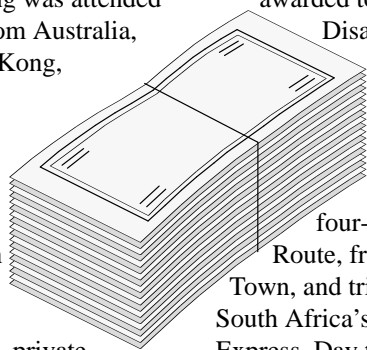
- Forensic litigation testimony in the UK and Ireland
- Trends in actuarial software
- The death of Confederation Life
- The actuary's role in certifying U.S. life insurance marketplace standards
- A survey of FAS 87 assumptions
- The role of the state in pensions
- Assumptions in local government pension plans
- Utility theory in defined contribution investment selection
- The new international accounting standards for pension plans.

The £500 prize for the best paper was awarded to "Avoiding

Disappointment in Investment Manager Selection," by the UK's Roger Urwin.

The social calendar was as full as the professional one. Events included a

four-day trip along the Garden Route, from Port Elizabeth to Cape Town, and trips on the "Blue Train," South Africa's equivalent of the Orient Express. Day trips to the Cape of Good Hope and Robben Island (site of Nelson Mandela's 17-year prison ordeal) were equally absorbing. And many of the



conferees used the occasion of a visit to southern Africa to view game drives in Botswana, Kruger Park, and Kenya, and to admire Zimbabwe's Victoria Falls.

Back at the meeting, Ron Walker of the U.S., was elected chairman; Rudd Sprenkels, of The Netherlands was elected vice chairman in charge of arranging the 2002 meeting in Europe. Dudley Funnell of the U.S., continues as secretary-treasurer. Newly elected representatives from the U.S. include Jay M. Jaffe, an insurance consultant, and Martha Moeller, a pension consultant. Conrad Siegel, a health and pensions specialist, continues as a U.S. representative.

### Papers to Note

by Judy Anderson

**D**eficits have been projected for the U.S. Social Security system in the near future, largely as a result of changing demographics. Policymakers and the news media, have been highlighting a variety of remedies, including radical changes in the structure of the system and investment of social security funds. The book *Prospects*

for *Social Security Reform* contains papers discussing potential policy issues, methods to assess the status of the system and practical considerations in reforming the current system. The papers, 18 in total, cover a wide spectrum of topics: from a new perspective on a money's-worth analysis to stochastic simulation for policy decisions; from

the opinions of the public to the effects on employers that sponsor pension plans. The book is edited by Olivia Mitchell, Robert Myers and Howard Young, and published by the Pension Research Council, University of Pennsylvania Press, 800-445-9880 or <http://prc.wharton.upenn.edu/prc/prc.html>.