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SOA Committee on Post-Retirement Needs and Risks

by Anna M. Rappaport

The SOA has restructured the Retirement Needs Framework Task Force into a new committee, the Committee on Post-Retirement Needs and Risks. The Committee and the associated interested parties include a variety of expertise. In addition to actuaries, the group includes economists, experts in survey research, policy experts, and attorneys. Anna Rappaport is chairing the new committee.

Past accomplishments of the Retirement Needs Framework Task Force include the Retirement Needs Framework call for papers, symposium and monograph, and the research on Post-Retirement Risks completed late last year. In addition the Task Force communicated with LIMRA and provided some input on concerns about post-retirement risk, and we also communicated with the group managing the Health and Retirement Study. There were two issues of *The Actuary* devoted to the aging society. Both looked at the aging society from a cross-practice perspective. The Task Force developed a Web page offering links on post-retirement risk. The original idea at the time of the first paper call was that the papers and symposium would be about data and modeling, and that after the symposium we would understand both of these topics well and know where to get data. That idea proved to be much too optimistic. We found that there were more questions than we had anticipated and much more future work to do. The new committee will be carrying on and expanding that work.

The new committee held its first meeting on May 29, 2002 and started to work on an agenda going forward. During the discussion the Committee exchanged information about work that is being done by the organizations represented by the committee members. There are active projects in several organizations. The Committee will be updating the Web site to offer links to more work, and to offer access to recent developments. The items selected for the initial agenda are as follows:

- Discussion paper on disconnects—areas where public perception of



post-retirement risk is out of step with reality. An earlier SOA study on public perceptions documents gaps in understanding post-retirement risk. LIMRA has also done a recent study. The two studies have overlapping findings and are generally compatible but cover different universes and issues. AARP and EBRI studies also show such disconnects.

- Chart on post-retirement risks. This will be an update of one of the charts in the Framework monograph.

- Focus on the definition of retirement. In the discussion, it became very clear that many people are working part-time in retirement. This is also confirmed by research. There are no consistent definitions of retirement used in cross research studies. Furthermore, as people work in retirement, there is no general understanding of what retirement is. A small group is going to start addressing this issue.

- Look at issues relative to annuities and wealth. A subgroup will be formulating a proposed project for the committee to consider.

- Do a second and expanded retirement risk survey in 2003. □



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