



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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# A VIEW FROM THE SOA'S STAFF FELLOW FOR RETIREMENT

By Andrew Peterson

**H**appy New Year! Is it possible that it is already 2015?

In this issue's "Chairperson's Corner," Aaron Weindling highlights the initiatives of the Pension Section Council and the different operational teams. As with any member-driven organization, the activities sponsored by the Pension Section only happen with the efforts of a strong core of volunteers. Aaron mentioned the names of both the outgoing and incoming council members. Beyond that, we have a core of ongoing council members (listed in the inside cover of this newsletter) and a whole host of other volunteers who serve on the other teams (Continuing Education, Research and Communications), not to mention those that serve on the Committee on Post-Retirement Needs and Risks, the Pension Finance Task Force (jointly sponsored with the American Academy of Actuaries) and one-off projects like research project oversight groups and more. As the staff partner to the Pension Section, I have the privilege of working with and getting to know a number of our SOA volunteers and I would like to publicly thank all of them for their service to the SOA and the actuarial profession over the last year.

In addition, I would like to also specifically recognize the work of the Retirement Plans Experience Committee (RPEC) volunteers, many of whom volunteered on the committee for the duration of the five year time period that it took to develop the new RP-2014 and MP-2014 mortality tables and projection scales. Their volunteer service has been herculean, particularly in this last year when the tables moved from exposure drafts to final reports. While I won't recognize them individually here (their names are in the reports if you are interested), I want to publicly thank them for their service to the profession, in what was often a thankless and underappreciated role.

As we start a new year, I'd like to highlight the 2015 webcast series that the Pension

Section will be sponsoring. The dates and currently planned topics for our core series follow in the table below and we expect to add a few more webcasts as specific hot topics develop.

Date	Topic
February 18, 2015	LTC & the Intersection with Retirement Security
April 22, 2015	Derisking or Risk-Shifting? Perspectives of Different Stakeholders
June 24, 2015	Creating Better DC Plans
August 12, 2015	Mortality Improvement Issues
October 7, 2015	Risk Sharing Plan Designs
December 17, 2015	Ethics in a Pension Context

We also are working on plans to again offer our one-day "Investment Boot Camp for Pension Actuaries" seminar based on the good feedback we received from the initial offerings in Chicago and Toronto in 2014. More details on that will be forthcoming.

Finally, if you think you would like to give back to the profession through volunteering, we have opportunities available, from short-term project-based opportunities to 1-3 year commitments participating on our operational teams. (Our Communications Team, in particular, could use additional members right now.) If interested in volunteering, feel free to contact me for more information. Again, Happy New Year! ■



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