



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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Letter From The President

POWER IN THE PEOPLE

BY DONALD J. SEGAL

TRADITION DICTATES that this space in *The Actuary* is usually reserved for the SOA president. This is the place where we talk about what's important to the profession, new initiatives at the SOA, and our potential for growth.

Well, I'm breaking tradition ... somewhat. I do want to say a few words about the importance of volunteering. I want to tell you that the people who volunteer for the various positions strengthen the SOA every day. They serve on committees and task forces. They construct and grade exams and review articles for our many publications. They join sections and participate in section activities, research and educational events. They moderate at special events and present papers at meetings. They serve as chairpersons, and Board members, and volunteer for other important positions at the SOA. I want to thank the hundreds of volunteers who continue to do important work and invite those who haven't yet found their volunteering niche to seriously think about doing so.

Now I'm going to hand the microphone off, so to speak, to a number of our members who donate their time and talent to the SOA and its many initiatives. They will tell you why volunteering is important and vital to our growth as an organization and our growth as individuals.

Thank you for your help. Thank you for your energy. Thank you for your gift of time.

THE VOLUNTEERS

The Actuary asked some volunteers various questions focused on the subject of volunteering. Here's what they said.

Q: What motivates you to volunteer?

A: I started volunteering because my employer wanted me to, due to an interest in particular topics and as a way to have input into those topics. Since then I feel that I have become a part of a community. Through this community, I have a way to impact what happens in the profession as well as observe up front how actuarial practices are evolving.

Donna Novak, ASA

I feel passionate about the importance of the issues I am working on. I also feel that volunteering has added greatly to my professional growth and been an important part of my life.

Anna Rappaport, FSA

I enjoy networking with other actuaries with different backgrounds and perspectives. Being involved on an education committee has helped me stay grounded in the fundamentals that I learned when taking exams.

Jacob McCoy, FSA

I began volunteering for the SOA because I wanted to give something back to the profession.

Volunteering is a great way to do that and it opens many doors for the volunteer.

Jerry Enoch, FSA

Like many actuaries, I am feeling some competition from other professions—economists, statisticians, etc. To counter this, I feel the need to make the profession even better so that we can maintain our status in the analytical and business community.

Joan C. Barrett, FSA

Q: How do you find time to volunteer?

A: Volunteering can take as little or as much time as you can devote. Everyone can contribute in some way. You are never too busy to volunteer; it's a mindset.

Larry N. Stern, FSA

I prioritize time commitments and work evenings and weekends.

Warren R. Luckner, FSA

I set aside a certain amount of time for volunteer work. Much of the time spent can be counted toward continuing education credits.

Donna Novak, ASA

While I had a full-time job, I made it a priority to be able to volunteer—I made it part of my job. I also was able to show many of the people I



Donald J. Segal

worked with the value of what I was doing.

Anna Rappaport, FSA

Finding time is always difficult because there are always work and family situations that need attention. Like everything else, you have to prioritize. If volunteering for an exam committee is important to you, then you'll find time.

Jacob McCoy, FSA

There is nothing like the basics of time management—setting objectives, priorities and schedules and sticking to them.

Joan C. Barrett, FSA

Q: What has brought you the greatest sense of satisfaction from volunteering?

A: Being able to interact with others and learn from them while teaching in return. Through volunteering I have had the opportunity to meet and work with many people I would not otherwise have met.

Larry N. Stern, FSA

A sense of accomplishment and making a contribution that is of value to the profession and ultimately to those who rely on our work.

Warren R. Luckner, FSA

When my son was in high school he Googled my name. He got pages of references and was very impressed. Many of the references were connected to my work with the SOA and the Academy.

Donna Novak, ASA

I believe I have been able to make important contributions to the actuarial profession, and that the work we have been doing in post-retirement risk has made important contributions to the retirement system in the United States.

Anna Rappaport, FSA

All the great individuals I met who were part of my speaking sessions.

Mark Whitford, FSA

I get a sense of accomplishment by looking into the past to see everything that has been done. e-Learning is such a dynamic process and there is so much to be proud of.

Jacob McCoy, FSA

My involvement with the Actuarial Foundation. It truly makes me feel like I am paying it forward.

Craig M. Baldwin, FSA

Completing goals, whether it is something as simple as coordinating a session at a meeting or seeing a research project through to completion.

Joan C. Barrett, FSA

Q: How has volunteering helped you grow professionally and personally?

A: I have learned a huge amount on technical topics, such as IFRS and PBA. I have met people that I think will be lifelong friends.

Craig W. Reynolds, FSA

As a self-employed consultant, many of the individuals I have met by volunteering have turned into business relationships. Many have become close friends. Professionally and personally, volunteering has resulted in immeasurable growth.

Larry N. Stern, FSA

Professionally, I have learned a lot from others involved during the process of completing various volunteer activities. Personally, I have learned a lot working with a variety of people with differing personalities, and developed friendships I otherwise would not have.

Warren R. Luckner, FSA

When you volunteer you interact with the best and most experienced actuaries in the profession on the most important and timely topics.

Donna Novak, ASA

I believe that what I learned from volunteering enhanced the quality of the work I did for my clients and my employer. I also believe it enabled me to bring valuable ideas to the environments I worked in.

Anna Rappaport, FSA

I've increased my actuarial contacts and my knowledge of my area of expertise.

Mark Whitford, FSA

To keep involved I have had to become more efficient and stay organized. No doubt this has helped me in all aspects of my life. When you have competing demands it makes you think about what is really important and what you have a passion for.

Jacob McCoy, FSA

It has helped me establish relationships that have lasted during my career.

Craig M. Baldwin, FSA

I am much more self-confident as a result of my volunteer work.

Joan C. Barrett, FSA

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VOLUNTEER HERE!

More information about volunteering can be found on the SOA website at www.soa.org/volunteer. Learn about the benefits of volunteering, the various ways you can donate your time, and the benefits to employers as well. **A**