



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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Letter From the Editor

by Jerry Enoch

Just a day or two before the December edition of *The Financial Reporter* is sent to Chicago for publication, I find myself writing this column for the first time, having just succeeded Tom Nace as editor of *The Financial Reporter* after a short apprenticeship. It may take me a while to feel at home in this position, but I hope that our readers don't suffer in the meantime.

I want to begin by expressing my appreciation for Tom Nace. Tom was editor of *The Financial Reporter* for three years. During that time, Tom recruited many articles and edited many more. If we multiply those articles by the number of readers, we recognize that Tom had a large influence on our section and profession. Many people owe Tom a debt of gratitude. Personally, Tom has been very helpful to me in my apprenticeship, and I expect to call on Tom's experience as I get accustomed to this role. For these, and other acts of service of which we are unaware, thank you, Tom!

Although I consider myself a generalist, the scope of the Financial Reporting Section is much broader than any individual I know. That being the case, I'm trying to determine how to best supplement my limitations to make this newsletter the best I can. I'll start with the obvious and proceed to the less obvious.

WRITE AN ARTICLE

Tom has previously expressed gratitude for actuaries who contacted him and said, "Would you like an article about...?" (the answer is usually, "Yes"). I have witnessed this in my limited experience, and the articles have been good. Don't assume that writing an article is beyond you, or is too difficult. Articles need not be long. You can simply say what you have to say and then quit! Most of us prefer to read shorter articles, anyway. And you can think of the editor as someone who is here to help you bridge any gap between your thoughts and the reader. Furthermore, from a professional standpoint we are all in the same boat: we have some experience; we lack some experience; we share knowledge to be more efficient.

SUGGEST AN ARTICLE

Writing an article might be difficult. Suggesting an article is not. If you find yourself wishing there were an article about a particular topic, simply write a message to jenoch@llic.com. In a few months, you just might see the article you hoped for. Unfortunately, there are many good articles that could be written that I won't think to ask for. Suggesting an article may be an easy and valuable service.

BE A HEALTH ACTUARY

Well, there's a little more to it than that. I have very little health insurance experience. I'd like a health actuary to volunteer to help me see that the needs of health actuaries are properly served by making sure that I recognize the needs of health actuaries and the opportunities to serve them. This should take very little work or time — I hope it would be fun. But it could be a big service.

BE A CANADIAN

Another of my limitations is that my work is confined to the United States, so this opportunity/need parallels the need for a health actuary. Having a Canadian to help me see that the needs of Canadians are met could be a great service to a segment of our membership.

The Financial Reporter is one of the greatest assets of our section. It multiplies the effort that is put into it. Let's make good use of this leverage.

In closing, I would like to thank the authors with whom I have had the opportunity to work so far. They have been very cooperative and a pleasure to work with, and I have benefitted from my involvement with their papers. I look forward to many other good experiences. ☒

- Jerry



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