



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

Article from:

The Financial Reporter

June 2003 – Issue 53

The Chairperson's Corner Feedback Needed!

by John F. Bevacqua

During the hot breakfast at last year's annual meeting in Boston, we conducted a survey of the members present, seeking to find out what the council has done well and where we can do better. With a surplus of over \$400,000, the section is well positioned to support a number of possible projects, and it is the intent of the council to use the membership's feedback to determine how to prioritize possible endeavors. We received over 50 responses with very positive feedback on what the council has done, and some helpful recommendations on what the council can do going forward.

Some of the highlights from the survey responses include:

- High marks for the section's newsletter, *The Financial Reporter*
- The majority of respondents have not yet visited the section's Web site
- Approximately 50 percent of respondents indicated that they have enrolled in the section's list serves
- The majority of respondents indicated that online education would be valuable.

In addition to these general comments, we also received a wide range of suggestions on possible research topics, seminars, online education topics, and webcasts. The section council reviewed these suggestions during our meeting in January as part of our goal setting process, and determined that it would be helpful to share the list of possible projects with the membership and get your feedback. Possible projects discussed by the council include:

- Research on mortality improvement
- Periodic webcasts about current events in the financial reporting area



- Co-sponsoring seminars with other professional organizations (e.g. AICPA).

Borrowing a page from the Futurism section, the council would like to use the feedback in a Delphi-type study, which involves sharing many of the responses that we receive from the membership and, in turn, getting responses about the responses to ensure that we are adequately addressing the needs of our membership. We therefore have posted a survey on the section's Web site that lists possible projects, as suggested in our initial survey, and asks respondents to indicate their strength of interest in having the council move forward with each.

Upon considering the possible projects, it is important to recognize the mission of the section, which is "to encourage and facilitate the professional development of its members through activities such as meetings, seminars, research studies, and the generation and dissemination of literature in the field of life insurance company financial reporting." We therefore ask that you consider your developmental needs, what medium would be most effective for you to meet these needs and how we can improve upon our traditional approaches.

Please visit the section's Web site and complete the online survey—I am sure that you will be impressed with the list of possible projects. ☒



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