



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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HEALTH SECTION NEWS



"For Professional Recognition of the Health Actuary"

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Chairperson's Corner

by Leigh M. Wachenheim

Like most of you, I really enjoy being an actuary. I'm thankful to be part of a profession that provides us with an opportunity to make a good living doing the type of work we enjoy, while contributing something really valuable to our society. Because we enjoy and believe in its value, most of us want to give something back to our profession, too. Not only do we want to ensure that

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Health Insurance Fraud

by Joe Campbell

Health insurance fraud is costing billions of dollars each year. A significant portion of the rising health insurance costs is due to fraud. How significant is it to you? This will depend on your company, and the control measures you have (or don't have) in place.

So, you are a small insurance company. Your claims are sky-high. Your CEO is sure there must be fraud involved. You are the actuary, with access to data. Suddenly, it's your job. So where do you start? This is my situation, so I'll explain some of the resources our company found to locate and eradicate fraud.

The Federal Bureau of Investigations in our area sponsors a quarterly meeting on



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Chairperson's Corner

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we will be able to enjoy the benefits provided by our career field for many years to come. We also want to pass the same opportunities onto others who will follow after us, who have the same interests and talent.

Fortunately, there are a remarkable number and variety of opportunities available to give back to our profession. I would ask that you take a moment and consider if and how you might get involved, today — if you aren't involved already. No matter what your forte, there are many opportunities to contribute. Consider these possibilities:

- *Writing:* If you like to write, consider contributing an article or letter to the editor to one of the many periodicals published by our actuarial organizations. These include, the *Health Section News*, *The Actuary*, *Contingencies*, and the *North American Actuarial Journal*, among others. These publications are also edited by volunteers, and opportunities to serve in that role also come up frequently.

- *Speaking:* The Health Section Council sponsors about 60 sessions every year at the Spring and Annual meetings. Several volunteers are usually involved with each session, including a session coordinator, moderators, presenters, and recorders. In addition, the Health Benefit Systems Practice Advancement Committee's Seminars Committee sponsors several seminars a year.

What many folks don't know is that they can be proactive in creating a speaking opportunity about a topic about which they feel passionately. If you would like to speak on a particular subject at a Spring or Annual Meeting, contact a member of the Council or the meeting coordinator. If you have an idea for a seminar, contact a member of the seminar's committee. (The names of council and committee members are listed on the Society's Web page.)

- *Research:* If research is your strength, consider getting involved with a project, either as a primary researcher or by providing guidance to others by serving on a project oversight group. The Health Section Council frequently lends financial support to research projects and is always looking for new projects to sponsor that will add value to our membership. Of course, research is also one of the primary undertakings of the Society, and opportunities to help are also available through the Committee on Health Benefit Systems Research.

- *Planning:* All of the activities listed above involve extensive planning. Consider running for the Health Section Council. (If you are interested in running this year, please let any member of the Council know by May 1.) Take a look at the list of health related committees under the direction of the Health Benefit Systems

Practice Advancement Committee. If you would like to serve on a committee, contact the chairperson and let him or her know.



Leigh Wachenheim

No doubt, there are times in life when one can do more than at other times. If you are at a point where time is hard to find, consider contributing in small ways. Take a few moments to fill out one of the surveys conducted by the Society, contribute to a Web discussion, or contact a member of the Council with a suggestion or new idea.

The examples I've listed here are just the proverbial tip of the iceberg of possibilities within the Society. In addition, many other organizations, such as the American Academy of Actuaries and local actuarial clubs, are also continually looking for volunteers.

In short, get involved when and where you can. It's an chance to give back to and advance our profession, have fun, and make new friends all at the same time!

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