



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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Chairperson's Corner

by Jim Toole

As incoming chair, in the year to come I will have the honor of working closely with SOA super star staff liaisons Martha Sikaras and Barb Choyke, incredibly motivated volunteers like newsletter editor Randy Makin, eight completely dedicated Council members, and our unbelievable Ambassadors sprinkled like so much actuarial leavening in over 30 countries.

The expanded council met at the SOA annual meeting in Chicago with both new and old members to establish the budget and the agenda for the year to come.

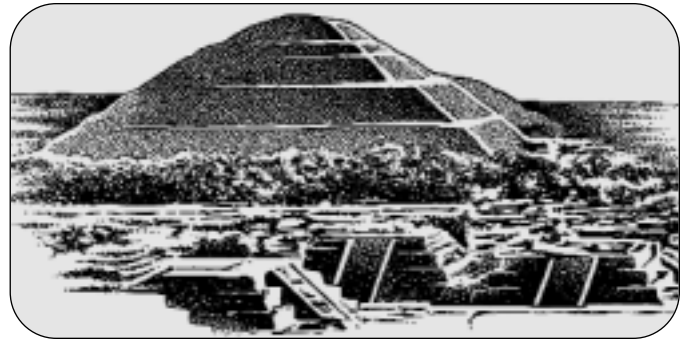
One of the Council's first steps was to raise section dues to \$20. Our current surplus of approximately \$40,000 (120% of annual

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Hoy es Miercoles

by Michael M. Braunstein

Normally, when the morning alarm goes off or the telephone wake-up call arrives at 7:30 a.m., I get up, shower, and get ready for another busy day. But when it happens that only one hour earlier I was



crawling into bed for the night, that wake-up call is not so welcome. But, I'm getting ahead of myself here. Let me go back to the beginning or close to it.

Seventh grade

Mrs. Glick. Spanish class. "Today is Wednesday. Hoy es miercoles. Repeat, por favor." Well, I didn't repeat the phrase and, as a result, I almost repeated Mrs. Glick's Spanish class. After one semester in Español, it was Latin for me. It would take more than 25 years for me to realize that I should have listened to Mrs. Glick, but realize it I do...now.

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developments in other parts of the world, but also to meet the needs of students, Associates, and Fellows who live outside the United States and Canada.

Hans Wagner has written an article giving us an overview of the program, and we have included Martha Sikaras' Winter 2000 Ambassador Report. Those who are interested in receiving this report on a regular basis should contact Martha at the Society office or at msikaras@soa.org. Martha has also worked hard to write up several reports: one regarding exam fee discounts for qualified candidates, one on the International Section

Breakfast at the Chicago meeting, and one summarizing the IAA Council meeting.

Several other items should prove to be of interest to our readers. First of all, building on the success of prior seminars, we are planning on jointly hosting an International Start-up Workshop with the Non-Traditional Marketing Section. Lisa Kuklinski-Ramirez has written an article on this and has also provided us with the Section's 2001 budget. We want all the members to understand how their Section dues are being spent, and Lisa and Jim Toole would welcome any questions on this. We have also received

permission to reprint an article from LOMA, which addresses common human resource issues in global companies.

Lastly, I'd like to thank Jim Toole for his encouragement and support on this newsletter. Jim has worked hard to help move several articles from the conceptual stage to their final form, and has contributed his Chairperson's Corner as well. Thanks, Jim!

Randy Makin, FSA, MAAA, is vice president of Reinsurance Actuarial at Business Men's Assurance Company in Kansas City, MO. He can be reached at rmakin@bma.com.

Chairperson's Corner

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expenses) is available to fund special projects brought to our attention by the council members, Ambassadors, and you, our members.

Without this dues increase, our surplus would have disappeared in four years or less, severely restricting the types of services we think you want the Section to provide. A breakdown of Section expenses follows:

Section Admin.	32%
Newsletter	31%
Meetings	22%
Special Projects	15%

Approximately a third of the budget goes to pay for fixed charges allocated to the Section by the SOA. Our next largest expenditure is the printing and distribution of the newsletter.

Due to the size of our newsletter and the wide geographic distribution of our members, our distribution costs are somewhat higher than other Sections. We will

experiment with electronic distribution this year, and will be soliciting your feedback.

Meetings have been the domain of Mike Gabon for several years. The Section has been fortunate to have someone as capable and dedicated as Mike handling this important and time-consuming task. If you have any ideas for meeting sessions or want to help, call Mike.

This year we have a specific amount budgeted for special projects. The Section receives requests during the course of the year from members, Ambassadors, and other actuarial organizations to provide support for various projects.

This year, we have budgeted \$5,000 and would encourage you to contact any council member if you have a specific project in mind.

We are planning to bring one or more seminars to fruition this year, with our first to take place in the spring in conjunction with the Non-traditional Marketing Section. VP Lisa Kuklinski-Ramirez will be working on this project, which is

sure to be fun AND educational (see article).

Finally, the Ambassador program is near and dear to the Section's heart. Its impact is truly felt around the world, and we are fortunate to have the able-bodied and high-spirited Hans Wagner heading up the program (see article).

The Sections were formed to serve members. If you have any questions or comments about these priorities, or wish to volunteer your time and energy, feel free to contact me at Jim.Toole@milliman.com or (303) 672 9046.

Jim Toole, FSA, MAAA, is a consulting actuary at Milliman & Robertson Inc. in Denver, CO.



*Jim
Toole*