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Chairperson's Corner

Carol E. Zimmerman

First, let me extend a hearty "thank you" to the members of the Pension Section Council who have just completed their terms. Dick Joss, Joan Weiss, and especially James Kenney, our departing chairperson, have each contributed a great deal of time and effort to the Pension Section Council and they will be missed.

We also welcome our new members, Lindsay Malkiewich, Lee Trad, and Colin England. Congratulations on being elected to the Pension Section Council!

I especially appreciated Jim Kenney's challenge to the Pension Section Council—what can we do to increase the value of the Pension Section to our members? During the coming year we, as your council, will be taking up that challenge and looking for new ways to help pension actuaries.

I am excited about some of the ideas that came out of our brainstorming sessions. Some of these include developing a training "bootcamp" for entry-level actuaries, continued improvement in the content of SOA Spring Meetings, and focus on sponsoring

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LIMRA Study

A Guide to Helping Employees Preserve Their Pension Benefits

Each year millions of employees change jobs, leave the workforce, or retire and become eligible for a lump-sum payment from their employer's retirement plan. These employees have the task of deciding whether or not to take a lump-sum payment and, if they do take it, where to invest it. For many of these employees, this money is the largest financial asset they own and may be their only private source of retirement income— income that must last the rest of their lives. Many will need assistance in understanding their options and selecting the best option for their circumstances. Their ultimate goal should be preservation of their retirement benefits in order to ensure a secure retirement for themselves and their families.

LIMRA conducted a study of employees retiring, changing jobs, or leaving the workforce and eligible for a lump-sum payment from their pension plans. The study's purpose was to assist pension companies with developing products and services that will help

employees preserve their pension benefits.

The study included information on 1,763 employees eligible for a lump-sum payment from their employer's retirement plan: 684 employees who had retired in the past three years, and 1,079 employees who had changed jobs or left the workforce in the past three years.

Size and Growth of the Market

Persons eligible for a lump-sum payment from their employer-sponsored retirement plan include those who are:

- Retiring
- Disabled
- Changing jobs or leaving the workforce
- Losing their jobs due to layoffs or corporate downsizing
- Participating in a pension plan that is being terminated

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research projects of direct interest and practical use to our members.

Although some of these ideas obviously take more time to develop than others, we are already off to a good start. The program for the Spring Meeting in June 1998 promises to be one of the best ever. If the location of the meeting (Maui!) is not enough of an attraction, the pension program will include a complete seminar on mergers and acquisitions. This seminar-within-a-meeting is designed so that you can either attend the entire seminar from start to finish or mix and match sessions from the seminar with other sessions.

Over the next year, I look forward to the challenge of improving the value of the Pension Section Council to you, our members. What services would you like to see, and what do you think we can do to improve the profession? Are there any research projects that you think would be valuable to you? We encourage you to write to *Pension Section News* and share your ideas or, if you prefer, you can contact me directly at carolyn.zimmerman@ey.com.

Carolyn E. Zimmerman FSA, is with Ernst & Young LLP in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Chairperson of the Pension Section Council.



My rewards! James Kenney, retiring Pension Section chairperson, receives gifts from the Section from incoming chairperson Carolyn Zimmerman.