



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

Article from:

The Independent Consultant

June 2003 – Issue No. 2

This newsletter is free to section members. Back issues of Section newsletters have been placed in the Society library, and are on the SOA Web site, www.soa.org. Photocopies of back issues may be requested for a nominal fee.

The purpose of the section shall be to encourage and facilitate the professional development of actuaries at smaller consulting firms through assistance with the educational, research, networking and other special needs that arise in their practice.

Expressions of opinion stated herein are, unless expressly stated to the contrary, not the opinion or position of the Society of Actuaries, its sections, its committees or the employers of the authors. The Society assumes no responsibility for statements made or opinions expressed in the articles, criticisms and discussions contained in this publication.

Newsletter Editor, Ian Duncan
 Lotter Actuarial Partners, Inc.
 915 Broadway | New York, NY | 10010
 Phone: (212) 529-8600
 Fax: ((212) 529-6297
 E-mail: lduncan@lotteract.com

OFFICERS

Chairperson, George W. McCauslan
 Vice-Chairperson, Mitchell I. Serota
 (Web Liaison)
 Secretary/Treasurer, Daniel P. Cassidy

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Allen D. Booth
 (Spring and Annual Program Representative)
 Ian Duncan
 Kenneth W. Hartwell
 Pamela L. Marlin
 Marcus A. Robertson
 Carl Shalit

SOA STAFF

Lois Chinnock, Section Coordinator
 E-mail: lchinnock@soa.org

Joe Adduci, DTP Coordinator
 Phone: (847) 706-3548
 Fax: (847) 273-8548
 E-mail: jadduci@soa.org

Society of Actuaries
 475 N. Martingale Road | Suite 800
 Schaumburg, IL 60173
 Phone: (847) 706-3500
 Fax: (847) 706-3599
 Web: www.soa.org

Copyright © 2003 Society of Actuaries.
 All rights reserved.
 Printed in the United States of America.

Chairperson's Corner

by George W. McCauslan

I am writing this column having just returned from the semi-annual meeting of the chairpersons of all of the Sections of the Society of Actuaries (there are a total of 16 Sections). That meeting was a wonderful opportunity to hear the thoughts of those who are providing leadership to the various Sections, to reconnect with friends and colleagues from years past, and to hear about what is happening with the SOA.

The one point that came up time and time again is the importance of the Sections in providing a mechanism for keeping the individual member of the SOA connected with the organization as a whole. In a conversation with a friend from my days on E&E, I was reminded of the days (before I started in the profession, but not *that* long before) when elections for the SOA officers happened at the Annual Meeting and only the fellows present could vote. At that point (the 1960's), there were fewer than 1,500 fellows. Today, with 10,000 fellows and a total SOA membership of 17,500, the kind of personal connection that existed then throughout the whole organization is impossible. What has replaced that, at least in part, are the Sections, which permit the members to connect with a smaller group of the members whose interests are the same as theirs.

The SOA is in the midst of a major review of its operations and structure. One element that is being carefully examined is the Section system. It is seen as a possible way to

facilitate communication both to and from the Board of Governors. Each Section Council is clearer on the particular concerns of the membership of that Section, and can keep the membership aware of SOA activity of particular importance to them. And, the Section Councils are generally closer to the membership, so that they can hear (and relay) concerns.

Your Section Council is here to organize the kinds of programs that you, the members of the Section, want and need. We conducted the on-line survey earlier this year to give us better information on what you want this Section to do—and who is willing to help us to do it. As the smallest Section (at just under 500 members), we are better able to hear directly from a large portion of our membership. Please do not let that survey be the only time that you give the Section Council your feedback and ideas for things that the Section could do.

Finally, I would encourage all of you who are attending the Vancouver meeting in late June to join us at the Section reception on Sunday evening. It will be a chance to meet members of the Section Council, hear a bit about our future direction (I promise to be brief in my comments), and meet other actuaries working in small consulting firms. I hope to see you there. 🍷

George W. McCauslan, FSA, MAAA, is a consulting actuary and works in San Francisco, CA and is chairperson of the Smaller Consulting Firm Section. He can be reached at GeorgeWmcc@aol.com.