



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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# Pension Section News

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# Chairperson's Corner

by Marilyn Miller Oliver

I'd like to encourage pension actuaries to attend the June SOA meeting in Vancouver. Why attend?—because:

**1. The sessions in the retirement area will be timely and applicable to daily practice**

There will be a number of sessions related to the current equity market including sessions addressing consulting, assumption-setting and PBGC issues. Other sessions will address actuarial consulting issues as seen from the plan sponsor's perspective, effective communication with plan participants, E&O issues, and sponsor risk-management and fiduciary issues. For those practicing in the public sector, there will be a session on the new GASB exposure draft on post-retirement benefits and a session specifically addressing public-sector retirement issues in a down economy. The speakers are senior actuarial consultants with a wide breath of experience.

**2. There will be sessions on new topics affecting pension actuaries**

There will be presentations of papers on financial economics—an area that is coming more to the attention of pension actuaries and may have a significant impact on our practice in the future.

In the plan design area, there will be a session on the results of a survey of workers and retirees regarding retirement plan design and a session on phased retirement.

**3. You will be the beneficiary of synergies with other special interest sections sponsoring the meeting—namely the Health, Long-Term Care, and Investment Sections.**

Relevant sessions include those on health care cost trends, prescription drug issues, defined contribution health plans, group long term care product development, and the impact of current equity markets on pension plans.

**4. There will be speakers from the IRS and PBGC discussing current issues**

**5. There will be opportunities for discussions with other professionals with similar and related interests**

The Pension, Health, Small Consulting Firm, and Long-term Care Sections are sponsoring receptions.

Hope to see you in Vancouver. ☘



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