



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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# U.S. capital hosts a magical annual meeting

The grandeur of Washington, D.C., and Arthurian legend set a powerful tone for the 1997 annual meeting. Taking as its theme “The Once & Future Actuary,” the meeting looked to the history, present, and future of the profession. Keynote speaker Robert Reich, former U.S. Secretary of Labor, launched the meeting’s general session on Oct. 27. Following Reich was a dramatic presentation by King Arthur’s wizard, Merlin the Magician, who reminded actuaries of their forerunners’ struggles and successes and urged the audience to “lead us to tomorrow.” More than 1,500 participants attended three days of continuing education sessions along with special events, including a tour of the FBI offices.



Robert Reich (left), former U.S. Secretary of Labor, talks with reporters, members, and others after his speech, “The New Social Contract,” in the general session. (L-R) Journalists Dennis Doris and Martha Gold finish their interviews while Robert Myers, former chief actuary of the U.S. Social Security Administration, looks on. In the background is Ronald Gebhardtbauer, senior pension fellow, American Academy of Actuaries.



Richard Ullman asks a question after Reich’s speech.



Merlin the Magician reminds the general session audience that the predecessors of today’s actuaries “challenged conventional thinking. They drew from the past and present to create a better future — just as you do today.”



The Joint Armed Services Color Guard opens the general session of the SOA’s 48th annual meeting on Oct. 27.



SOA President Holland hosts "Clive Donner from a London actuarial firm" — actor Richard Henzel who also played Merlin. Here the actor performs a parody written by Holland, "The Modern Actuary-General," based on Gilbert & Sullivan's famous "Modern Major General" tune. Holland's version included the stanza:

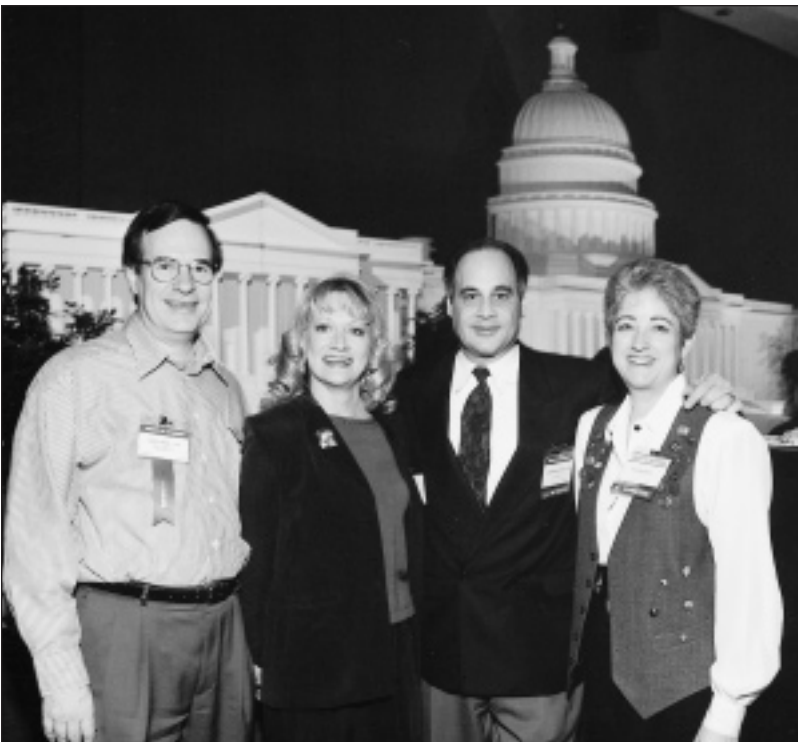
*When I have learnt what progress has been made in modern E.D.P.;*  
*When I know more statistics than a novice in a nunnery;*  
*In short, when I've a smattering of basic Life Contingencies*  
*You'll say there's never been a better actuarial V.P.*



The members' reception on Oct. 27 hosted 1,600 people in a setting of American symbols, primarily Washington, D.C., monuments.



Shown at the members' reception are (L-R) Curtis Huntington, executive director, Actuarial Education and Research Fund; Linden Cole, SOA managing director; and Harry Panjer, president, Canadian Institute of Actuaries.



Above left, a model of the U.S. Capitol sets the stage for (L-R) Bruce and Jane Moore; 1997-98 SOA President-Elect Howard Bolnick; and his wife, Kay. Above right, the flag serves as a backdrop for (L-R) Sam Gutterman, SOA 1996-97 immediate past president, actively involved in the Society's international outreach; Avi Bar-Or, president, Israel Association of Actuaries; Allan Kaufman, president, American Association of Actuaries; and Christopher Daykin, past president, Institute of Actuaries.

