



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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Get Involved!

by Sudha Shenoy

Are you someone who would like to volunteer in the various initiatives and activities of the section councils? If so, we need you!

The sections have been receiving frequent opportunities to interact and communicate with members and assist various SOA committees. There are plenty of opportunities for you to get involved by sharing time and energy and providing thought leadership, even if only on a limited basis.

We need your help on tasks such as looking at emerging issues, identifying marketplace needs, writing articles and identifying methods to provide education on key skills. As a volunteer, you will gain much insight and many skills that will provide you with a broader outlook and enrich both your organizational and your personal leadership skills. Please contact your section council members to let them know that you would like to get involved.

Our section has been very busy with various initiatives, including assisting the Fellowship Admissions Course (FAC), arranging annual meeting sessions including networking receptions, communication seminars and a session on "Leveraging Professional Presence for Greater Visual Impact." For the FAC, we are designing a session on communication for soon to be new fellows.

This year's annual meeting will showcase a number of sessions to enrich your skill sets.

At the request of the Business Skills Task Force, we are presenting an embedded seminar on "Speaking for Success" as well another session on "The Influential Manager."

"Speaking for Success" is a two-part workshop focusing on best practices in organizing and delivering complex information. The first part will be a teaching session including a strategy to organize thoughts, adjust your message and effective presentation techniques. The second part will be hands-on coaching experience using an actual presentation/report that attendees will practice within a small group coaching setting.

"The Influential Manager" session will assist you in becoming a better manager and finding the best way to communicate effectively with employees and motivating them to perform with excellence. This full-day session is designed to build awareness of your own management style and the behavioral styles of those you manage and give you a repertoire of tools and strategies to better motivate, influence and lead your organization.

The session, "Communication Savviness: Secrets to Becoming More Influential," at the annual meeting, will teach you about the four primary behavioral styles that have been identified. Once you learn how to identify styles of other people based on their behavioral cues, you can be more influential with people whose styles are different from your own.

The networking reception will help you develop a powerful marketing message and provide you with opportunities to practice it. You will learn how to avoid common networking mistakes and learn to express what makes you unique. You will also be able to create a powerful elevator pitch. As a reward, we will also have a sommelier on hand to introduce you to some of the fine points of selecting the right wines for business situations.

The session focusing on appearance and maintaining a professional image, conducted by an image consultant, should provide you with opportunities to do some self-evaluation and in the long run help you to achieve greater success in your future careers.

And, of course, the section breakfast is a not-to-miss event that will feature reviews of recent executive books to help you keep up-to-date on the latest techniques and newest books in the market.

As you can see, the section members have been working very hard this year to provide you with many opportunities to work on your skill sets and lead with confidence. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the section council members and friends of the council for their great contributions. And, to all our readers, I would like to say—please get involved! □



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