



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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# The Independent Consultant

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# Editor's Column

by Ian Duncan

**W**elcome to the first issue of *The Independent Consultant*. The title of our newsletter says it all—we are dedicated to serving the needs of independent, creative, thinking-out-of-the-box consultants from all disciplines.

The mission of the Smaller Consulting Firms' section is: "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."

This is an exciting time for all of us, as we begin a new section, define its mission and determine its priorities. The newsletters of the SOA sections serve an important role in providing the forum for different types of communication such as:

- Ongoing information about happenings within the section and within other related organizations that are of interest to the membership. We welcome contributions from members or suggestions about organizations whose activities we should be monitoring
- Opportunities for the membership to communicate with each other and the council. Letters, articles and suggestions for topics or speakers, are all welcome. In this edition, you will find information about members of the council, including their contact information
- A forum of record for technical content. The SOA newsletters fulfill an important function in communicating technical topics to members. I know that I save issues of newsletters from other sections

to which I belong because I refer to them for technical content when researching a topic. Our newsletter will be successful if members share their expertise via its pages and use it as a resource.

What do we have planned for the first few issues? This first issue addresses several aspects of the new section—its mission, its officers and its priorities. In addition to features about the section, we address some of the key issues of our members—staying up-to-date with technical developments when there is neither time nor a budget for attending professional meetings; professional standards and protection against malpractice claims; and publicizing your practice through writing articles. This issue also includes a feature on an independent consultant who built and sold a successful actuarial consulting company, now who shares some of his insights with us. Future issues will continue to highlight professionalism, quality of work, peer review, networking and business development, as well as featuring contributions from other successful independent consultants and actuarial entrepreneurs.

On a logistical note—because this is the first edition of *The Independent Consultant* it is being produced in both hard-copy and electronic format. Future editions will be produced electronically. They will appear three or four times a year. All editions will, however, be available on the SCF home page ([www.soa.org/sections/scf.html](http://www.soa.org/sections/scf.html)).

We welcome comments and contributions from members—actuaries or non-actuaries—whether you work for a smaller consulting firm or not. 🗨️



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