



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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RETIREE CORNER

Editor's Note: Sometimes we take too much for granted. We can forget that, as actuaries, we have special skills that we can use to help others. Perhaps the following letter from John Atteridg and how he has used his expertise will trigger ideas.

You can include me in your next "Retiree Corner" detailing actuaries' volunteer work. I have been volunteering for AIDS Benefits Counselors here in San Francisco. I meet with people who are considering going on disability, or perhaps have just recently tested positive for HIV, and help them work through exactly what benefits they have available.

Technically, it's usually just a matter of helping an individual through the math. I then explain how the amounts change as they move from short- to long-term disability, as they start Social Security, and as they stop California's state-run plan. Many clients begin thinking that they cannot possibly live on 60% of their prior pay, but things look better when we take into account the tax differences.

Emotionally, I think I help them in two ways: first, by my experience as a pension actuary (all those articles about making the transition from work to retirement would apply almost equally to disability), and second, by my being on an HIV-related disability myself.

I've also used my pension background to produce a set of Q & A's on 401(k) issues for people with AIDS, which actually would apply to anybody on disability. Some of our

clients have 401(k) accounts that they really haven't thought much about. My handout has been well-received because it provides practical advice geared to someone who is disabled, in a format anyone can take home and refer to when questions come up. For example, timing when (which year) to take a withdrawal can make a great difference in taxation, particularly if the withdrawal increases your income enough to make part of your Social Security taxable.

This volunteer work has been immensely gratifying, both for the direct impact on clients' peace of mind and for me personally, knowing that I'm using my career skills instead of being just a "warm body." Any actuary who is interested in starting a similar program could easily work with the local AIDS, cancer, heart, or other foundations. **John W. Atteridg is an FSA who lives in San Francisco, California.**

Fall exam preparation seminars

Waterloo Actuarial Seminars

Waterloo Actuarial Seminars will offer preparation courses for most of the Society of Actuaries exams during the month of October. Professor F. G. Reynolds will teach the following seminars: courses 151, 160, 161, 165, 220, I-342C, P-361C, P-362U, P-364C, F-385, I-440C, I-445, F-485, P-562, P-566U, F-590, and

F-595 in Waterloo. He will teach courses 220, G-320, I-343U, I-441U, G-522, and I-542 in St. Louis. Professor K. P. Sharp will teach Course 210 in Hartford and St. Louis. Professor G. E. Willmot will teach Course 150 in St. Louis. Call Reynolds at 519/886-5232, Sharp at 416/975-1850, or Willmot at 519/888-4567, ext. 5550.

S. Broverman Seminars

Exam preparation seminars for the November 1995 exam period will be held in September/October 1995, in Chicago, New York, Hartford, and Dallas for courses 120, 130, 135, 140, 150, 151, 160, and CAS4A. For details, please contact Professor S. Broverman of the University of Toronto at his *Directory* address, or call 416/978-4453 or 416/966-9111.

IN MEMORIAM

Jack M. Elkin
ASA 1955,
MAAA 1965,
FCA 1959,
EA 1976

Herbert Gardner
FSA 1941,
MAAA 1965

Ben Z. Lipshitz
ASA 1968,
FIA 1967

Charles E. Rickards
FSA 1932,
MAAA 1965

Edward G. Schafer
FSA 1934,
FCIA 1965