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### **SOA Election Open In Less Than 30 Days**

Mark your calendars! The annual election for the Board of Directors and Section Council Chairs will open on Aug. 3, 2009. [Visit the election Web page](#) to view the President-Elect videos and learn more about the candidates. New content will be added regularly until the election opens, so visit the Web page often.

### **Actuarial Profession In The News ...**

#### ***Insurance Networking News Quotes FSA***

The Web site's writer interviewed [Max Rudolph](#) for an article on how businesses need to manage risk related to possible pandemics.

### **Increase Your Value With The CERA Credential**

The Chartered Enterprise Risk Analyst ([CERA](#)) credential is the most comprehensive and rigorous enterprise risk management (ERM) training available in the marketplace.

### **On The Research Front ...**

#### **July 31<sup>st</sup> Deadline—Electronic Mortality Risk Underwriting Tools Project Proposals**

The Marketing and Distribution Section has initiated research examining company practices of life insurers utilizing electronic underwriting tools. Those interested in performing the research for this project must submit a proposal by **July 31, 2009**. For more information and submission guidelines, see the [Request for Proposals](#).

#### **New Study Results—U.S. Individual Life Persistency Update**

The 2004–05 U.S. Individual Life Persistency Update has been completed and presents the results of the most recent study of individual life insurance lapse experience in the United States. It was conducted jointly by LIMRA International and the Society of Actuaries (SOA). The observation period for the study is calendar years 2004–05. The study is based on data provided by 34 individual life insurance writers and it presents lapse experience for whole life, term life, universal life and variable universal life plans issued between 1901 and 2005. [See the report](#). If you have any questions about this work, contact Jack Luff, SOA experience studies actuary, at [jluff@soa.org](mailto:jluff@soa.org) or 847.706.3571.

#### **Supplemental Report Available—What a Difference A Year Makes**

The SOA's Committee on Post Retirement Needs and Risks, LIMRA and InFRE are pleased to make available a research report that gauges the impact of the financial downturn on retirees. The report is a supplement to the 2008 study, "Will Retirement Assets Last a Lifetime?" Participants of the original 2008 study were recontacted in April 2009 and posed a subset of the original questions. This [follow-up report](#) contrasts results from 2009 versus 2008.

#### **Submit A Paper To The APF—Share Your Knowledge With Your Fellow Members!**

All SOA members are invited to submit a paper to *The Actuarial Practice Forum*, an electronic journal designed to help fellow practitioners in their day-to-day work by conveying current thinking on actuarial methodology, regulatory requirement analysis, product design, analysis techniques and other areas of actuarial work. For more information, or to [submit a paper](#) to *The Actuarial Practice Forum*, contact Kathryn Wiener, SOA senior communications associate, at [kwiener@soa.org](mailto:kwiener@soa.org).

#### **Calling On Actuaries To Return To The Classroom!**

The Actuarial Foundation is finding that schools who implemented Advancing Student Achievement programs with actuaries as mentors are seeing improved attitudes towards math, increasing math scores, increasing interest in the actuarial field as a career, and many more powerful results! [Get involved in your community](#).

#### **Upcoming SOA Professional Development Opportunities ...**

##### **SOA To Send Professional Development E-Newsletter**

The Society of Actuaries, in an effort to better communicate its professional development offerings, is piloting an e-newsletter to members beginning July 29. The semi-monthly e-newsletter, *Professional Development Opportunities*, will include information on everything from meetings, seminars and symposiums to audio courses, webcasts and the new professional development e-courses. The e-newsletter will help streamline the number of communications to members, who will no longer receive individual e-mails promoting each professional development offering. Be sure to keep an eye on your inbox and take advantage of this new, easy way to view professional growth opportunities.

#### **44<sup>th</sup> Annual Research Conference**

Register today for this [conference](#), July 30-August 1 in Madison, Wis., where academics and practitioners will meet and discuss actuarial problems and their solutions.

#### **Health Pricing And Valuation Boot Camps**

Register soon for these [two updated boot camps](#), Aug. 10-11 and Aug. 12-13, respectively, in Seattle, Wash.

### ***Disability Income & Long-Term Care Insurers' Forum***

Sign up soon for this [forum](#), Sept. 23-25 in Bonita Springs, Fla., a unique opportunity for networking and education, comprised of top notch speakers and nearly 30 sessions from which to select. Subjects include new product development, underwriting, claims, sales and marketing, regulatory environment and much more.

### ***Valuation Actuary Symposium***

Gain insights into principle-based valuation issues at this [event](#), Sept. 24-25 in Anaheim, Calif., and improve your ability to analyze complex situations. You'll enhance your creative problem-solving skills and learn to excel at communicating solutions to top-level management.

### **Section Newsletters—Hot Off The Press!**

The July 2009 issues of [CompAct](#) and [Stepping Stone](#) are now online. Be sure to check out the June issue of [Product Matters!](#)

### **Listing Of Deceased Members**

Visit the SOA Web site for a [listing](#) of the names of deceased members and information on how to [submit](#) an obituary. The SOA extends its condolences to the families and friends of John C. Collins, ASA; Neil R. Cronquist, FSA; Henry S. Lieberman, ASA; and John H. Stearns, Jr. ASA.

### **Past Issues Of SOA News Today**

Missed an issue of *SOA News Today*? Just [visit](#) the SOA Web site.

*SOA News Today* is published twice a month. Just e-mail Jacque Kirkwood, SOA senior communications associate, at [e-news@soa.org](mailto:e-news@soa.org). If you'd like to print a copy of *SOA News Today*, set your view setting to plain text. We hope you enjoy *SOA News Today*—news when you need it—news you can use!