

Save the Date: 2021 Annual Meeting and Public Policy Forum Set for November

MARK YOUR CALENDARS—the Academy's 2021 [Annual Meeting and Public Policy Forum](#) will be held on Nov. 4–5 at the Fairmont Hotel in Washington, D.C. If you are interested in gaining perspective on top public policy and professionalism topics—all while having the opportunity to earn continuing education credit—this is the event for you.

The agenda will include practice-specific breakout sessions

for all practice areas and plenaries that cover critical issues relevant to actuaries in all practice areas, along with opportunities to discuss these issues directly with policymakers, subject matter

experts, and Academy leaders. The Academy is considering a hybrid option for the event, and a decision



will be made before early registration opens in August.

The Academy is committed to following local health guidelines. We look forward to delivering a timely and topical event to

you—and to seeing you in November. Registration will open next month—[save the date](#). ▲

Chan Selected as Pension VP

THE ACADEMY'S NOMINATING COMMITTEE reported that Sherry Chan was selected to be the Academy's next pension vice president, beginning a two-year term in November following the Academy's Annual Meeting. Chan has been a member and vice chairperson of the Pension Practice Council (PPC) and chairperson of the PPC's Public Plans Committee. Per Academy bylaws, the officer slate will be voted on by the Board at its annual meeting in October. The Nominating Committee previously nominated Ken Kent to be the Academy's President-Elect; Seong-min Eom to be vice president, risk management and financial reporting; and Benjamin Slutsker to be vice president, life. ▲



Election of Academy Regular Directors Set for August

THE ACADEMY'S ELECTION for regular director positions on the Board of Directors will open on Friday, Aug. 13, and run for two weeks through Aug. 27. Academy members will receive an email in early August from Intelliscan (academy@intelliscaninc.net), our election vendor administering the election. Please be sure to add it to your safe senders list and to check your junk folder to make sure you receive it.

The Academy's Nominating Committee announced the slate of three candidates in June. The regular directors on the ballot, who would have terms that begin at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting in November, are:

▲ **Dorothy Andrews**, a member of the Risk Management and Financial Reporting Council (RMFRC) and chairperson of the Data Science

and Analytics Committee, is also on the P/C Racial Equity Task Force and is a past member of the Committee on Professional Responsibility and the Life and Health Valuation Law Manual Review Task Force.

▲ **Chris Carlson**, a current regular director, is a former Actuarial Standards Board (ASB) member and ASB liaison to many Academy public policy committees, a member of the Casualty Practice Council—and a former special director by dint of his previous position as president of the Casualty Actuarial Society—and is nominated to serve a full three-year term after coming onto the Board last year to complete a vacated one-year term.

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2021

AUGUST

3 Pension webinar: “[Multiemployer Plan Provisions in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 \(ARPA\)—Discussion of Recently Issued Regulations](#)”

12 Professionalism webinar: “[U.S. Qualification Standards: Second Exposure Draft and More](#)”

SEPTEMBER

13–15 [2021 Virtual Casualty Loss Reserve Seminar](#) (CLRS); co-sponsored by the Academy and the Casualty Actuarial Society

NOVEMBER

4–5 [Annual Meeting and Public Policy Forum](#), Washington, DC.

15–18 [Life and Health Qualifications Seminar](#), Arlington, Va.

For a list of all previous and upcoming Academy events, please visit the Academy’s [Events Calendar](#).

Review Your Membership Profile

To continue receiving *Actuarial Update*, *Contingencies*, and other Academy publications on time, please make sure the Academy has your correct contact information.

Academy members can update their member profile, subscribe to Academy alerts, pay their dues, and review archived professionalism and public policy webinars at the [member login page](#).

Academy NEWS Briefs

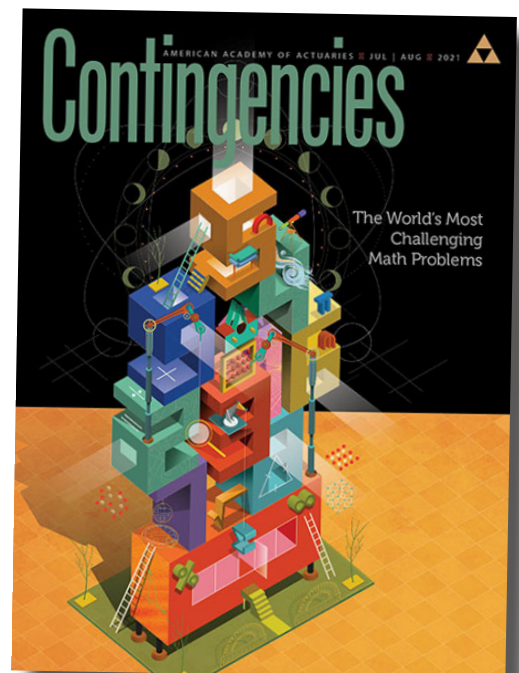
LHQ Seminar—Lowest Rates Available Through End of July

THERE IS STILL TIME to get an early registration rate for the Academy’s [Life and Health Qualifications Seminar](#)—register by tomorrow for the best rates to attend this highly regarded event. The annual LHQ Seminar delivers best, most efficient way to obtain any needed basic education or relevant continuing education (CE) credit necessary to qualify to issue actuarial opinions for either the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) Life and Accident & Health (A&H) Annual Statement or the NAIC Health Annual Statement. Early discounts are available through July 31—[register today](#). ▲

Recently Released

THE JULY/AUGUST ISSUE OF [Contingencies](#) dives deep into the world of puzzles—thorny theoretical head-scratchers, real-life challenges, and statistical stumbling blocks. The cover feature story, “The World’s Most Challenging Math Problems,” looks at seven elusive puzzles that have tormented mathematicians for years ... do you have what it takes to solve them? In “Hurricane Season No. 39,” read about the human and logistical hurdles the author had to puzzle through after Puerto Rico was hit by back-to-back monster cyclones in 2017. Also, “How Not to Be Wrong,” a compendium of probabilistic and statistical fallacies, will show you some blind spots that may surprise you. And, our regular lineup of devilishly challenging original puzzles, a President’s Message from Tom Campbell on meeting your continuing education requirements, and an Up to Code piece on ethics as related to the Code of Professional Conduct.

The Summer [Casualty Quarterly](#) leads with a Q&A with Workers’ Compensation Committee member Derek Jones on workers’ compensation, opioids, and COVID-19. Also in



the issue, the Automobile Insurance Committee released an issue brief on the development and pricing of automobile insurance, an Academy statement regarding Casualty Actuarial Society rescinded ratemaking principles, the Committee on Property and Liability Financial Reporting (COPLFR) sent a comment letter to the NAIC Blanks Working Group on proposed changes to P/C annual statements, the Actuaries Climate Index latest five-year average was down slightly, and recent state P/C-related legislative activity. ▲

CASUALTY QUARTERLY

Academy NEWS

Academy Annual Volunteer Survey—Deadline Today

TODAY, JULY 30, is the deadline to take the Academy's annual volunteer survey. It's not too late to raise your hand and serve the public and profession through the Academy's mission appropriate work. If you would like to join your colleagues in volunteering, please [log in to your membership profile](#) to take the survey, which takes about five to 10 minutes to complete. If you have questions about volunteering or the survey, please contact the Academy's director of membership, Kasha Shelton, at volunteersurvey@actuary.org. ▲



USQS Second Exposure Draft Released for Comment

THE ACADEMY'S COMMITTEE on Qualifications (COQ) approved release of a [second exposure draft](#) of a revised *Qualification Standards for Actuaries Issuing Statements of Actuarial Opinion in the United States* (USQS). This document is intended to replace the *Qualification Standards (including Continuing Education Requirements) for Actuaries Issuing Statements of Actuarial Opinion in the United States*, which took effect Jan. 1, 2008.

The comment deadline for the second exposure draft is Aug. 20. The Transmittal Memorandum at the beginning of the exposure draft describes the changes proposed

to the existing USQS and the changes from the first draft as a result of input from commenters. Information on how to submit comments can be [found here](#).

August Professionalism Webinar to Focus on USQS

Join members of the COQ Aug. 12 for "[U.S. Qualification Standards: Second Exposure Draft and More](#)," a webinar that will explore important aspects of the second exposure draft.

Panelists will include COQ Chairperson Katie Campbell, Vice Chairperson Lisa Slotznick, and committee member Tom Terry. Academy

President Tom Campbell will moderate. During the webinar, the COQ members will discuss what constitutes a statement of actuarial opinion, basic education and experience requirements, and continuing education requirements.

The Academy believes in good faith that attendees will have the opportunity to earn up to 1.8 organized and professionalism continuing education (CE) credits, as well as 1.8 noncore continuing professional education (CPE) credits under Joint Board for the Enrollment of Actuaries (JBEA) rules.

The webinar will take place from noon to 1:30 p.m. EDT on Aug. 12—[register today](#). ▲

Academy Comments to NAIC Special Committee on Race & Insurance

LAUREN CAVANAUGH, vice president, property/casualty, and Laura Hanson, vice president, life, co-presented verbal comments to the NAIC's Special (EX) Committee on Race and Insurance regarding proposed charges being considered by the committee. Their remarks addressed P/C and life workstream concerns addressed in comment letters previously submitted by Academy President Tom Campbell in [April](#) and [May](#). ▲



Cavanaugh



Hanson

▲ **Annette James**, a member of the Health Practice Council (HPC) and chairperson of the HPC's Health Equity Work Group, which was formed last year. She has served on the ASB's Health Committee and many HPC committees and work groups, including the Health Practice International Committee. Members who need technical help with or have questions about balloting may send an email to Intelliscan's Keith Wier (kwier@intelliscaninc.com).

We encourage members to take part in familiarizing themselves with the slate of candidates for election as the newest Academy leaders. The new Board members will serve an essential role for the Academy in fulfilling its mission to serve the public and the U.S. actuarial profession. For more information about the Nominating Committee guidelines and other details, visit the Academy's [Board Election Center](#).

Board Election Process

The Academy holds uncontested elections, with guidelines adopted several years ago.

The reason for creating uncontested elections is based on achieving an optimal balance for an effective Board that is not unduly weighed in favor any one specialty, business affiliation, or employer. Finding the best candidate possible and balancing experience and background for each opening is the goal of the Nominating Committee.

The Academy tries to ensure that the Board composition reflects our unique position as the U.S. national organization established to include actuaries from all practice areas—as well



Andrews



Carlson



James

as an equitable distribution among actuarial specialties, business affiliations, and employers.

To achieve such a balance, the Academy has long relied primarily on a Nominating Committee process that entrusts that committee with identifying Academy volunteers whose prior service to the Academy has made them an excellent candidate for service on our Board, which is dedicated to furthering our public policy and professionalism mission.

The committee carefully vets candidates for appropriateness in accordance with the guidelines. The Nominating Committee looks for candidates for regular directors who have served the Academy, often through having been chairpersons on Academy committees and task forces. Through regular announcements, including in Academy publications, the Nominating Committee also asked the entire membership directly for input on regular director candidates.

The election process provides an opportunity to familiarize yourself with those who will contribute to the leadership and continuing success of the Academy. We hope members will participate by voting. ▲

SAVE THE DATE



AMERICAN ACADEMY of ACTUARIES
ANNUAL MEETING
AND PUBLIC POLICY FORUM

Registration will open
next month.



NOVEMBER 4-5, 2021

FAIRMONT HOTEL | WASHINGTON, D.C.



Member Spotlight

Sheldon Summers

EACH MONTH, the Academy has been introducing you to an actuary who shares insights about their professional lives, as well as a glimpse into their personal lives. Visit the [Member Spotlight page](#), part of the Academy's "Professionalism First" hub. This month's Member Spotlight profiles Sheldon Summers, a life actuary who has been a longtime faculty member for the Academy's Life and Health Qualifications Seminar, a presenter at Academy PBR Boot Camps, and also a member of the Life Practice Council and other Academy committees and work groups. He was previously chief actuary of the California Department of Insurance and was a member of several NAIC committees, including the Life and Health Actuarial Task Force.

What led you to become an actuary?

And what attracted you to the profession?

I grew up in Puerto Rico. When I was a sophomore in high school, I placed second in an island-wide high school math competition, and my prize included some books that described the actuarial profession. Years later, I took a two-year leave of absence from graduate school (Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh) to come out to Los Angeles. When I first arrived in Los Angeles, I looked for a "temporary" job; as part of that process, I applied for the insurance examiner civil service exam. Nine months later, I was contacted by John Montgomery, who was the chief actuary at the California Department of Insurance. By then I already had another job, but coincidentally the Department of Insurance was in the same building where I was working, so I decided to interview at the department because it was so convenient, and the position had to do with actuarial work. After talking to John, I decided to change jobs. I extended my leave of absence at Carnegie Mellon for two more years, but never went back.

Describe a professionalism-related challenge that you have faced in your career. How did you handle it?

I don't recall any major professionalism-related challenges, but I have over my career informally consulted at least a few times with members of the Actuarial Board for Counseling and Discipline to get their advice in dealing with specific matters. This has been very helpful.

What advice do you wish you were given when you were at the beginning of your career?

Join a Toastmasters Club.

Tell us about a time where your actuarial expertise influenced an important decision in your workplace.

Around the late 1980s, I attended an NAIC working group meeting that was formed to address the treatment of the sale of certain non-admitted assets. Just prior to the end of the meeting, I suggested that the working group take on a project to revise the life reinsurance risk transfer model regulation.

As a result of my suggestion, I was appointed as chair of a subgroup of the working group. Five other volunteers and I developed the version of the Life and Health Reinsurance Agreements Model Regulation that was adopted by the NAIC in the early 1990s. This model regulation was the basis for the regulation adopted in California, and it influenced decisions regarding denial of reinsurance credit with respect to some companies' reinsurance agreements. In some cases, the impact was significant.

What is one of the biggest lessons you've learned in your career?

As a manager, decisions regarding new hires to fill vacant positions are some of the most important ones that will be made.

Would you like to share anything else with aspiring or new actuaries, or those interested in volunteering for the Academy?

Yes, getting involved in one or more Academy work groups or committees will be an invaluable experience, and is a great way to make actuarial connections.

Share a little about yourself. What are some of your hobbies or other personal interests?

I've been married for over 41 years, and have two sons, one daughter, and two granddaughters. As is the case with many parents, when they were young, I spent most of my free time attending (and in some cases coaching) the many extracurricular activities they were involved in. These included basketball games, volleyball games, baseball games, soccer games, and dance and singing recitals and competitions. After they finished high school, we spent many weekends away from home to attend their college soccer games. Now that they are adults, my wife and I spend a fair amount of time each month at our second home in Mammoth Lakes, Calif., where we ride our bikes and enjoy other outdoor activities. We also enjoy cruising a couple times a year but haven't been able to do that since the pandemic started. ▲



ASB Adopts Final Revision of ASOP No. 28, Approves Exposure Draft of ASOP No. 24

THE ACTUARIAL STANDARDS BOARD (ASB) recently adopted a final revision of Actuarial Standard of Practice (ASOP) No. 28, now titled [Statements of Actuarial Opinion Regarding Health Insurance Assets and Liabilities](#). The ASOP provides guidance to actuaries when performing actuarial services with respect to issuing or reviewing a statement of actuarial opinion regarding health insurance assets and liabilities.

The revised standard is effective for work performed involving statements of actuarial opinion regarding health insurance assets and liabilities issued on or after July 1, 2022.

The ASB also approved an exposure draft of a proposed revision of ASOP No. 24, [Compliance with the NAIC Life Insurance Illustrations Model Regulation](#). The proposed ASOP would provide guidance to actuaries when performing actuarial services with respect to applicable law (statutes, regulations, and other legally binding authority) based on the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) Life Insurance Illustrations Model Regulation and related NAIC actuarial guidelines or when performing actuarial services with respect to illustrations represented to be in accordance with the model and related NAIC actuarial guidelines.

The comment deadline for the exposure draft is Sept. 30, 2021. Information on how to submit comments can be found in the exposure draft. ▲

IN THE NEWS

A subscriber-only [Life Annuity Specialist](#) story on the potential use of oral care data in underwriting quoted Sue Bartholf, chairperson of the Life Underwriting and Risk Classification Work Group, on adding new data elements to the underwriting process.

Senior Life Fellow Nancy Bennett provided an actuarial perspective for a [Forbes Advisor](#) article on space travel and its effect on life insurance.

A [Cyber Wire](#) briefing cited the Academy's [paper](#) on regulatory cyber breach reporting requirements which provides a systematic comparison of the existing laws and rules with respect to data breaches involving personally identifiable information across the states.

A [Forbes](#) retirement column explaining different ways to calculate life expectancy pointed readers to the Academy's jointly sponsored [Actuaries Longevity Illustrator](#). A [Firstlinks](#) (Australia) story also cited the Actuaries Longevity Illustrator.

The [Ventura County Star](#) (Calif.) referenced Academy analysis on pension plan funded status in a story about a local public pension plan's funded status.

[Accounting Today](#) cited an Academy reference to the state of the multiemployer pension system in a story about recently released IRS guidance for multiemployer pension plans seeking special financial assistance from the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation. ▲

This Month in SOCIAL MEDIA



On Twitter, we marked the voyages of #BlueOrigin and #VirginGalactic with a look back at our 2017 [Contingencies](#) article, "Outer Space for All—The Next Frontier of Risk," which discusses the growth of the commercial space industry & the countless remaining questions around liability and risk assessment.



On Facebook, we pointed to the latest Up to Code column by ABCD member Ken Kent who discussed the interplay of ethics and the Code of Professional Conduct.



On LinkedIn, we highlighted our "PBR in Practice" webpage which contains resources to assist actuaries and regulators in their practice and oversight of PBR for life insurance and variable annuities, including a toolkit with PBR valuations resources.

Make sure you're a part of the conversation online by following us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#). Like what you see? Help spread the word by liking and sharing our updates.

FAQs on the U.S. Qualification Standards: A Recently Updated Resource

THE DRAFTERS OF THE *Qualification Standards for Actuaries Issuing Statements of Actuarial Opinion in the United States* (USQS), which took effect in 2008, believed continuing education (CE) to be so important that they raised the number of hours¹ required from 12 to 30 per year, noting that:

“Actuarial practice is grounded in the knowledge and application of actuarial science, a constantly evolving discipline. If actuaries are to provide their Principals with high-quality service, it is important that they remain current on emerging advancements in actuarial practice and science that are relevant to the Actuarial Services they provide.”

The USQS also greatly broadened applicability by defining a statement of actuarial opinion as “an opinion expressed by an actuary in the course of performing Actuarial Services and intended by that actuary to be relied upon by the person or organization to which the opinion is addressed.” (Previously, the qualification standards had applied only to statements of actuarial opinion required by law, regulation, an actuarial standard of practice, and various accounting standards.)

These and other significant changes left actuaries with a lot of questions about the new requirements and how to meet them. To address these questions, the Committee on Qualifications issued [FAQs on the U.S. Qualification Standards](#), which were expanded in 2014 and have been updated since then whenever the COQ receives a question on a topic of broad interest to the actuarial community. The FAQs cover questions related to area of practice, statements of actuarial opinion, specific qualification standards for NAIC annual statements, CE, and qualifications for principle-based reserves and blended opinions.

Of the 30 hours of relevant CE required annually, 3 hours must be on professionalism topics and 6 hours must be “organized”—that is, involving interaction with other professionals from another organization. No more than 3 hours may be on “business and consulting skills” topics. The 2008 USQS describes professionalism topics as including “studying, reviewing, or providing input on an Exposure Draft of an ASOP; studying or reviewing the Code of Professional Conduct; and serving on the ASB or a professionalism committee” and business and consulting skills topics as including “client relationship management, presentation skills, communication skills, project management, and personnel management.” Many of the FAQs address questions on what counts as “relevant,” “organized,” “professionalism,” and “business and consulting skills” CE.

When the COQ released an exposure draft of a proposed

revision to the USQS last year, it received over 150 comment letters. Many of these letters asked the USQS to include some form of diversity, equity & inclusion (DEI) training in the CE requirements. (The second exposure draft, now open for comment, includes such a requirement. You may view the draft and comment on it [here](#) until Aug. 20.) Some letters also suggested changing FAQ 48 to allow DEI training to be considered professionalism. At the time, FAQ 48 said that diversity training “would likely better fit the examples for business and consulting skills, which are capped at 3 CE hours annually,” rather than professionalism.

After carefully considering the comments received, the COQ revised FAQ 48 to note that DEI training may count as professionalism in some instances. The new FAQ 48 reads as follows:

FAQ 48. How does diversity, equity, or inclusion training count toward professionalism topics and business and consulting skill topics under the continuing education requirements in the U.S. Qualification Standards?

Section 2.2.7 states that “Relevant continuing education includes not only technical topics in the actuary’s area of practice, but also includes business and consulting skills topics and professionalism topics.” This section goes on further to provide examples of these categories of topics.

DEI training may count toward the professionalism topic or business and consulting skills topic categories, depending upon how the training fits into the definition of these categories in section 2.2.7.

DEI training may count toward professionalism CE if, for example, the training is focused on how DEI should be considered in complying with the Code of Professional Conduct and actuarial standards of practice. Company ethics courses closely aligned to professional conduct may also count as professionalism.

Other types of DEI training may be classified as business and consulting skills CE, which is capped at 3 CE hours annually. Examples of such DEI training include those that specifically focus on interpersonal skills, leadership skills, and hiring and personnel management and that don’t cover technical or professionalism topics.

If you have a question about qualifications, we encourage you to review the [FAQs on the U.S. Qualification Standards](#). Chances are, you’ll find the answer there. If not, you may [submit a question](#) to the Committee on Qualifications. ▲

Footnotes

¹ An hour is defined as 50 minutes, and fractions of an hour may be counted.



COPLFR Comments to CASTF

THE COMMITTEE ON Property and Liability Financial Reporting (COPLFR) sent a [comment letter](#) to the NAIC's Casualty Actuarial and Statistical (C) Task Force (CASTF) on proposed changes to P/C annual statements. The letter addresses such areas as definition of exposure, calendar date alignment, and existing alternative data sources.

CASUALTY BRIEFS

➔ **Amy Baranek** joined the Committee on Property and Liability Financial Reporting

Automobile Insurance Committee Comments to Treasury, FIO

THE AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE Committee [sent comments](#) to the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Federal Insurance Office's (FIO) on its request for information regarding FIO's future work relating to monitoring the availability and affordability of automobile insurance. ▲

HEALTH NEWS



LTC Reform Subcommittee Releases Issue Brief on Financing Reform

THE LONG-TERM CARE REFORM Subcommittee released an issue brief, [Long-Term Care Financing Reform Proposals That Involve Public Programs](#). The issue brief discusses the existing Academy work on potential criteria for evaluating reform proposals; the current state of LTC public programs; and looks at several proposals that have been made to address gaps in both private and public options available today.

The issue brief concludes with a side-by-side assessment of some federal and state, reform programs, and proposals with consideration of the assessment criteria. ▲

Committee Comments to CMS on Payment Parameters

THE INDIVIDUAL and Small Group Markets Committee and its Risk Sharing Subcommittee [submitted comments](#) to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on the proposed rule, *Updating Payment Parameters, Section 1332 Waiver Implementing Regulations, and Improving Health Insurance Markets for 2022 and Beyond*. ▲

Health Solvency Committee Comments to NAIC

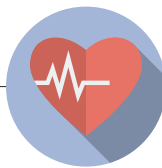
THE HEALTH SOLVENCY Subcommittee sent a [comment letter](#) to the NAIC Health Risk-Based Capital (E) Working Group regarding its request of the Academy to conduct a comprehensive review of the H2—Underwriting Risk component and managed care credit calculation in the health risk-based capital formula. ▲

LTC Subcommittee Comments to NAIC on Multistate Review Framework

THE LONG-TERM CARE (LTC) Reform Subcommittee submitted a [comment letter](#) to the NAIC's LTC Insurance Task Force regarding the June 10 exposure draft of the actuarial sections within the LTC Insurance Multistate Rate Review Framework. ▲

HEALTH BRIEFS

- ➔ **Mark Blessinger Jr.** and **Adam Schlecht** joined the Medicaid Committee.
- ➔ **Jennifer Elwood, Jennifer Lazio, Lee Resnick, David Sky,** and **Sheree Swanson** joined the Health Equity Work Group.
- ➔ **Shogo Murakami, Jeremy Palmer,** and **Sheree Swanson** joined the LTC Medicaid Subcommittee.



HEWG Discussion Brief Focuses on Health Plan Benefit Design

THE HEALTH EQUITY WORK GROUP (HEWG) released a new discussion brief, [Health Equity from an Actuarial Perspective: Health Plan Benefit Design](#). This discussion brief is part of a series developed by the HEWG to provide more context on issues raised in the initial discussion brief, [Health Equity from an Actuarial Perspective: Questions to Explore](#).

This paper discusses in more detail the questions that the Health Equity Work Group will explore regarding whether the methods of creating and valuing benefit designs contribute to health disparities among populations that are underserved or under-resourced, such as communities of color, or whether they might be helping to mitigate disparities.

The four questions are:

- ▲ How is benefit design used to attract and maintain health plan members? Are there barriers to individuals in choosing the plan that best fits their needs, and if so, do they contribute to health inequities?
- ▲ Can benefit design features that aim to manage utilization and spending affect health disparities?
- ▲ Does benefit coverage standardization or a lack thereof exacerbate disparities? Does the inclusion or exclusion of particular services mitigate or exacerbate disparities?
- ▲ Are health disparities affected by differences in availability and accessibility of providers across geography or population? ▲

LIFE NEWS



Work Group Comments on VM-22

THE ANNUITY RESERVES and Capital Work Group submitted a comprehensive [proposed draft](#) of revised NAIC VM-22 framework for a fixed annuity principle-based reserving (PBR) framework.

The document offers recommendations on VM-22 principles, requirements, and guidance, and asks for the NAIC VM-22 Subgroup's consideration of the proposed language changes, as it moves toward inclusion of fixed annuities in the NAIC Valuation Manual. ▲

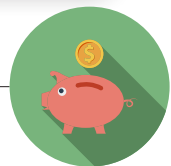
Academy Interest Rate Generator Updated

THE ANNUAL UPDATE to the Academy Interest Rate Generator (AIRG), which is currently used in some regulatory reserve and capital calculations, is now available. A corresponding frequently asked questions document has been updated to reflect changes for 2021. Read the [Academy alert](#). ▲

LIFE BRIEFS

- ➔ **Maambo Mujala** joined the Life Products Committee.
- ➔ **Beth Desmonds** joined the Non-Guaranteed Elements Work Group.

PENSION NEWS



Committees Comment to Treasury, IRS

THE MULTIEMPLOYER PLANS Committee [submitted comments](#) to U.S. Department of the Treasury and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) relating to implementation of the multiemployer pension plans temporary funding relief provisions of *The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021* (ARPA).

Also, the Pension Committee [submitted comments](#) to Treasury and the IRS providing suggestions on guidance relating to the implementation of the single-employer pension plan funding relief provisions enacted under ARPA. ▲

Treasury/Labor, PBGC Meeting Notes Released

THE MULTIEMPLOYER PLANS Committee [released notes](#) from its Oct. 9, 2020, meeting with officials of the departments of the Treasury and Labor and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation on applications by plans in critical and declining status to suspend benefits or partition liabilities as permitted under the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act of 2014 (MPRA). ▲

Actuarial Update

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PENSION NEWS

Multiemployer Plans Webinar to Look at ARPA Provisions

THE MULTIEMPLOYER PLANS COMMITTEE will present an Aug. 3 webinar, "[Multiemployer Plan Provisions in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 \(ARPA\)—Discussion of Recently Issued Regulations.](#)"

The webinar will follow up on the committee's April webinar that reviewed the recently enacted ARPA multiemployer pension plan relief provisions and will discuss proposed

PBGC regulations and their implications for plan sponsors. Presenters will be Multiemployer Plans Committee Chairperson Christian Benjaminson, Vice Chairperson Joe Hicks, and committee member James Donofrio.

The 90-minute webinar will begin at noon EDT, and continuing education (CE) and Joint Board for the Enrollment of Actuaries (JBEA) credit will be available. [Register today.](#) ▲

CRS Report Mentions Academy Issue Brief

A CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE [report](#) released this month, *The Growing Gap in Life Expectancy by Income: Recent Evidence and Implications for the Social Security Retirement Age*, cited a 2004 Academy [issue brief](#), *Social Adequacy and Individual Equity in Social Security*. ▲

RISK MANAGEMENT & FINANCIAL REPORTING NEWS

FRC Releases First Exposure Draft of a Public Policy Practice Note on Application of ASU 2018-12 for Comment

THE FINANCIAL REPORTING COMMITTEE'S Long-Duration Contracts Work Group released a public policy practice note exposure draft on the Application of Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2018-12, *Targeted Improvements to the Accounting for Long-Duration Contracts*.

The exposure draft is [Part I: Traditional and Limited-Payment Contracts—Basic Considerations Related to the Liability for Future Policy Benefits](#). Due to the number of areas of practice impacted by this accounting standard, the white paper is being exposed for comment in sections, of which this is the first. Please send comments to rmfrcanalyst@actuary.org by Sept. 30. ▲

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