

Resources, Services, and Benefits

THE ACADEMY PROVIDES an array of information resources, services, and educational opportunities as a service to its members, the actuarial profession, and, in some cases, the public. The Academy's communications program provides access to virtually all of its materials in an electronic format through the Academy's website (www.actuary.org). Most of the benefits are included as part of a member's dues.

Member Publications and Electronic Media

Periodicals

► *Actuarial Update* is the Academy's monthly membership newsletter. It focuses on the Academy's activities in public policy and professionalism. Members are encouraged to submit articles on committee activities, emerging public policy or professionalism issues, or general topics of particular interest to actuaries.

► *Enrolled Actuaries Report (EAR)* is the Academy's quarterly newsletter that covers issues that are important to enrolled actuaries. It is published in March, June, September, and December and is mailed only to enrolled actuaries.

Contact: Tim Dougherty, managing editor of member publications, (202) 785-7870, dougherty@actuary.org.

► *Inside the Academy* is the Academy's members-only electronic newsletter. Designed to be timely, readable, and short, it informs members about noteworthy Academy activities and links them to a few of the Academy's useful online resources.

Contact: Anne Asplen, managing editor, Internet and new media, (202) 785-7864, aspfen@actuary.org.

Contingencies Magazine

Contingencies magazine is the flagship publication of the actuarial profession, providing a large and diverse readership with general interest and technical articles on a wide range of issues related to the actuarial profession. Published bi-monthly, *Contingencies* is mailed to members of the Academy, the Canadian Institute of Actuaries, and select individuals (such as legislators and their staffs, regulators, business executives, and related organizations), for a total circulation of around 27,000. The magazine contains regularly scheduled special sections on consulting and reinsurance, and supplements on actuarial careers and software.

It is the only Academy publication that accepts advertising, generating more than \$500,000 in non-dues revenues annually.

Contact: Linda Mallon, assistant director for publications and *Contingencies* editor, (202) 223-8196, mallon@actuary.org.

Academy Websites

The Academy manages a number of websites that serve as primary sources of information for members and the public. All material that is published by the Academy is available on the Academy's websites.

► **Academy website: www.actuary.org** The Academy website is the primary electronic repository of public policy and professionalism information from the Academy. Recent public statements and print publications are posted on the site, along with additional resources not available elsewhere. The site's notable features include the following:

- 1 Electronic access to Academy public statements, publications, and other Academy material produced since 2000
- 2 A personal secure web page for every Academy member that serves as a portal

for a range of services, including online dues payment, subscriptions, and member profile updates

- 3 Expanded members-only content, which now includes free access to the Academy Alerts, timely summaries of major legislative, regulatory, and judicial developments that were previously available to members for an additional charge. When an Alert is issued, subscribers receive an e-mail notification with a link to the online bulletin. (All members may read the Alerts in the members-only section of the website at any time, but only subscribers will be notified when a new Alert comes out.)
- 4 Online registration for Academy meetings, seminars, and webcasts
- 5 An electronic version of the Yearbook, with rosters for Academy councils, committees, task forces, and work groups
- 6 The Social Security Game, an interactive educational tool designed to introduce members of the general public to the Social Security reform issue
- 7 “Actuaries in the news,” a Newsroom page that provides links to selected recent news stories in which the Academy or Academy members appear
- 8 The North American Actuarial CE calendar, a searchable online tool with links to CE opportunities provided by the Academy and other national actuarial organizations

As a dynamic resource, not a static publication, the website continues to evolve to meet the needs of Academy members and other key Academy audiences, including members, policymakers, regulators, other actuaries, the news media, and the public.

Contact: Anne Asplen, managing editor, Internet and new media, (202) 785-7864, asplen@actuary.org.

► **Contingencies website: www.contingencies.org.** The website for Contingencies magazine includes articles from the current issue of the print magazine, an archive of previous issues, extra material, and the Academy’s free actuarial job bank.

► Other Sites

The Academy also maintains and manages the websites for the Actuarial Board for Counseling and Discipline and the Actuarial Standards Board. Links to these sites are prominently featured on the Academy website. Also, as previously mentioned, the Academy site hosts the Actuarial CE Calendar, which is designed to serve all the North American actuarial organizations.

Contacts

If you have a problem using the Academy website or have a suggestion for improving it, please let the Academy know.

► **General Questions:** For questions or comments about website content and/or navigation (including questions about where to find specific documents), contact Anne Asplen, managing editor, Internet and new media (asplen@actuary.org, 202.785.7864).

► **Member Services:** For questions or comments about logging in, paying dues online, or accessing other members-only services on the website, contact Rachel Rusch, assistant director of membership relations/administration (rusch@actuary.org, 202.785.7871).

► **Technical Help:** For help with technical problems on the Academy site, contact Michael Roberts, webmaster (roberts@actuary.org; 202.785.7879).

Annual Publications

The *Yearbook* is the Academy’s annual handbook for members. It provides information on the Academy’s purpose, organization, governance, and policies, among other topics.

The *Yearbook and Leadership Manual* is the Academy’s annual handbook for volunteers. It augments Yearbook material with information on such topics as Academy management, legal considerations, and communications procedures.

The *Record* is an annual report to Academy members that provides an overview of Academy accomplishments and activities.

The *NAAC Annual Report* provides a record

of the major decisions and discussions of the North American Actuarial Council.

Public Policy Publications

Providing legislative and regulatory bodies with independent, non-partisan, public policy analysis and advice from an actuarial perspective is a core mission for the Academy. Public policy documents raise important actuarial issues and are written to be understood by legislators, policymakers, regulators, the news media, and the public. Distribution of the print editions of these documents is generally confined to specific target audiences related to the topic. Members can request printed copies of these documents, and all are available in an electronic format on the Academy's website (www.actuary.org).

► **Monographs** — Reserved for a major analysis of key public policy issues, a monograph is written under the auspices of an Academy council and receives extensive peer, policy, legal, and communications review under the guidelines for public statements.

► **Issue Briefs** — A short discussion paper, an issue brief generally provides either an overview of an issue or focuses on a single aspect of a larger issue. It also conforms to the guidelines for public statements.

► **Fact Sheets** — One- or two-page analyses that provide summary background and actuarial insights on an issue, released as a rapid response to breaking news.

► **Comment Letters** — Sent to legislative and regulatory bodies, comment letters are official statements that provide specific input from an actuarial perspective on an issue.

Public Policy Subscriptions

► **Academy Alerts** — Available only to members, these

electronic publications provide timely summaries of major legislative, regulatory, and judicial developments affecting actuaries. Beginning in January 2008, Alert subscriptions are free to all Academy members. Members may request free subscriptions to Alerts in five practice areas: health, life, pension, property/casualty insurance, and general insurance issues.

► **Manuals** — The Academy publishes two manuals that are available in a variety of media so that subscribers can choose the one that best meets their needs. Options include individual and group subscriptions for the manual on CD, on the web, or in a softcover book. The *Life and Health Valuation Law Manual* is designed to help appointed actuaries comply with the requirements of the NAIC model Standard Valuation Law and the Model Actuarial Opinion and Memorandum Regulation. The *Property/Casualty Loss Reserve Law Manual* is designed to help appointed actuaries comply with NAIC annual statement requirements for statements of actuarial opinion.

For more information on the manuals' content and to order, go to the Academy's website at www.actuary.org, or contact Kasha Shelton (202-223-8196, shelton@actuary.org).



Peter Orszag is the head of the Congressional Budget Office and was the March 28 Spring Meeting's keynote speaker.

Professionalism Publications

Several types of professionalism guidance are provided to Academy members, including the Qualification Standards, the Code of Professional Conduct, practice notes, and, through the Actuarial Standards Board, the actuarial standards of practice (ASOPs).

The *ASB Boxscore*, the ASB's quarterly newsletter, which updates the progress of individual standards through the exposure and approval process, is mailed to Academy members. Academy members also receive copies of *Contingencies* magazine, which includes a regular column entitled "Up to Code," which is written by ABCD members and highlights the ABCD's work and important professionalism issues.

Academy Meetings

The Academy's annual meeting is held each fall. It includes a business meeting at which the new Academy president is installed, the election of new members of the Board of Directors, and the presentation of the Jarvis Farley Service Award. In past years, it has sometimes also included a continuing education component.

The Academy also presents two annual seminars:

► **The Life and Health Qualifications Seminar** is designed to help actuaries meet the eligibility requirements for issuing annual statement reserve opinions for life and health insurers. Held in November, the seminar also serves as a basic education refresher or a continuing education component for more experienced actuaries.

► **The "P/C Loss Reserve Opinions: Tools for the Appointed Actuary" seminar** is held in October. This one-day seminar informs preparers and signers of P/C loss reserve opinions about regulations, standards, new requirements, and what users of opinions want.

The Academy also works with other actuarial organizations to provide continuing education (CE) to members. For example, the Academy and the Casualty Actuarial Society jointly sponsor an annual seminar on casualty

reserve opinions, and the Academy and the Conference of Consulting Actuaries jointly sponsor the annual Enrolled Actuaries Meeting. Academy volunteers and staff are often presenters at meetings and seminars held by other actuarial organizations.

The Academy has also held numerous webcasts. These have included periodic updates on the Life Practice Council's principles-based project, as well as free professionalism webcasts designed to help actuaries prepare for the 2008 implementation of the revised Qualification Standards.

Other Academy meetings, seminars, and webcasts may be held from time to time. Academy members usually receive a significant discount on the registration fees for these events.

Media Relations

The American Academy of Actuaries continues to develop proactive campaigns and programs, while fostering relationships with members of the media. The public affairs staff works with Academy volunteers to create campaigns to increase exposure of Academy work products and promote Academy sponsored-events. Using media relations tools such as news releases and media advisories as well as by hosting press events, Academy public policy publications gained national exposure throughout the past year via the national media and trade press.

Through the Academy's Official Spokesperson Program and Speakers Bureau, the Academy and its spokespersons met numerous reporter inquiries—providing valuable expertise and information. During the past year, both these proactive measures generated nearly 600 media placements and pickups for the Academy—including more than 50 placements in the top 100 newspapers in the United States by circulation and the inclusion of Academy spokespersons on various radio and television programs. A sample of programs includes the popular National Public Radio shows "Morning Edition" and "Marketplace."

The Academy also continues to employ

various strategies to clarify positions, provide accurate information, and set the record straight. These efforts serve to protect and/or enhance the Academy's public image. Working with leadership and volunteers and by using various public relations tactics such as letters to the editor and op-eds, the Academy's public affairs staff successfully placed commentaries in various publications during the past year, including *Investor's Business Daily*, *Pensions & Investments*, *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, *The Bond Buyer*, and *BusinessWeek*.

Through all these activities, the Academy demonstrates its credibility as a source of independent and objective policy analysis. This allows the Academy to continue to develop and foster relationships with reporters and editors. To expand its reputation even further, the Academy also organizes media tours and various meetings with members of the press. The meetings allow the actuaries to display their broad expertise and become sources for future reports.

To view Academy news highlights, please visit the "Actuaries in the News" section of the Academy's online Newsroom.

How to...

Pay your membership dues

The Academy's online process provides several fast, user-friendly options for paying dues. Just go to www.actuary.org/members/login.asp and follow the instructions to log in and pay online or to print out a copy of the invoice that you can mail or fax with your dues payment. If you prefer to send the dues by mail, send the invoice and your payment to Ms. Rachel Rusch, American Academy of Actuaries, 1100 17th Street NW, 7th floor, Washington, DC 20036.

If you have questions about your dues or your membership status, please contact Rachel Rusch (Rusch@actuary.org; 202-223-8196).

Verify your Academy membership for the Medicare Retiree Drug Subsidy Program

Medicare's prescription drug program includes a subsidy for retiree drug plans whose benefits are actuarially equivalent to Medicare Part D benefits. Because the law requires that an actuary be a member of the Academy to make one of these actuarial attestations, the Academy worked with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to launch a simple online process that actuaries could use to send their Academy membership numbers and other membership information to the Medicare program.

If you do not know your Academy membership number, or if you need help verifying your membership, please contact Rachel Rusch (Rusch@actuary.org; 202-223-8196).

Volunteer for Academy projects

Academy volunteers lead most of the Academy's public policy and professionalism efforts. Through their involvement in these efforts, actuaries serve the profession in a meaningful way, apply their actuarial expertise to important political questions, expand their professional network, become more knowledgeable about major legislative and regulatory trends that affect the profession, and gain a greater un-

derstanding of how government really works.

To learn about current and upcoming opportunities for volunteers at the Academy, please contact Kate Callahan (Callahan@actuary.org; 202-223-8196).

Change the address in your member record

Academy members may use one of several methods to change their address, phone number, e-mail address, and similar information in their membership record. It's best to inform the Academy in a timely manner, so that issues of *Contingencies* and the *Actuarial Update*, or new ASB exposure drafts and other useful resources, don't get left behind.

➤ Online — The quickest way to change your membership listing is to log into the Academy website and follow the instructions for updating your member profile. Note: Your listing with other actuarial organizations will also need to be updated, and instructions for making those changes are provided.

➤ E-mail — Send an e-mail with the requested changes to Rachel Rusch at the Academy (Rusch@actuary.org).

➤ U.S mail — Send a letter with the requested changes, being sure to include a phone number and/or e-mail address so the Academy can contact you quickly if necessary. The letter should be addressed to: Ms. Rachel Rusch, American Academy of Actuaries, 1100 17th Street NW, 7th floor, Washington, DC 20036.

If you have questions about your member record or your membership status, please contact Rachel Rusch (Rusch@actuary.org; 202-223-8196).

Request a Missing Publication

Contact Virginia Keene at the Academy and let her know which publications you need. If possible, please specify the month and year when the missing item was published.

Requests for missing publications may be mailed, e-mailed, or made by phone to Mrs. Virginia Keene (keene@actuary.org; 202-223-8196; American Academy of Actuaries, 1100 17th Street NW, 7th floor, Washington, DC 20036)