Tricia Matson Nominated as President-Elect

TRICIA MATSON was selected by the Academy’s Nominating Committee to be the Academy’s next president-elect. Matson, a past member-selected director and past chairperson of the Actuarial Standards Board (ASB), has been an active volunteer for more than 20 years, including her most recent roles as chairperson of the Asset Adequacy and Reinsurance Issues Task Force and the Prudential Regulation Committee.

“I am so grateful for all the Academy has done for me personally, for our profession, and for the public,” Matson said. “I have had the pleasure serving in many volunteer roles and seeing firsthand how the Academy and all its wonderful volunteers help the profession and the public. It’s hard to even find words to express my gratitude for being selected for this important role, and I will do everything I can to be a great steward for this amazing organization!”

“Tricia has a long list of leadership roles and has been engaged in some of the most critical assignments for the Academy,” said Immediate Past President Ken Kent, chairperson of the Nominating Committee. “She was always present in some capacity essential in forwarding the Academy’s mission and vision, and the Academy is incredibly fortunate to have her enlisted in the future leadership role as president-elect this fall.”

Matson received an Academy Outstanding Volunteerism Award in 2015. In July of that year, as chairperson of the ASB, she chaired a public hearing on pension plans that featured a wide range of diverse stakeholders.

Look for the Nominating Committee’s other selections for nomination in the coming months, and please submit nominations for member-selected directors by Monday, June 3.

Registration Open for 2024 Envision Tomorrow: Exploring a World of Risk

REGISTRATION IS OPEN for Envision Tomorrow, the Academy’s 2024 annual meeting set for Oct. 15–16 in Washington, D.C., with in-person and virtual options available.

This year’s conference program, with the theme “Exploring a World of Risk,” will kick off with insights from former NATO Supreme Allied Commander Gen. Wesley Clark on leadership, global risks, and the U.S. political landscape just weeks ahead of November’s presidential election.

Clark, who was a 2004 presidential candidate, will deliver the opening keynote address. His varied and deep experience uniquely positions him to discuss global risks: He is a Vietnam veteran, a West Point graduate, a Rhodes Scholar, a frequent contributor on TV, newspapers, and radio, and a retired four-star general who served 38 years in the U.S. Army, having served in his last assignments as Commander of U.S. Southern Command and then as Commander of U.S. European Command / Supreme Allied Commander. In 2019, he founded Renew America Together, a nonprofit organization designed to promote and achieve greater common ground in America by reducing partisan division and gridlock.

Also featured as a plenary speaker will be financial and insurance inclusion researcher and thought leader Leroy Nunery II, who will lead the Oct. 16 lunch session, “Growing Financial Inclusion.” Nunery authored the groundbreaking study “The Journey of African American Insurance Professionals: Past and Present,” and presented his findings on diversity, equity & inclusion in the property-casualty industry to senior staff members for the House Financial Services Committee. He will share insights on the benefits and
Academy Celebrates TAF’s 30th Anniversary

The Actuarial Foundation (TAF) hosted its 30th anniversary in a May 9 virtual gala. Many Academy representatives attended, and Executive Director Bill Michalisin offered a congratulatory message on behalf of the Academy and its members in support of TAF’s work to grow and diversify the profession’s talent pipeline. Former astronaut Ellen Ochoa—the first Hispanic director of the Johnson Space Center, who received a Presidential Medal of Freedom this month—gave the keynote address. Watch a recap on TAF’s YouTube page.

Actuary Voices Features SANA’s Shruti Gupta

The Latest Actuary Voices features a conversation with Shruti Gupta, president and co-founder of the South Asian Network of Actuaries (SANA), a 2023 Rising Actuary Award recipient who shares how she connects her current work to the bigger picture. Also, learn more about SANA’s efforts to grow the profession through its student outreach. Subscribe to Actuary Voices where you get your favorite podcasts.

Recently Released

The Spring Casualty Quarterly leads with a Q&A with P/C Risk-Based Capital (RBC) Committee Chairperson Ron Wilkins, who offers follow-up insights from a May 1 webinar, including historical background and recent committee work on key P/C RBC issues. Also in the issue, last month’s “Hill visits,” and early discounts are available to December’s P/C Loss Reserve Opinions Seminar in New Orleans.

CE & OTHER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

2024

JUNE
3 ABCD Requests for Guidance—Insight and Case Studies (webinar)
4 ERISA at 50 Symposium, Washington, D.C. (in-person event)
5 2025 Final Rules for Exchanges (webinar)
10 Speed-to-Market NAIC Presentation (webinar)
11–13 PBR Bootcamp; Philadelphia (in-person event)

JULY
11 Machine Learning Usage Survey Analysis (webinar)

SEPTEMBER
9–11 Casualty Loss Reserve Seminar; San Francisco (in-person event, co-sponsored by the Academy & the Casualty Actuarial Society)

OCTOBER
15–16 Envision Tomorrow; Academy 2024 Annual Meeting; Washington, D.C. (in-person event with virtual options)

NOVEMBER
4–7 Life and Health Qualifications Seminar; Arlington, Va. (in-person event)

DECEMBER
9–10 Seminar on Effective P/C Loss Reserve Opinions; New Orleans (in-person event)

For an updated list of Academy events, visit the online Events Calendar. Also, visit the on-demand webinar page for access to webinar recordings, a complimentary member-only benefit.
Academy NEWS

Academy Board Focuses on Strategic and Future Planning; Adopts Core Values Statement

THE ACADEMY BOARD held its May meeting in Washington, D.C., reviewing progress on its strategic plan and discussing future initiatives in support of its mission to serve the U.S. profession and public. The Board adopted a Core Values of the Academy statement, including a set of core values, why we hold them, and what we expect of our volunteers, staff, and other stakeholders.

The Board’s primary focus for the meeting was on strategy and exploring issues to inform future planning. It discussed strategic topics of importance to current and future Academy projects, including self-regulation, cyber security breaches, offshore reinsurance, recognition of the MAAA designation in state and federal laws and regulations, work being done to support the profession’s understanding and use of artificial intelligence (AI), and progress related to reinforcing the Academy’s DEI commitment.

In addition, the Board received updates on and discussed actions related to the Competency Framework and ongoing efforts to refine the Academy’s membership requirements; enhancements to Envision Tomorrow, the Academy’s annual meeting; and current and future technology updates to further enhance member, volunteer, and employer value and engagement.

The Board wrapped the two-day meeting with a presentation from The Actuarial Foundation (TAF) on its latest work and upcoming initiatives. (See story, p. 3.) A reminder that in addition to its annual funding support of the foundation, the Academy is matching up to $10,000 in member donations this year to TAF’s Modeling the Future Challenge.

Free Webinars Cover Medicare, Social Security Trustees’ Reports

THE ACADEMY HOSTED two free webinars, further reinforcing the many benefits offered to members and stakeholders, and released publications related to the annual Medicare and Social Security trustees’ reports, which were released on May 6.

An Academy alert covers the reports, which include updated projections on the solvency of the programs’ trust funds.

▲ Publications—The Medicare Committee released an issue brief and the Social Security Committee released a one-page infographic on the respective reports.

▲ Social Security Webinar—Social Security Administration Chief Actuary Stephen Goss and Deputy Chief Actuary Karen Glenn presented in a May 22 Social Security webinar, moderated by Academy Social Security Committee Chairperson Sam Gutterman. Slides and audio are available for free.

▲ Medicare Webinar—Paul Spitalnic, chief actuary with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and Michael Chernew, chair of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC), presented in the Medicare webinar on May 23, moderated by Academy Senior Health Fellow Cori Uccello. Slides and audio are available for free.

▲ Media coverage—Senior Retirement Fellow Linda Stone discussed benefits of earlier, gradual reform of Social Security in a CNN story, and CNBC’s and AARP’s coverage quoted Stone on how demographic trends may affect the program. The Academy’s analysis of Social Security reform options was referenced in C-SPAN’s Washington Journal, and Insurance News Net covered the Social Security webinar.

Reminder—Nominations Due for Awards, MSDs

ACADEMY MEMBERS have until early June to nominate peers for member-selected directors (MSDs) and annual awards.

▲ June 3—Nominations are due for MSDs to serve on the Academy Board. To nominate, visit the MSD Nominations page.

▲ June 7—Nominations are due for annual service and Rising Actuary awards. To nominate, Visit the Awards page.

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challenges of expanding insurance and financial literacy, growing the pipeline of STEM students and professionals, and how a lens of “underrepresentation risk” can help the insurance sector and the actuarial profession meet the challenges.

Public Policy, Election-Year Issues in Focus—Additional Speaker & Program Info to Come

Envision Tomorrow breakout and general sessions will focus on key “mega-issues,” as spotlighted in the Academy’s Election 2024: Issues Clearinghouse—health care, climate change, retirement security, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence (AI), and risk management. Individual sessions will focus on several issues, including health equity and behavioral health, Social Security, AI in practice, and behavioral economics research.

The research poster session will also be back this year, after its popular debut last year. The meeting will also feature the Academy’s officer transition, including Darrell Knapp succeeding Lisa Slotznick as Academy president, as well as the presentation of the Academy’s annual service and recognition awards. (Award nominations are due June 7 via actuary.org/awards.) As always, the proceedings will include a professionalism plenary session that will offer interactive opportunities (and CE) for attendees. Join the Academy and your peers for this important and exciting event in October, just weeks before the pivotal election—register today.

Volunteers put ‘The Magic School Bus’ in bags at CAS

‘ERISA at 50’ Opens With Webinar; Symposium Coming in June

With the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) marking its 50th anniversary, the Academy kicked off its “Looking Back, Moving Forward: ERISA at 50” series with a May 14 webinar exploring ERISA’s history, in which speakers discussed the landmark law’s framework and offered insights on its subsequent evolution. Slides and audio are available as a member benefit; see more in the recent Actuarially Sound blog post.

June stakeholder symposium—The series will include issue briefs related to ERISA from both the retirement and health practice areas, and a June 4 in-person stakeholder symposium in Washington, D.C. The Academy encourages you to share details with others in your organization who might be interested in this topic—click here to RSVP. Additional webinars will explore current and future opportunities for retirement security; for updates, follow the ERISA at 50 webpage.

Member Spotlight

Ron Ogborne

Read the latest Academy “Member Spotlight” to learn more about Ron Ogborne, who talks about his experience as an Academy health volunteer, and lessons from “Ted Lasso.” Visit the Member Spotlight page to read more about Ogborne and his adventures as the father of two young children.

The Academy in the News

A Forbes column about legislative activity in Alaska to restore public employee defined benefit pension plans pointed readers to an Academy Retirement for the AGES assessment of a Maine retirement plan.

Health Affairs cited the Academy’s July 2021 issue brief on long-term care financing reform proposals involving public programs.

The Actuaries Climate Index was used as a data source for new research on the association of excess mortality and extreme temperatures published in the peer-reviewed journal BMC Public Health.

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ActuariaLUPDATE MAY 2024
June Webinar to Focus on ABCD Case Studies

A June Professionalism Webinar, ABCD Requests for Guidance—Insight and Case Studies, will feature Actuarial Board for Counseling and Discipline members who will discuss case studies and recent requests for guidance. It’s set for Monday, June 3—register today.

ASB Adopts ASOP Revisions

The Actuarial Standards Board (ASB) recently adopted several actuarial standards of practice (ASOPs). For more, see the next ASB Boxscore, coming in early June.

- Adopted a revision of ASOP No. 40, now titled Compliance with the NAIC Valuation of Life Insurance Policies Model Regulation with Respect to X Factors.
- Adopted a revision of ASOP No. 27, now titled Selection of Assumptions for Measuring Pension Obligations.
- Adopted a revision of ASOP No. 36, now titled Statements of Actuarial Opinion Regarding Property/Casualty Loss, Loss Adjustment Expense, or Other Reserves, and revised the scope of the 2022 adopted revision of ASOP No. 28, Statements of Actuarial Opinion Regarding Health Insurance Assets and Liabilities.

Practice Councils Comment on ASOP No. 12

The Casualty Practice Council, the Health Practice Council, the Pension Committee, and the ERM/ORSA Committee all submitted comments to the ASB on the proposed revision of ASOP No. 12, Risk Classification (for All Practice Areas).

Academy Leaders Spread the Word on Professionalism

Board Member and Past ASB member Christopher Carlson presented “Professionalism: A Foundation That Will Serve You Well,” to the Cincinnati Actuarial Club on May 21. Carlson explored the Code of Professional Conduct and highlighted case studies and the Academy’s professionalism resources.

Also on May 21, “Bias in the Context of Data, Models, and Algorithms” was the topic of Data Science and Analytics Committee member Liaw Huang’s virtual presentation to the Middle Atlantic Actuarial Club, which offered examples of bias-related errors, considerations, and case studies.

General Counsel and Senior Director of Professionalism Brian Jackson gave a May 14 professionalism presentation at the Actuaries Club of Philadelphia. “You Are the Fulcrum of Self-Regulation” reviewed key elements of U.S. actuarial professionalism and how they work together to form a framework housed in the Academy.

Looking for a Speaker?—The Academy’s Speakers Bureau provides qualified speakers on professionalism and public policy topics.

Public Employment Opportunity

Ohio’s Office of Product Regulation and Actuarial Services is seeking an Insurance Actuarial Analyst 5 position. The ideal candidate will be knowledgeable in life insurance and annuity products and related insurance laws. For more information and to apply, click here.

The Academy supports government employers who are seeking to hire qualified actuaries. For more, see our Public Employment Opportunity Posting Policy.
If You See Something, Say Something

The results of two recent business ethics surveys make for disheartening reading. The 2023 Global Business Ethics Survey (GBES) found that pressure to compromise workplace standards and the law hit exceedingly high levels during the pandemic that have yet to recede, and that workplace misconduct is at an all-time high. In the U.S., 53 percent of respondents said that they had observed misconduct—defined as at least one act that they deemed to be a violation of their organization’s standards or the law.1

Gallup reports that Americans rated nearly all the 23 professions in its 2023 Honesty and Ethics poll lower than in recent years. Of the professions listed, nurses ranked most highly, with 78 percent of respondents rating the honesty and ethical standards of nurses as very high or high. “Actuary” was not one of the professions listed, but for the two most closely related professions listed, bankers and business executives, only 19 and 12 percent of respondents, respectively, rated their honesty and ethical standards as high or very high.2

One bright spot, according to GBES, is that the reporting of observed misconduct is at a record high: “A good sign of a strong ethical business is the reporting of misconduct, as it keeps teams and employees accountable.”

What does all this have to do with actuaries? As we know, credentialed actuaries in the U.S. must abide by standards of conduct, qualifications, and practice. But we also know that actuaries do not work in a vacuum. Like other employees, they are at times subject to pressure to take unethical actions that may contravene company policies and perhaps even the law. But unlike most employees, actuaries can point to standards they have to meet—or risk losing their credentials and membership status while causing significant reputational harm to the actuarial profession.

Actuarial professionalism standards require actuaries to report potential violations of the profession’s standards. Precept 13 of the Code of Professional Conduct states:

An Actuary with knowledge of an apparent, unresolved, material violation of the Code by another Actuary should consider discussing the situation with the other Actuary and attempt to resolve the apparent violation. If such discussion is not attempted or is not successful, the Actuary shall disclose such violation to the appropriate counseling and discipline body of the profession, except where the disclosure would be contrary to Law or would divulge Confidential Information.

The idea behind Precept 13 is that actuaries are in a better position than anyone else to know whether another actuary has potentially violated one of the profession’s standards. Precept 13 underlines the expectation that actuaries will meet the standards—and be held to task when they do not. It therefore helps to keep the profession honest and worthy of the public’s trust—which is essential to maintaining self-regulation.

If you know of an actuary who may have violated the profession’s standards, the Code encourages you to bring up your concerns with that actuary. During such a conversation, you may discover information that erases your concern, or the other actuary may realize they’ve made a mistake and correct their work. If, at any point, you or the other actuary would like a confidential sounding board or advice on how to handle the matter, you can contact the Actuarial Board for Counseling and Discipline (ABCD) with a request for guidance. In scenarios where you do not attempt a conversation, or your concerns remain even after talking to the other actuary, you must report the potential violation to the ABCD.

Speaking up when you see something wrong reinforces an ethical culture in your workplace and profession. Shining a light on potential problems allows them to be identified and corrected. When standards are upheld, and transgressors punished, ethical cultures are strengthened.

Actuaries are fortunate to have an ethical framework that supports them and requires them to adhere to standards. Do your part by meeting the standards yourself and reporting possible violations when you see them. It’s true what they say about one bad apple spoiling the barrel. Professionalism is the means to prevent that from happening and we all play a part. If you see something, say something. △

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1 Just behind Japan at 40% and Canada at 52%; Kenya came in last with 85%; 2023 Global Business Ethics Survey.
Early Registration Open for CLRS, P/C Loss Reserve Opinions Seminar

SAVE WITH EARLY DISCOUNTS to two Academy-sponsored P/C events coming later this year:

▲ CLRS—The Academy and the Casualty Actuarial Society are sponsoring the Casualty Loss Reserve Seminar (CLRS), set for Sept. 9–11 in San Francisco. The CLRS offers CE and highly interactive sessions to help P/C actuaries stay fresh on relevant topics, maintain credentials, and grow your network. Register today.

▲ P/C Opinion Seminar—The Seminar on Effective P/C Loss Reserve Opinions will be held Dec. 9–10 in New Orleans. Called by one past attendee “a great distillation of changing requirements and rules, as well as a good pooling of experience,” it’s designed for P/C actuaries who prepare NAIC annual statements of actuarial opinion. Register today.

Academy Participates in FIO Conference on Cyber-Incident Response

CASUALTY POLICY ANALYST Rob Fischer participated in a May 16 Federal Insurance Office (FIO) conference, which featured senior stakeholders from Department of the Treasury, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, and the Office of the National Cyber Director, along with cyber insurers and reinsurers. They discussed potential protection gaps, size of the cyber market, and what forms a federal cyber backstop could look like.

Webinar to Examine Payment Parameters

A JUNE 5 HEALTH PRACTICE COUNCIL (HPC) webinar will examine the 2025 Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters (NBPP) rule, released recently by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Rogelyn McLean, senior adviser in CMS’ Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight leadership team, will present. Register today.

PBR Bootcamp Coming in June

HERE’S STILL TIME TO REGISTER for next month’s PBR Bootcamp, being held in Philadelphia June 11–13. See the full agenda for the popular event, which will provide a comprehensive look at key principle-based reserving (PBR) topics. Do you have colleagues or team members who might be interested in this event? Make sure to share information about this essential training with them. Learn more.

HEALTH NEWS IN BRIEF

Board member Annette James provided an actuarial perspective on equity considerations in employer-based insurance as a panelist in a May 8 session at the ISPOR 2024 conference in Atlanta. Visit the Academy website to learn more about the HPC’s health equity work.

Webinar Covers P/C RBC Issues

A MAY 1 WEBINAR, An Introduction to P/C Risk-Based Capital, featured members of the P/C Risk-Based Capital (RBC) Committee, including chairperson Ron Wilkins, who moderated the session and offered an in-depth look in the Spring Casualty Quarterly.
LIFE NEWS IN BRIEF

The Asset Adequacy and Reinsurance Issues Task Force provided comments to the NAIC’s Life Actuarial Task Force (LATF) regarding LATF’s “AAT Reinsurance Exposure 031724.”

The Variable Annuity Reserves and Capital Subcommittee sent comments to NAIC’s Variable Annuities Capital and Reserve (E/A) Subgroup on the exposure draft of APF 2024-07.

MAY 2024 NEWS

Life Discussion Guide Covers Deferred Annuities

THE LIFE EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE released a resource and discussion guide, *Utilization Assumptions of Guaranteed Living Benefits for Deferred Annuities*, which offers reasons why there may be a cohort that never utilizes its guaranteed living benefits (GLBs). The considerations in the guide will help actuaries increase their knowledge on what can influence a contract-holder not to elect a potentially valuable benefit in the GLBs.

Retirement News

RPC Responds to HELP Committee

THE RETIREMENT PRACTICE COUNCIL responded to a request for information by the majority staff of the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee regarding ways to bolster the defined benefit pension system.

Risk Management & Financial Reporting News

Webinar Covers Discrimination

A MAY 2 WEBINAR, *Discrimination: Considerations for Machine Learning, AI Models, and Underlying Data*, featured members of the Data Science and Analytics Committee who covered algorithmic predictions and AI models being used by insurance companies to develop personalized risk models when engaged in insurance pricing and underwriting—in which issues of fairness, discrimination, and social injustice may arise.