

USQS Second Exposure Draft Released for Comment

THE ACADEMY'S Committee on Qualifications (COQ) has approved the release of a second exposure draft of the *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* that took effect Jan. 1, 2008. The comment deadline for the [second exposure draft](#) is **Aug. 20, 2021**.

The first exposure draft was issued on Sept. 2, 2020, with a comment deadline of Oct. 30, 2020. The COQ received 152 [comment letters](#), indicating that many members of the actuarial profession care strongly about the USQS and the standards they set for individual actuaries. The COQ thanks everyone who submitted comments.

Actuaries did not confine their comments just to the changes set forth in the exposure draft, but took

the opportunity to comment on the USQS in total. The comments received were thoughtful, came from actuaries from a variety of practice areas, and covered a wide range of topics, including area of practice, basic education, specialty tracks and examinations, enrolled actuaries, and diversity, equity & inclusion.

The COQ carefully considered the comments and made changes as reflected in this second exposure draft. The Academy Board of Directors also reviewed this draft and provided comments, which were taken into consideration in developing this exposure draft.

The Transmittal Memorandum at the beginning of the second exposure draft describes the significant changes proposed and asks for comments from members of actuarial organizations governed by the USQS and all interested parties, including the public.

Information on how to submit comments can be [found here](#). ▲

Academy Announces Slate of Officer Candidates, Nominees for Regular Directors

THE ACADEMY'S Nominating Committee reported on the slate of two incoming vice presidents, two new regular directors, and a returning regular director to serve on the Board of Directors, with terms beginning in November. In addition to the nomination of President-Elect Ken Kent, which was announced last month, the nominees to date are:

- ▲ Seong-min Eom, to be Vice President, Risk Management and Financial Reporting. Eom, who received an Outstanding Volunteerism Award from the Academy in 2019, has served on the Risk Management and Financial Reporting Council (RMFRC) and many of its committees, and was chairperson of the ERM/ORSA Committee and RMFRC's Liquidity Risk Work Group.
- ▲ Benjamin Slutsker, to be Vice President, Life. Slutsker has been a member of the Life Practice Council and many of its committees and work groups, was a past chairperson of the Principle-Based Reserving (PBR) Assumptions Resource Manual Work Group, and is the current chairperson of the Annuity Reserves & Capital Work Group.



Eom



Slutsker

Academy vice presidents serve two-year terms. The nominating process is focused on providing candidates that bring deep expertise, experience, and balance to the Board, and also familiarity and appreciation for the Academy's history, mission, and priorities. Per the Academy's bylaws, the officer slate will be voted on by the Board at its annual meeting in October. Terms for all new Board members will begin in November at the completion of the Academy's Annual Meeting.

SEE **BOARD NOMINEES**, PAGE 4

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[Volunteer Survey](#)

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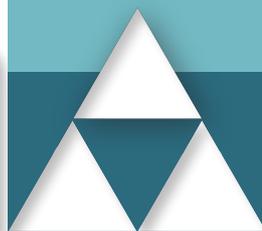
[Farewell to Executive Director Mary Downs](#)

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['Professionalism Counts'—Your Role in Standards Setting](#)

9

[Academy Meets With Rep. Rick Allen on Pension Issues](#)



2021

AUGUST

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

SEPTEMBER

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

NOVEMBER

15–18 Life and Health Qualifications Seminar, Arlington, Va.

Academy NEWS Briefs

Early Discounts End in July for November’s LHQ Seminar

EARLY REGISTRATION DISCOUNTS are available for the Academy’s annual [Life and Health Qualifications Seminar](#), which will be held in person this year in Arlington, Va. (just outside Washington, D.C.), Nov. 15–18. This event is the most efficient way to obtain either needed basic education or relevant continuing education (CE) credit necessary to qualify to issue actuarial opinions for either the NAIC Life and Accident & Health (A&H) Annual Statement or the NAIC Health Annual Statement. Always popular and highly regarded, this event usually sells out. Discounted registration rates are available through July 31—[register now for the best rates.](#) ▲

Registration Open for Virtual CLRS

REGISTRATION IS OPEN for the [2021 Virtual Casualty Loss Reserve Seminar](#) (CLRS), to be held Sept. 13–15. It will be the second year in which the annual CLRS is a virtual event. Jointly sponsored by the Academy and the Casualty Actuarial Society, the CLRS provides educational opportunities to help attendees stay current with today’s loss reserve developments and learn from experts in reserving. Discounted registration rates are available through Aug. 20—[register today.](#) ▲

Recently Released

THE SPRING ISSUE of [The Retirement Report](#) covers the Pension Practice Council’s (PPC) recent “Hill visits”—virtual visits with federal officials and Capitol Hill offices discussing a number of key pension topics pertaining to Social Security, multiemployer pension plans, lifetime income, and retirement security. Also in the issue, recent PPC issue briefs, one on the security of pension plan benefits and another on pooled employer plans; webinars on Social Security, multiemployer plans, and risk-sharing plan designs; and recent state and federal legislative activity. ▲

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](#).

IN THE NEWS

A subscriber-only *Health Plan Weekly* story quoted Bela Gorman, vice chairperson of the Health Equity Work Group, from the Academy’s May [health equity webinar](#) exploring questions from an actuarial perspective about the areas in which health actuaries are involved that may affect health equity. The story also cited the work group’s recent discussion brief, [Health Equity From an Actuarial Perspective: Questions to Explore](#).

Senior Life Fellow Nancy Bennett offered comments to [ThinkAdvisor](#) for an article exploring possible implications of reported life expectancy changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A [Bloomberg Law](#) story on this month’s Supreme Court decision on the Affordable Care Act quoted Academy Senior Health Fellow Cori Uccello.

A personal finance radio

segment on WIND AM 560 in Chicago cited data drawn from the Academy’s jointly sponsored Actuaries Longevity illustrator in discussing longevity risk as a factor in retirement planning.

The French-language Canadian insurance publication [Porteil de L’Assurance](#) reported on the latest data release of the [Indice Actuariel Climatique](#) (fr) [Actuaries Climate Index](#) (eng). ▲

Academy NEWS

Academy Holds Successful Virtual PBR Boot Camp

THE ACADEMY held a successful Virtual PBR Boot Camp June 7-9. Presenters covered a range of specifically tailored sessions relevant to the now-effective principle-based reserving (PBR) framework for life insurance (and variable annuities), including lessons learned through implementation of VM-20, mortality, liability assumption considerations, PBR life insurance asset modeling, reinsurance, model overview and model

governance, variable annuities, and regulator and auditor reviews, among others.

While each session allowed attendees the ability to interact on the Boot Camp platform, the agenda also included interactive Q&A sessions focusing on participant-targeted information, sharing insights, and learning from others' experience of PBR in their practice.

"Our speakers were truly subject-matter experts who had done the

modeling, followed governance procedures, and had been through PBR actuarial reviews, so had practical advice for participants," said Linda Lankowski, a PBR Boot Camp presenter/moderator and chairperson of the PBR Strategy Subgroup.

"Judging from the number of questions posed by the attendees both during the sessions and at the end-of-day wrap-up session, the audience was engaged, active, and will apply the learnings in next year's PBR reports," she said.

Lankowski said the Academy is planning another forum this fall to discuss with regulators their findings from review of 2020 year-end PBR Valuation Manual (VM-31) reports.

Academy Resource: 'PBR in Practice' Webpage

Looking for a one-stop shop for your PBR-related resources? The Academy's [PBR in Practice webpage](#) contains helpful materials to assist actuaries and regulators in their practice and oversight of PBR for life insurance and variable annuities, including a toolkit that provides resources to support actuaries on PBR valuations. ▲



Lankowski (bottom right) at a session on assets

Take the Academy's Volunteer Survey

AS THE U.S. NATIONAL actuarial association, the Academy, through its volunteers, works tirelessly to assist in providing objective nonpartisan analysis to policymakers, and help to establish, maintain, and enforce high professional standards of actuarial qualification, practice, and conduct for all actuaries practicing in the United States.

Thanks to our volunteers' efforts, the Academy has a prominent and, importantly, a credible voice on public policy and actuarial professionalism concerns in legislative and regulatory arenas at the international, national, state, and local levels and is recognized by practitioners, regulators, employers of actuaries, and other users of actuarial work as the U.S. actuarial profession's own self-regulating standard-setting body.



Take the Survey

Each year, the Academy undertakes through its volunteer survey to offer the widest opportunity possible to its members to volunteer on committees. Volunteers apply their expertise and draw from their experience to contribute to the Academy's

work on public policy and professionalism concerns. If you would like to join your colleagues in volunteering at the Academy, please fill out our annual volunteer survey, which closes on Friday, July 30.

The Academy is strongly committed in continuing to build a more diverse membership and volunteer pool to assist in reinforcing its commitment to having an inclusive organizational culture to help support the Academy's mission to serve the public and the U.S. actuarial profession.

The Academy is looking to compile a list of potential volunteers to help advise and shape important actuarial issues, including but not limited to, diversity, equity, and inclusion work that each practice area is undertaking. The Academy has an interest in gathering different points

SEE SURVEY, PAGE 5

Is Your Academy Member Profile Up to Date?

COLLECTING, MAINTAINING, and analyzing various demographic information allows the Academy to better understand its membership specifically and the U.S. actuarial profession in general. In recent years, the Academy has expanded the type of information requested and compiled, including allowing members to add another area of practice to their profile, ethnicity, and specializations within their practice area.

Please assist the Academy in this data collection effort by visiting the “Update My Profile” section of the [member section](#) of the Academy website to review and add this optional additional information. If you need assistance in reviewing, updating, or adding specific demographic information to your Academy member profile, please contact membership@actuary.org. ▲

‘Actuary Voices’ Features Academy President Tom Campbell

THE LATEST EPISODE OF [Actuary Voices](#), the Academy’s podcast, features Academy President Tom Campbell, who talks about his undergraduate math studies at Providence College that evolved into a 30-year actuarial career in which he specialized in life insurance, became involved with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) and other groups, and was a key player on his company’s, The Hartford’s, softball team. His volunteer work at the Academy also led him to many interesting opportunities for contributions at the NAIC. “Being viewed as an independent organization, and an objective organization, is very important,” he said. “Maintaining that objectivity and independence is an important part of the Academy’s mission.”

While noting some of the pandemic-related challenges during his presidential term that began in November, he also referenced the Academy’s work in the past year on diversity, equity & inclusion—an ongoing effort he said would take “a lot of time and effort from everyone.” Campbell said another area where future challenges would likely arise is in the realm of artificial intelligence. In his personal time, he enjoys bike riding and does volunteer work with the group Outreach to Haiti, which provides health, education, and nutrition assistance to that country. Listen to this podcast and subscribe to Actuary Voices on your preferred podcast platform. ▲



Board Nominees, continued from page 1

Regular Directors

The Nominating Committee also reported on the slate of three individuals nominated to serve as regular directors on the Board, with three-year terms beginning in November. Candidacies for regular director candidates, who will also take begin their terms on the Board at the conclusion of the Academy’s annual meeting in November, will be open to be voted on by the membership in an online election later this summer.

- ▲ Dorothy Andrews, a member of 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



Andrews

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.

- ▲ Annette James is a member of the Health Practice Council (HPC) and is chairperson of the Health Equity Work Group, which was formed last year. She has served on the ASB’s Health Committee, and many HPC committees



Carlson

and work groups, including the Health Practice International Committee.

The nominating process is designed to bring to the Board regular director candidates with an ability and willingness to serve the Academy, demonstrated by their prior volunteer service. Together with the officer candidates, the entire slate of new directors was chosen to provide a balanced distribution across practice areas and business affiliations in accordance with the [Nominating Committee Guidelines](#). ▲



James

Farewell to Executive Director Mary Downs

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mary Downs, who retired at the end of June, was conferred by the Academy Board with “honorary membership” in the Academy in recognition of her years of service to the Academy and the U.S. actuarial profession. In a resolution dated June 10, the Board noted Mary’s “dedication, distinction, and professionalism” in her service to the Academy.

On a virtual farewell celebration past and present Academy leadership hosted for her, Mary expressed her deep appreciation to all of them and to the many outstanding actuaries she has met and worked with in her 15 years at the Academy.

Mary was feted by Academy staff in a “virtual happy hour.” Hosted by toastmaster Craig Hanna (director of public policy), the event allowed Academy staff to share their heartfelt memories of



Mary from over the years, appreciation of her many laudable qualities, and even a serenade accompanied by a ukulele.

The Academy is positioned on a solid foundation—as is, indeed, the U.S. actuarial

profession—as a result of the years of Mary’s steadfast leadership. Please join Academy leadership and staff in wishing her all the best in this next chapter of her remarkable life. ▲▲

ACI Down Slightly in Latest Five-Year Average

THE [Actuaries Climate Index](#) (ACI) five-year moving average fell for the first time since 2017, according to the latest release that includes fall 2020 data. The five-year moving average now sits at 1.22 relative to an average of zero during the 1961–1990 reference period.

“The five-year average declined because the latest seasonal measure of changes in weather extremes and sea level

replaced an even higher seasonal value from the fall of 2015 that cycled out of the calculation of the average,” said Doug Collins, chair of the Climate Index Working Group.

The ACI is sponsored jointly by the Academy, the Canadian Institute of Actuaries, the Casualty Actuarial Society, and the Society of Actuaries. [Read the news release.](#) ▲▲



Survey, continued from page 3

of view from its members to assist the Academy leadership in tackling important actuarial issues, and in developing Academy volunteer leadership from various backgrounds and with different types and levels of experience. Your participation can help with this effort.

Along with the many benefits of membership, serving in a volunteer capacity for the Academy offers you unique opportunities to:

- ▲ Share your experiences and expertise with the Academy and your colleagues;
- ▲ Collaborate with your peers on initiatives aimed at advancing professionalism and the actuarial profession;
- ▲ Make a difference by helping the Academy serve the public and the U.S.

actuarial profession by contributing to efforts to develop sound public policy;

- ▲ Gain additional technical expertise;
- ▲ Network and establish meaningful connections with colleagues across practice areas; and
- ▲ Enhance your leadership abilities and skills in consensus building.

Additionally, volunteers may earn continuing education (CE) credits during their service.

The survey describes Academy committees, particularly noting those that are actively seeking volunteers; there are some new opportunities this year. You should indicate your interests and provide information about how your experience or skills would be a good fit for a particular

committee. Whenever a member is added to a committee, it is expected that the member will both fill a need and be an active committee participant.

Please note that all volunteers must acknowledge the Academy’s Conflict of Interest policy and acknowledge compliance with the U.S. Qualification Standards’ CE requirements in the survey. For more information about these policies, [please click here](#). If you have any questions about volunteering or the survey, please contact Academy Director of Membership Kasha Shelton at volunteersurvey@actuary.org.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to help the Academy, the actuarial profession, the public, and your own professional development. ▲▲



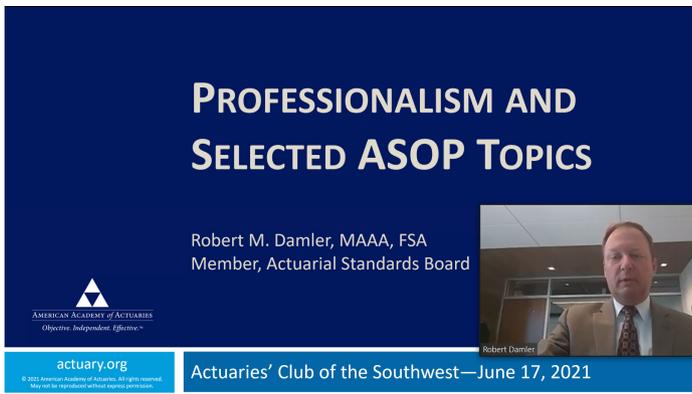
Professionalism Outreach

ACTUARIAL STANDARDS BOARD (ASB) Vice Chairperson Rob Damler presented virtually on “Professionalism and Selected ASOP Topics” to the Actuaries’ Club of the Southwest on June 17. In his presentation, he reviewed the structure and standards-setting functions of the ASB; selected topics in the actuarial standards of practice including reliance, documentation, and disclosure; and noted professionalism resources available from the Academy.

Nancy Behrens, chairperson of the Academy’s Committee on Professional Responsibility, presented “Professionalism and You” June 23 at the Southeastern Actuaries Conference’s Virtual Meeting. The presentation reviewed the professionalism infrastructure that is founded in the Code of Professional Conduct and housed in the Academy, self-regulation, and case and request for guidance trends at the Actuarial Board for Counseling and Discipline. Behrens engaged the audience with polling questions and an insightful discussion of case studies with members of the club’s Executive Committee. ▲

Lisa Slotznick Named Vice Chairperson of COQ

LISA SLOTZNICK, a past Academy vice president, casualty, is the new vice chairperson of the Committee on Qualifications (COQ), to assist Chairperson Katie Campbell. Slotznick—a 2015 recipient of an Academy Outstanding Volunteerism Award—has been serving as a member of the COQ and is a member of the Actuarial Standards Board’s ASOP No. 41 Task Force. ▲



Damler presents on June 17

This Month in Social Media



On Facebook, we added our voice to those honoring Juneteenth, a new federal holiday signed into law by President Biden commemorating June 19, 1865, when news of the Emancipation Proclamation reached Texas two-and-a-half years after it was issued. The holiday has long been celebrated as the end of slavery in America.



On Twitter, we asked “did you know” that the Committee on Qualifications recently provided clarification through an update to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the U.S. Qualification Standards (USQS) that the USQS can be interpreted to include diversity, equity & inclusion training as part of professionalism continuing education.



On LinkedIn, we highlighted a new issue brief that details considerations employers might be taking in determining whether to participate in a Pooled Employer Plan, a new type of retirement plan.

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



Member Spotlight

Nancy Behrens

EACH MONTH, the Academy has been introducing you to an actuary who shares insights about their professional lives, as well as some glimpse into their personal lives. Visit the [Member Spotlight page](#), part of the Academy's "Professionalism First" hub. This month we profile Nancy Behrens, a retired life actuary and chairperson of the Academy's Committee on Professional Responsibility.

When and why did you decide to become an actuary?

I had heard about the actuarial profession several times throughout high school and college, but did not think seriously about pursuing it until I was working on my master's degree. A few of my teaching assistant colleagues and I challenged each other to take the first exam. We all passed and thought that it must be pretty easy to become an actuary. Reality set in when I took exams that had not been covered in my college courses! The combination of using math skills and solving business problems was very attractive to me. The ability to design products that helped consumers manage the financial risks of dying too soon or living too long was also intriguing. Finally, I was very interested in the challenge of making long-term decisions based on historical data and expected future results.

Describe a professionalism challenge you faced early in your career. How did you handle it?

I was fortunate to work for a company that did not ask me to walk too close to the ethical/professionalism line. I found that in leading other actuaries, I had to be careful about how I asked for a better answer than the one they had provided, in case they would not be able to say the same in the future! I tried to keep an open environment where actuaries could debate the issues at hand and not be afraid to challenge authority. And I was always cognizant of whose signature was going on the document.

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

Cultivate relationships with your non-actuarial colleagues, recognize the perspective they bring to the table and give them the same respect that you give to actuaries. It took me too long to figure that out on my own.

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

Figure out what is important to you and to your employer and then keep your eyes on those big things. It is very easy for actuaries to get bogged down in issues that don't have a large impact on the final results. But, on the issues that do really matter, be tenacious, be prepared, and communicate effectively.

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

I try to stay focused on the big things in my personal life as well and I am committed to helping those people around the world who are in need of things that most of us take for granted—clean water, adequate nutrition, and a safe living environment. I like to travel and am looking forward to pursuing some bucket list items in a post-pandemic world. I like gardening and have had lots of time to be outside on our property during the past year. When weather permits, I enjoy riding my motorcycle, a Harley Softail. I must say I am a bit of a fair-weather rider, but that is probably just the risk aversion coming out in me.

Help us learn more about you.



The Academy recognizes the importance of a diverse, inclusive profession.

To achieve this goal, the Academy would like to learn more about you. Consider updating your member profile to include your gender and race/ethnicity. This information will not be displayed on your public profile. It will enable the Academy to determine benchmarks and identify areas for growth—plus it will help us ensure that the member experience and our programming reflects you and all our members.

Log into your member profile today.

Questions? Contact us at membership@actuary.org.

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Your Role in the Standard-Setting Process

THE ACTUARIAL STANDARDS BOARD (ASB) has been very busy in recent months in the last year: About 20 of the 52 actuarial standards of practice (ASOPs) that are currently in effect are being revised. In addition, two new standards are being developed, and one actuarial compliance guideline will likely be converted into an ASOP. Most reading this are not a member of the ASB or one of its committees or task forces, but you should know you do have a role to play in this process.

The ASB approves proposals for new or revised ASOPs when it determines that it is appropriate to reflect emerging issues in actuarial practice, recent advancements in actuarial science, or changes in law or the business environment in the standards of practice. Once the ASB approves a proposal for a new standard or a revision to an existing one, a task force reporting to the standing committee in the relevant practice area is usually formed to do the drafting work. (Sometimes, the standing committee itself acts as the drafting group.)

The initial drafting stage can take anywhere from a few months for a minor revision to two years for major revisions or the development of a new ASOP. Before being released for comment, proposed exposure drafts are carefully reviewed by the relevant practice area standing committee and the ASB and Academy legal counsel.

Once the ASB has reviewed and approved the proposed exposure draft, the draft is sent out via email to all members and posted on the ASB website, usually for 60-90 days, and anyone interested can submit comments. Most comments received are from individual actuaries, but companies, committees, government bodies, and other stakeholders are welcomed and encouraged to comment as well.

Why is this exposure process important? It allows the ASB to gain insight into a wide range of views from those who would be affected by the proposed or revised ASOP. And it allows actuaries—and other interested parties—to weigh in on the standards that impact them. As ASOP No. 1, *Introductory Actuarial Standard of Practice*, notes, the exposure process “is intended to seek input on the effect that the proposed ASOP would have on the level of practice.”¹

Once reviewed and approved, the proposed exposure draft is sent to all members and posted on the ASB website, and anyone interested can submit comments.

The exposure process also ensures a measure of transparency and keeps the profession and the public informed about points of view that may affect the final content of the ASOP. Anyone can view the comments submitted—all signed comments received by the deadline are posted online. (To help ensure the integrity and transparency of the process, the ASB does not accept anonymous comments.)

Once the comment period closes, the drafting group carefully considers the comments,

drafts responses, and make subsequent changes to the draft; this process often takes months. When considering a comment, the drafting group summarizes the comment and the group’s response to the comment, including the extent to which the comment was incorporated and the rationale for doing so. This summary and response appear in the appendices of each ASOP, usually Appendix 2.

Such careful consideration of the comments, along with the transparency of the process and wide range of input received, help the ASB ensure the integrity of the standard-setting process and that the public can trust the standards that govern actuarial practice in the U.S.

With exposure drafts in nearly every practice area expected to be released over the next year or so, we encourage you to keep an eye out for exposure drafts of ASOPs in your area of practice. To stay informed about the release of exposure drafts, sign up for [Boxscore](#), the ASB’s newsletter. By participating in the exposure process, you not only contribute to your profession and provide input on the standards that affect your work, but you can earn professionalism continuing education credits for the time you spend preparing your comments. ▲

Footnotes

¹ Section 3.11.

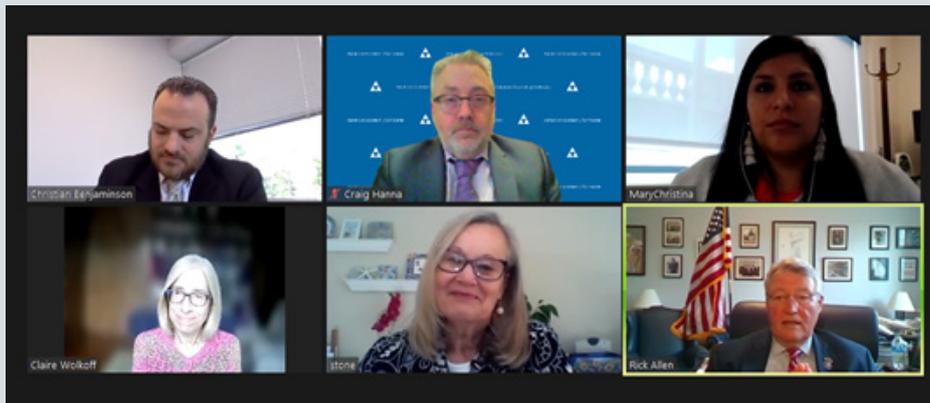
Academy Meets With House Pension Subcommittee Ranking Member Rep. Rick Allen

ACADEMY VOLUNTEERS and staff held a virtual meeting June 25 with U.S. Rep. Rick Allen (R-Ga.), ranking member of the House Education & Labor Committee’s Health, Employment, Labor & Pensions Subcommittee. Academy Multiemployer Plans Committee Chairperson Christian Benjaminson, Retirement Systems

Assessment and Policy Committee Vice Chairperson Claire Wolkoff, Senior Pension Fellow Linda K. Stone, and Director of Public Policy Craig Hanna represented the Academy during the meeting.

The engaging discussion with the congressman and his staff ranged from multiemployer plan reforms, including

the recently enacted provisions of the American Rescue Plan Act, private plan employer-sponsored defined benefit and defined contribution innovations, and Social Security solvency. The meeting, at the congressman’s request, was the result of the Pension Practice Council’s successful “Hill visits” in May. ▲▲



Academy meets with Rep. Allen (bottom right)

NOVEMBER

Life and Health Qualifications Seminar

REGISTER TODAY
www.actuary.org/calendar

Nov. 15-18, 2021
ARLINGTON, VA

Acquire the necessary qualifications to sign statements of actuarial opinion for NAIC life and health annual statements.

ACADEMY
SEMINARS



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Academy Assists NAIC in CASTF Predictive Analytics Series

ACADEMY VOLUNTEERS and staff facilitated development of the presentations for a virtual education series sponsored by the NAIC's Casualty Actuarial and Statistical Task Force (CASTF) this month. The seven sessions were part of CASTF's Predictive Analytics "Book Club" series held in late June in conjunction with the NAIC's Insurance Summit to facilitate regulator training and the sharing of actuarial expertise on data analytics and the use of complex models. Presentation topics included catastrophe modeling, ethics in analytics, big data and modeling, regularization methods, generalized additive models, tree-based models, and territory methods. ▲

COPLFR Comments to NAIC Blanks Committee

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 letter addressed such areas as definition of exposure, calendar date alignment, and existing alternative data sources. ▲

HEALTH NEWS



Health Equity Work Group Presents at SOA Health Meeting

THE ACADEMY'S Health Equity Work Group (HEWG) presented June 15 at the Society of Actuaries 2021 Health Meeting on "Health Equity: How Actuaries Are Contributing to Efforts to Reduce Health Disparities."

Presenters discussed the HEWG's work including its recently released discussion briefs [Health Equity From an Actuarial Perspective: Questions to Explore](#), and [Health Equity From an Actuarial Perspective: A Deeper Dive Into Health Plan Pricing Questions](#). ▲

HPC Comments to Federal Agencies on Surprise Medical Billing

THE HEALTH PRACTICE COUNCIL'S (HPC) Individual & Small Group Markets Committee and Active Benefits Subcommittee sent a [comment letter](#) to the departments of Health & Human Services, Labor, and the Treasury on prospective agency actions related to the *No Surprises Act*.

The letter was issued in advance of anticipated proposed rules on the recently enacted federal law. It conveys concerns surrounding surprise medical billing from an actuarial perspective and cites the Academy's September 2019 issue brief, [Surprise Medical Bills: An Overview of the Problem and Approaches to Address It](#), which examined surprise billing and proposed reforms under consideration by policymakers at the time. ▲

Supreme Court Issues Rulings on ACA

THE U.S. SUPREME COURT on June 17 dismissed a challenge made to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) brought by a suit contending the ACA's individual mandate is unconstitutional. The challenge had the potential to invalidate the ACA. The Academy released an alert citing the particulars of the case, which leaves the landmark 2010 health law intact. [Read the Academy alert](#).

In late June, the court declined to hear appeals brought by health insurance companies seeking full reimbursement from the federal government under a provision of the ACA. The insurers' writ of certiorari for appeal before the court had stated they were owed reimbursements for each year they did not receive federal government payments under the ACA's cost-sharing reduction payments program. [Read the Academy alert](#). ▲



HEALTH BRIEFS

- ➔ **Craig Huval, Lee Resnick, and Sheree Swanson** joined the Health Equity Work Group.
- ➔ **Mark Blessinger, Jeremy Palmer, Taylor Pruisner, Colby Schaeffer, Adam Schlecht, Jared Simons, Gabe Smith, Sheree Swanson, and Matthew Varitek** joined the LTC Medicaid Subcommittee.



Committee Submits Comment Letter to Treasury, IRS

THE PENSION COMMITTEE submitted comments to the U.S. Department of the Treasury and Internal Revenue Service providing suggestions for modification to the rules relating to the maintenance and application of funding balances.



The letter suggests:

- ▲ Extending the deadline for elections to create or apply funding balances by one month to coincide with the Form 5500 filing deadline;
- ▲ Extending the deadline for elections to reduce (waive) funding balances beyond the end of the plan year;
- ▲ Modifying specific and standing elections to provide greater flexibility by allowing formulaic elections; and
- ▲ Providing an additional standing election to waive funding balances under certain circumstances. ▲



Life Reserves Work Group Comments on VM

THE LIFE RESERVES Work Group submitted a comment letter to the NAIC's Life Actuarial (A) Task Force (LATF) on a Valuation Manual (VM) amendment proposal form (APF) regarding asset adequacy testing for reinsurance requirements. ▲



LIFE BRIEFS

➔ **Danielle Gannon** and **Dylan Strother** joined the Life Reserves Work Group.

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The American Academy of Actuaries
1850 M Street NW
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20036
Phone 202-223-8196
Fax 202-872-1948
www.actuary.org

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RMFRC, CPC Comment to New York, SEC

THE RISK MANAGEMENT and Financial Risk Council (RMFRC) and the Casualty Practice Council (CPC) commented jointly to New York State and the Securities and Exchange Commission on climate-related issues.

Climate Risk

The Actuaries Climate Index/Actuaries Climate Risk Index (ACI/ACRI) Work Group and the Climate Related Financial Disclosures (CRFD) Work Group [sent a joint letter](#) to the New York State Department of Financial Services (DFS) on New York's "Proposed Guidance for New York

Domestic Insurers on Managing the Financial Risks From Climate Change." The letter outlines the work that has been done regarding the Academy's ACRI and jointly sponsored ACI, and by the CRFD Work Group, and offers specific comments on the proposed guidance.

Climate Disclosures

The Climate-Related Financial Disclosures Work Group and the Actuaries Climate Index/Actuaries Climate Risk Index Work Group jointly [submitted comments](#) to the Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) request for public input on climate change disclosures. ▲

DSAC Comments to Federal Agencies on AI

RMFRC'S DATA SCIENCE and Analytics Committee (DSAC) [submitted comments](#) in response to a joint request for information and comment from several federal agencies regarding financial institutions' use of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning. The DSAC letter provided actuarial insights

into the use of AI in the insurance sector. The agencies making the request are the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Reserve's Board of Governors, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and the National Credit Union Administration. ▲

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and provides technical expertise regarding retirement benefits of the New York City Retirement Systems and Pension Funds retirees and beneficiaries to ensure proper payments and statutory compliance.

For more information and to apply, go to <https://a127-jobs.nyc.gov>; please note Job Opening ID No.: 461344.

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