

THE ACTUARIAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA NEWSLETTER

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ACTUARIAL
 SOCIETY
OF SOUTH AFRICA

WORLD CLASS!

I have often said that the three most important events in South Africa this year were ICA 2010, the FIFA World Cup and the introduction of the FASSA designation. With the cheers for the ICA and now also the sound of vuvuzelas fading into the background, I suppose it is back to work for all of us. (I suppose there could be a poem about The Last Vuvuzela or something like that – would anyone be prepared to submit an attempt to wim@actuarialsociety.org.za? Best entry takes a six-pack of soft or fermented.)

KE NAKO

Members of the Society did score a spectacular goal with the Calculator Fund. The call for contributions towards calculators for students at TSiBA's Eden Campus met with a very favourable response, and we actually collected a little more than was required. The balance is kept in what has become known as the Calculator Fund, and this will be used to contribute towards community upliftment projects. I would like to thank each and every member who contributed to this Fund for the difference they have made in the lives of the TSiBA students.

I am also using this opportunity to draw attention to three other initiatives, more details of which appear on the Community Involvement page on the Society's website:

- Tony van Ryneveld is involved in developments in the area of Vrygrond, a very poor area near Muizenberg on the Cape Flats, and in nearby Village Heights, an informally developed shack area bordering on the bush. The Van Rynevelds' involvement has included upgrading libraries and getting them organised and provided with books, contributing to the establishment of a primary school, encouraging sport by

providing kit and some general finance for two soccer clubs, and helping some people with housing. If anybody would be interested in seeing these areas at first hand, to learn something about life for relatively poor people, and to be stimulated by the positives, Tony will very happily take you there. And if anybody would like to contribute to the costs of a much-needed community hall, that would be greatly appreciated, too. Please contact Tony at tonyvr@kingsley.co.za.

- Computershare, together with the late Mike Thomson's family, set up the Change a Life Trust in his honour to help fight the causes and symptoms of crime. Should you want to contribute to the Trust, please contact wim@actuarialsociety.org.za.
- St Luke's Hospice provides Palliative Care to about 760 patients on any given day, ensuring that they are comfortable and as pain free as possible. More than a quarter of their patients are aged between 20 and 35; and as a whole 40% have AIDS and 60% have cancer. This year, their 5-storey high Norfolk Pine in Kenilworth will be lit up every night over the festive season in celebration of life and in honour of those who have passed away. If you wish to support their

Tree of Lights Campaign this year by sponsoring lights, please contact wim@actuarialsociety.org.za.

Thank you to all our members who quietly contribute to making life better for those who are less fortunate than we are. The words of Anson Dorrance, US woman soccer coach, come to mind: "The vision of a champion is someone bent over, drenched in sweat, to a point of exhaustion, when no one else is watching."

THE RULES OF THE GAME

The Actuarial Governance Board has made significant progress in developing a new disciplinary process for members of the Society. Without compromising their independence, they have kept Council abreast of developments, and we highly appreciate this cooperative way of working. I am confident that the new procedure will go a long way to resolve the deficiencies in the current process, which have caused considerable frustration over the years. The new procedure will be discussed with members at sessional meetings before the AGB approves it.

Similarly, considerable progress has been made in reworking the exposure draft of the Code of Conduct that was circulated in May. A further version of the Code will be circulated shortly. At this stage, I would like to record Council's appreciation to every member who has taken the time to comment on the exposure draft.

A revised draft of the Society's CPD Scheme will also be circulated shortly. Good news in this regard is that the facility to log CPD online has been made available and received enthusiastic support. Follow-up notices were sent to members whose CPD records have not been received by the Society. Please bear in mind that compliance with the Society's

CPD Scheme is a condition of continued membership for Fellows and Associates, and for Students who have been members for 10 years or more.

UK UNITED

I would also like to thank all members who responded to the request to participate in the vote on the UK merger. The active participation of members of the Actuarial Society did not pass unnoticed.

Ronnie Bowie, who will be the first President of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries, visited South Africa this month and used the opportunity to present new UK qualifiers with Fellowship certificates. Ronnie and I also discussed issues of mutual interest, including opportunities and challenges facing the profession. We had an extensive discussion regarding the UK approach to applying for CERA award status, the Society's proposed use of ST9 and the establishment of ERM as a new practice area for actuaries, especially in wider fields. The Society's application for CERA award status was submitted on 9 July.

THE PENSION FUNDS ACT

Sartre said that, in football, everything is complicated by the presence of the opposite team. In a sense, that applies to retirement fund work as well. Rosemary Hunter, whom most pensions practitioners know and who serves on the Society's Tribunal, has co-produced a comprehensive analysis of the Pension Funds Act, its regulations, notices and circulars. Please contact michelle.smith@hunterlaw.co.za for more information, or to order *The Pension Funds Act: A Commentary*.

STOCHASTIC MODELLING

The International Actuarial Association recently published *Stochastic Modeling - Theory and Reality from an Actuarial Perspective*, produced by a team of writers and researchers at Milliman, Inc. The publication presents the mathematical and statistical framework necessary to develop stochastic models in any setting (insurance or otherwise). If you want a paper copy, you get both an electronic copy (PDF) and a paper copy by paying the additional cost for shipping. The purchaser of the electronic version will get an e-mail confirmation (receipt) with instructions and two download links (one for the PDF book and one for the Excel worksheets).

The Society will place a bulk order, should members be interested. Please contact Suzandia Peterson (xy34764@oldmutual.

com) by not later than 13 August to place an order. The price, including postage, is R350.

TECHING UP

The first attempt to computerise the Society's membership records was launched in 1974. The contractor accepted an annual fee of R25 for his services. Things have changed somewhat since then!

This year saw the first Annual General Meeting of the Society held by video conference. I would like to thank all members who attended the meeting, with a special word of thanks to President-elect Themba Gamedze, who hosted the Johannesburg leg of the meeting. I would also like to express appreciation to those members who took the time to comment on my presidential address.

Another innovation we are keen to put to the test is on-line elections for office-bearers. An invitation to nominate candidates will shortly be circulated. The Society is going through a particularly exciting period in its development, and I have been honoured to be part of this period. This view is shared by many others. Apart from that, volunteer work, such as on Council, provides a unique opportunity to hone one's technical and professional skills. I would therefore urge you to consider making yourself available for the demanding, but truly rewarding, position of Council member. More details follow shortly.

I would also like to use this opportunity to thank those volunteers who could not attend the Annual General Meeting for their continued dedication, commitment, hard work and, when it comes to dealing with certain office-bearers, patience! Your efforts are truly appreciated.

TACTICAL KICK

In a move that will allow the Society to focus better on members' needs, the former Communications and Marketing Board has been divided into two operational boards.

The Marketing Board will focus on external relationships. Rowan Burger continues chairing the Board. Lucienne Fild has been contracted to assist with media relationships, and has been providing valuable assistance in this regard. The Board is looking for someone to drive the consistent application of the Society's branding initiatives.

Joanna Legutko has agreed to chair the Member Services Board, which will focus on the continued development and implementation of a member services strategy and the promotion of the Society's and profession's brand among its members. Those with a flair for service, or complaints about the current service, are encouraged to contact wim@actuarialsociety.org.za.

SHOPPING FOR TALENT

A few vacancies on our team of volunteers are having an impact on the Society's performance. Apart from the Marketing and Member Services Boards referred to above, the Education and CPD Board requires an additional examiner for Pensions and Other Benefits Applications (F204) and a chair for the Tuition Subcommittee. The Chair of the Human Resources Board, Themba Gamedze, will play a symphony on the vuvuzela for every expression of interest that reaches him via wim@actuarialsociety.org.za .

While on education-related matters, the Student Liaison Committee circulated an informative note on the results of the April examinations. This is well worth reading. Congratulations to all those students who successfully completed exams during this exam session.

I would also like to congratulate the Board of Examiners on the completion of a full South African examination session, and wish to thank them for their hard work, without which this would not have been possible.

KEEPING GOAL

Getting back to the World Cup, I would like to suggest that the position of President of the Actuarial Society is similar to that of goalkeeper of a soccer team. One relies on an immense amount of work done by others during the match. And perhaps I should also remind you of the view of George Graham, Scottish soccer player and manager, who said that the biggest sin in soccer is to make the goalkeeper do any work!

Yours sincerely



Peter Doyle
President