

A Member Wants to Know

Recent issues of the *Actuarial Update* have devoted considerable print to the efforts of various Academy committees that assist government representatives assess the cost of changes to health care programs and medical malpractice law, among other issues.

Does the Academy, and thus the actuarial profession, provide this service free of charge?

Are the members of these Academy committees paid for their efforts? If so, is it by the Academy?

Do most members of these committees work for consulting firms?

It's All in the Details, Says MSA Group

Medical savings accounts will have to be carefully designed if they are to yield health cost savings. That's according to *Medical Savings Accounts: Cost Implications and Design Issues*, the Academy MSA Work Group's monograph, released May 2 at a Washington press briefing.

At the briefing, work group chair Ed Husted detailed to reporters how MSAs might actually cause health care spending to rise if consumers view the accounts as simply another form of insurance. "Like other apparently simple solutions, MSAs are really not so simple," said Husted. "They require very thoughtful, detailed analysis and expert planning and design."

Nineteen reporters attended the briefing, including writers for *Money* magazine, Reuters News Service, *Kiplinger's*, and *Nation's Business*. 30

Specifically, what is the source of the database used by the Federal Health Committee to respond to congressional inquiries?

Steven A. Gapp
London, England

The managing editor replies:

The Academy mission statement states that the Academy's role is "to ensure that the American public recognizes and benefits from the independent expertise of the actuarial profession in the formulation of public policy..."

To fulfill that mission, the Academy provides public policy makers with actuarial analysis of public issues at no cost. Members of Academy committees and work groups donate their services to the Academy—often making a consid-

erable sacrifice for the good of the profession. To take only one example of the dedication of Academy volunteers, the State Health Committee's recent work on a risk-based capital formula for health organizations required more 15,000 volunteer hours!

The Academy keeps no database on the employment status of its committee members, and it welcomes the participation of all actuaries Academy volunteers include actuaries who work for insurance firms, in the public sector, and as consultants.

The Federal Health Committee bases its responses to congressional inquiries on its members' knowledge of insurance principles and health plan design. Academy committees and work groups that analyze specific issues in-depth use the most appropriate data available for each issue. 30

Disciplinary Notice

The Academy Discipline Committee, acting in accordance with the Academy's bylaws and under recommendation of the Actuarial Board for Counseling and Discipline, has voted to publicly reprimand William B. Dandy for failure to comply fully with applicable standards of professionalism when providing professional services. The 45-day period for Mr. Dandy to appeal the decision of the Discipline Committee to the Academy Board of Directors has expired.

ASPA Executive Search

The American Society of Pension Actuaries has begun a search for an executive vice president. This individual will be responsible for all ASPA activities except government affairs.

The position requires a strong managerial and financial background. Marketing skills and technical actuarial ability or pension experience are desired, but not required. The search task force will consider both actuaries and nonactuaries.

For further information, please write to:

Search Task Force
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