

The Value of Section Membership Today Plus 5 Years

April 2010

Council of Section Chairs



Associations

A group of people who voluntarily come together to solve common problems, meet common needs and accomplish common goals.

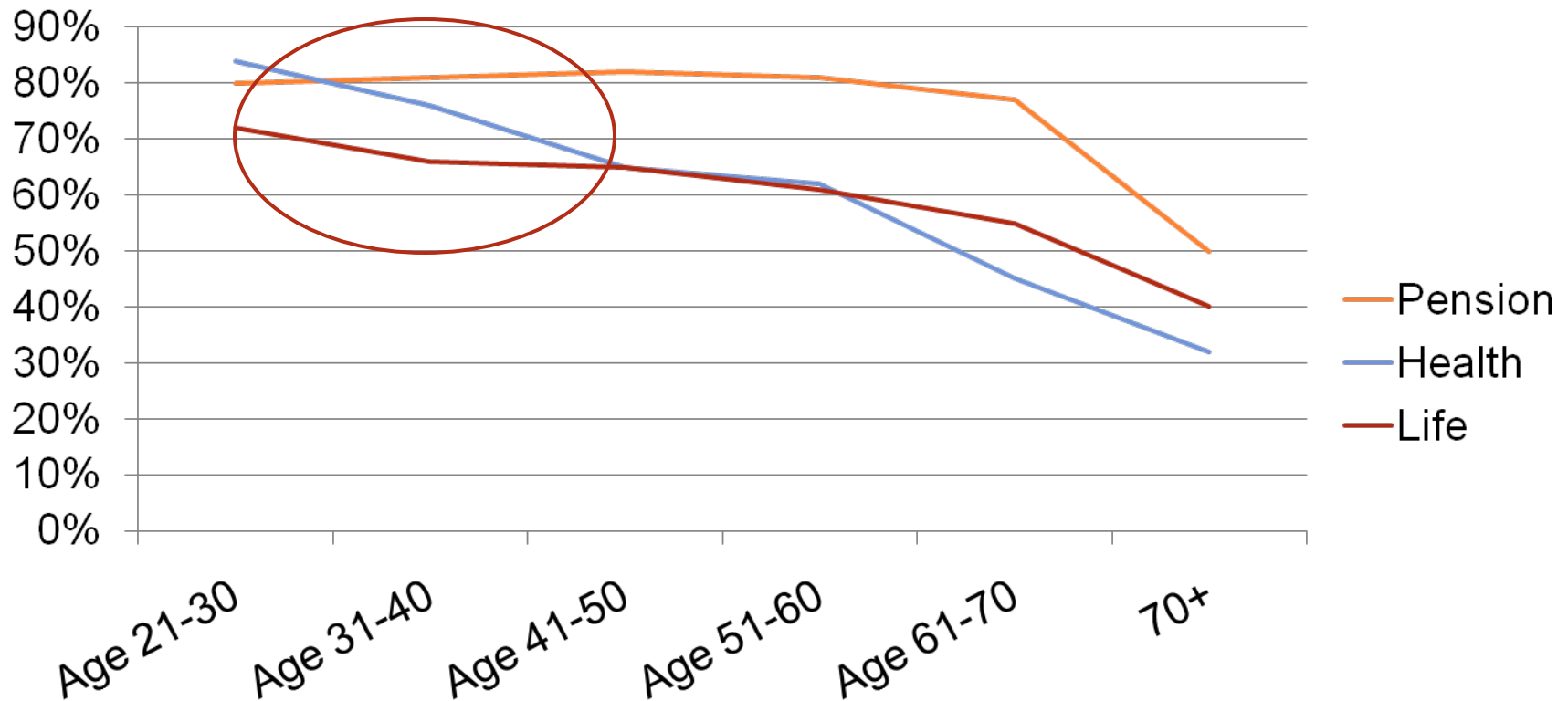


Members and Exams by Country

| | Percent by Country | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| | SOA members | May 2009 Exam Takers |
| USA | 73% | 60% |
| Canada | 17% | 17% |
| China, Hong Kong, Taiwan | 6% | 14% |
| Other | 4% | 9% |



Membership Analysis



Beliefs



External Factors

- Employers reducing contributions to dues.
- Unemployment could impact membership.
- Too much e-mail, time constraints for members



Internal Factors

- Dues amounts increased.
- Newsletters available online.
- Web makes everything available.
- Strong U.S. focus by most sections.
- Sections are grassroots, not meant to be all encompassing.



The Ultimate Leverage: Actuarial Technology

How we are making actuaries more
effective and efficient



Dave Kester



- Cofounder and President of SALT Solutions
- Developed actuarial web based technology
 - Actuarial Practice exams
 - Actuarial Calculation Tools
- Instructor at Drake
- Proud to be an actuary and excited about technology solutions



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

Council Members & Roles

■ Technology Section

- Chair – Tim Deitz
- Vice Chair – Jeff Pommerantz
- 2009 Chair – Tim Pauza

■ Detail info on members on our website:

<http://www.soa.org/library/newsletters/compact/2010/january/compact-2010-iss34-deitz.aspx>



Gartner study

Basic goal is to work on the marriage between actuaries and IT under the assumption that there are “issues”

Sample question: There can be reluctance on the part of actuarial to engage IT for various reasons. As you consider your organization’s recent technology projects, to what extent do the following drivers inhibit your willingness to engage IT. (5= high impact; 1=low impact)

Budget - If IT is involved actuarial loses control of the budget

Resources - Actuarial needs the solution sooner than IT can deliver.

Business Knowledge - IT doesn’t have the business knowledge or domain expertise they need to advise us.

Independence - Actuarial uses specialized tools that are not interconnected with other IT systems.



Unnecessary Process - IT's processes are lengthy and unnecessary.

Synergies - Actuarial projects do not integrate or impact other departments, they are primarily used only by actuarial, hence IT involvement is not needed.

Cost - IT's cost allocations back to actuarial are too high. Actuaries can do projects cheaper on their own.

Outcome - When IT is involved the project loses focus and is lower quality.

People - People in IT are difficult to work with and do not enhance the project result



Social Networking

- LinkedIn, Sharepoint, Web 2.0 etc.
- Webcast on social networking and web 2.0 tools
- How can actuaries use social networking?
- Mary Pat Campbell, J Eddie Smith, Dave Kester



- *CompAct* Newsletter (new format!)
 - Howard Callif, J Eddie Smith
- Speculative Fiction Contest
 - Carl Desrochers
- E-courses - SOA technology used for education
- Web site development & improvement
 - Lisa Lefkowitz
- **Webinar**
 - Mary Pat Campbell



Webinar “Demystifying Business Intelligence” – March 3rd

- Not an IT issue
- What does it mean for actuaries?
- Explain BI terms in actuarial language
- What can BI do for you?
- Provided by Carl Nauman, Kevin Pledge, Virginia Prevosto, Dave Kester



Mortality Table Manager

Poll:

- How many people use the current version?
- Is there an interest in a web based version?



Other Online Tools

- Calculator – beta
 - what actuarial formulas would you like to see?
- <http://calcuary.saltsolutions.com/>
- Life expectancy
 - is there interest?
- Any other online tools that would be helpful?



Education

- Liaison – Frank Reynolds
- A requirement of approved university courses as is done for economics
- A new module
- Upgrades to the current modules



Economic Scenario Standard Format – Carl Nauman

- The Technology Section of the Society of Actuaries is proposing that a standard file format be adopted for the economic scenarios used in modeling for risk management and liability valuation.
- A standard format could facilitate the sharing of such scenarios between different modeling systems and save practicing actuaries time currently spent reformatting data.
- Exposure Draft stage – includes proposal for the file format in dialect XML
 - EconSML: short for Economic Scenario Markup Language



Participation in SOA meetings

Active in live & virtual meetings



Actuarial Club grass root effort

- What we are doing now!
- Dave Kester with help from Lisa Lefkowitz



SOA 80% goal

2008 Strategic Plan approved by the Board has a 2012 goal of 80% participation by all SOA members in at least one section

- Great experience
- Meet interesting people
- Learn from others and new ideas
- Why not Technology?
- Sign up today!



“Whoever controls the technology, controls the world.”

