

# College Of Pension Actuaries

# C O P A

May 19, 2008

Dear COPA Member:

When COPA was formed, its aim was to create an organization whose purpose was to support the enrolled actuary community. We were pleasantly surprised to find that so many actuaries agreed it was time to form a new organization.

Three years later we are faced with the challenges brought about by our growth. Do we establish an infrastructure to provide the member services that are needed or do we look to form a strategic alliance with an established organization?

COPA leadership has had ongoing talks with other organizations to coordinate our efforts and seek solutions to our infrastructure needs. Out of these talks came joint ASPPA-COPA comments over the past 12 months on the regulations under Internal Revenue Code Section 436, 430 and Hybrid Plans.

Recently, based on these talks, COPA and ASPPA have agreed in principle to combine our organizations. If COPA's Board agrees to move forward, we will treat the proposed combination as an amendment to our bylaws requiring membership consent.

The new structure breaks from ASPPA's current structure and creates a semi-autonomous entity within ASPPA called the ASPPA College of Pension Actuaries (ACOPA). All COPA members will automatically become ASPPA members and all FSPAs and MSPAs of ASPPA will automatically become members of ACOPA.

ACOPA will be governed by its Leadership Council which will initially consist of COPA's officers and directors with the addition of a new Council member to be selected by ASPPA. In future years, the Leadership Council will be elected by ACOPA's actuaries. The Leadership Council will be tasked with providing actuaries to work on ASPPA's committees as well as committees with other actuarial organizations such as the Academy, the Actuarial Standards Board and the Actuarial Board for Counseling and Discipline.

Most importantly, the Leadership Council is charged with setting the agenda for ACOPA, including comments on actuarial matters to Congress and Regulators, establishing meetings and webcasts on actuarial subjects and, of course, maintaining our bulletin board.

We are excited by this agreement and wish to share with you this great news. Q&A's regarding this exciting development will be published on our website later today or tomorrow, and we will update them as additional information becomes available. If, after reading the Q&A's, you have other questions, please post them on our List Serve or address them to Judy Miller, ASPPA's Chief of Actuarial Issues, at [jmiller@asppa.org](mailto:jmiller@asppa.org).

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