

Actuarial Society Update – February 2020

Key Dates for the Year – 2020

Event	Cape Town	Johannesburg	Other venue	
Seminars				
Life	8 May	5 May		
Health		21 April		
Investments		9 July		
Retirement		27 July		
Short term		28 August		
Risk mgt		6 August		
Banking		14 July		
Education				
Wider fields		11 June		
Alternative Investments		19 August		
Public interest		10 June		
Insurance data Science		20 April		
IAA meetings			Brussels Ottawa	4 - 7 May 19-23 Nov
Annual general meeting	TBC	TBC		
Convention	7-8 October			
Africa Seminar	6 October			
A1/A2 & F106 exams	14-28 April & 21 Sept – 06 Oct			
A311 exams	5-6 May & 8-9 Oct			
N211 exam	13 May & 23 Oct			
F201-F206 exams	19 May & 20 Oct			
F101-F105	27 May – 5 June & 30 Oct – 11 Nov			

Please note – the Retirement Matters seminar will be in Johannesburg and not Cape Town.

Membership renewals & CPD certification

I would like to thank all members who have renewed their membership for 2020 and those who have done their CPD certification for the 2019 CPD cycle. To date 85% of all members have renewed their membership and 40% have certified their CPD. Members are reminded that a 10% surcharge is payable on all annual subscription fees not paid by 31 March.

All members are required to renew their membership annually. Please ensure that all your personal information, contact information and employment information is correct when renewing your membership.

All Fellow and Associate members are required to certify their CPD compliance annually.

Both membership renewals and CPD compliance can be accessed by logging into the ASSA website at <https://login.actuarialsociety.org.za/account/login>

Convention committee – volunteers urgently needed!

The annual ASSA convention is the premier CPD event held by ASSA every year. Over the years, the convention has retained its core focus and structure by providing high quality CPD to members from a range of different practice areas and to provide a professional but relaxed environment for member to network and engage with each other. While retaining the core structure, the convention undergoes continuous change and improvement. Numerous visitors from other associations have described the ASSA convention as the best event of its kind anywhere in the world.

While ASSA does employ professional event organisers to manage the event and there is logistical support from the ASSA office, the structure, content, quality and tone of the convention is set by the **Convention Committee**.

The Convention Committee consists of members of ASSA who wish to simultaneously give back to the profession through delivering the convention, gain experience and expand their networks through their work on the committee.

The committee is looking for volunteers to serve on the 2020 Convention committee – volunteers are particularly wanted for the **plenary speaker** and **programme** sub committees.

The plenary speakers are invited speakers, generally from outside the profession, who are invited to share their wisdom and experience with the profession – they have a key role in establishing the tone for the convention.

The programme committee reviews all proposals for convention slots – papers, presentations, panel discussions and workshops – and, with input from the practice area committees – selects proposals and allocates them to the range of parallel sessions to ensure a programme that meets the needs of actuaries across all practice areas and with all levels of experience.

To volunteer for the committee or if you have queries contact Jo Coetzee (jcoetzee@actuarialsociety.org.za).

Registering for events

We are changing the process for registering for seminars and sessional meetings. Until now this has been done through either a stand-alone system or via return email. However, this will now be done through our member database using a similar process to that used for registering for education events. This not only provides benefits to members in that there will be a record of the events attended and no need to provide information already stored on the database, but is also consistent with our underlying philosophy of encouraging lifelong learning. Please provide feedback to us (events@actuarialsociety.org.za) to make us aware of problems you have encountered with the change and with suggestions as to how we can enhance it further.

Communications and spam

We are aware that too many emails are sent to members from ASSA every year. This leads to a high probability that important messages will be lost in the sea of unwanted emails. We will be consolidating communications through providing a weekly communication brief that will be rolled out shortly. We are looking for an appropriate name for the regular brief – members are invited to send proposals to Jo Coetzee (jcoetzee@actuarialsociety.org.za) by 6 March with the winning proposal winning a Take-a-lot voucher.

Exam workshops

We have launched a series of Examiners Workshops for F2-series and A311 as a new education support service that was successfully piloted in the Academy. These sessions focus on the past paper and target members who were unsuccessful at the previous semester attempt who will have sight of their unmarked script at this session*. Members who have registered or intend to register for this semester and have completed the past paper as part of their exam preparation will also benefit from attending. You can register for these online at a nominal fee.

In addition to this, the Examiners Prep Session for members attempting F2-series will continue as in the past covering general exam techniques.

Contact Bobbie Beukes (bbeukes@actuarialsociety.org.za) for more information.

*Members will have access to their scripts under supervision but with the clear understanding that they will return them at the end of the session and no photographs, scans or other copies or the scripts may be taken or transmitted. Failure to comply with the letter and spirit of this ruling will be seen as unprofessional conduct and will result in a charge being laid with the disciplinary committee.

Changes to support the revised ASSA strategy

In his recent Presidential Newsletter, ASSA President, Lusani Mulaudzi, summarised the key strategic objectives of ASSA

- **A**tracting the brightest and the best to the profession.
- **S**upporting students and other members.
- **S**tretching the breadth and depth of the profession by being a leader in context-based solutions.
- **A**ssuring the continued high standards of professionalism, education and conduct across the profession.

Through our existing office, board and committee structures we have been effective at supporting and advancing the bottom two objectives.

Council has agreed to the following structure changes to the Society:

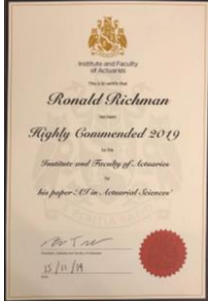
1. The Establishment of a Member Engagement board to Council. The board will be chaired by Anne Livingstone. The board will assume a broad mandate for overseeing our engagement with members and potential members including absorbing the functions of the Student Liaison committee and Member Service portfolio of the Operations Board.
2. The establishment of a Member Engagement executive portfolio in the office with a reorganisation of the office structure to support this change. The executive will report to the new board.

These changes represent a significant change in the focus and role for ASSA and the office.

CPD change

Following a recommendation of the Professional Matters Board, Council has agreed that student members of more than 10 years standing will no longer need to complete the annual CPD certification. Technical members (TASSA) of more than 10 years standing will still need to certify their CPD.

Congratulations



Ron Richman, chairman of the ERM committee and a regular contributor to conventions, has been highly commended by the IFoA for his paper on AI in Insurance. This is one example of ASSA members striving to expand the depth, breadth and reach of the actuarial profession.

Congratulations Ron.

Regards

Mike McDougall