

Societal Purpose Highlights

The Society of Actuaries (SOA) Societal Purpose statement highlights a commitment to enhancing community and financial security: “The SOA empowers members to drive solutions to life’s financial risks.” The SOA takes great pride in recognizing the exceptional actuarial leadership of members who are making a significant impact in their communities and more broadly on society as a whole.

Formation of the SOA Societal Purpose Committee

The SOA Board of Directors formed the first SOA Societal Purpose Committee in June 2023 with a mission to carry out new initiatives focused on societal purpose for the SOA. The committee members come from diverse backgrounds across the SOA membership with strong experiences related to societal topics. The committee has broad representation across SOA markets and with deep connections to SOA sections. Ying Zhao, FSA, MAAA, was named the Board Partner to the committee in 2025, and Sue Vagts, FSA, serves as the committee’s current chair.

SOA Research Institute Research Projects

The SOA Research Institute continues a broad focus of research on topics at the intersection of the actuarial profession and the positive impact it has on the world around us. Research topics include environment, health outcomes, aging and retirement, climate risks, and information for better financial security regulation. Examples of 2025 research projects released with a societal purpose focus include:

Societal Purpose Research Projects
<i>2024 Retirement Risk Survey Series - Technology and Retirement</i>
<i>AI Risk Management Frameworks</i>
<i>Climate Anomalies’ Enduring Impacts on U.S. Mortality and Health Landscape</i>
<i>Greater Asia Retirement Survey</i>
<i>Incorporating Climate Change into Actuarial Practice: SOA Article Series</i>
<i>Peterson Health Technology Assessments and Actuarial Methods</i>
<i>SDOH in Medicaid Risk Models</i>
<i>Socioeconomic Demographic Dataset</i>
<i>The Impact of Wildfire-Related and Environmental Air Pollution on Morbidity</i>
<i>The Impact of Wildfire-Related and Environmental Air Pollution on Mortality</i>
<i>The Solo-Agers Decision Guide Resource Series</i>

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

At the SOA, our goal is for all members and candidates to feel fully included and have equitable opportunities to enter, develop, grow, and succeed in our chosen profession. We seek, welcome, and nurture individuals with diverse backgrounds and perspectives that represent the diversity of the workforce and maximize the influence of the actuarial profession. We join with affinity and industry partners in providing the education and resources needed to commit to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) principles to positively impact the financial and business systems that protect society.

Key 2025 activities related to the SOA's DEI work include:

2025 RELEASE OF FULL YEAR SOA DIVERSITY REPORT

The SOA remains transparent and accountable in its DEI efforts, releasing updated diversity reports that provide an overview of our overall membership in the U.S. and worldwide, new members in the U.S., new entrants to the examination pathway and more. Its updated [2024 Diversity Report](#), now including data from January through December 2024, offers a full-year view of demographic trends across membership. This report continues the SOA's commitment to advancing a more diverse and inclusive actuarial profession by tracking, measuring, and transparently communicating progress in key areas.

Celebrating DEI Employers and Champions in Actuarial Science

The 2025 DEIC Employer Spotlight and the DEI Champion Award are part of the SOA's broader commitment to foster an inclusive culture within the actuarial profession. By recognizing the efforts of both organizations and individuals, the SOA is not only honoring current achievements but also paving the way for future advancements in DEI.

SOA DEI Recognition at the 2025 ImpACT Conference

The SOA recognized the 2025 DEI Champion Award was awarded to Arun Paul, FSA, for his work in establishing the South Asian Network of Actuaries (SANA), mentoring students, developing educational content, and promoting inclusion in the profession. [2025 DEI Champion Award Recipients | SOA](#)

Societal Purpose for our members

To recognize the extraordinary contributions of candidates, members, affiliates, and employers who are leaders in championing community involvement for a positive purpose, in 2024, the SOA established the Spotlight Societal Purpose Awards. Detailed information about this award program can be found on the SOA website here: [Spotlight Societal Purpose Award | SOA](#). The 2025 Spotlight Societal Purpose Award winners were:

2025 Affiliate Spotlight Societal Purpose Award

- **Wallace "Wally" Wisniewski**

Actuarial Science Student

Wallace "Wally" Wisniewski is an actuarial student who exemplifies leadership and service early in his professional journey. With a passion for mathematics and a dedication to helping others, Wally has applied his actuarial problem-solving skills to community initiatives that strengthen educational outcomes. As a student leader, he has mentored peers and younger students, fostering confidence in math and highlighting its importance for long-term success. His efforts reflect research showing that success in math and reading is strongly linked to improved financial and career security, ensuring his contributions have a lasting societal impact. Wally's work demonstrates that one does not need to wait until later in their career to make a difference because he is already helping shape a stronger, more resilient future.



2025 Member Spotlight Societal Purpose Awards

- Ashwag Alzahrani, FSA, CERA** Co-Founder and CEO, IQ RiskIQ Consulting
 Ashwag Alzahrani, FSA, CERA, is a passionate actuarial leader dedicated to advancing the actuarial profession in Saudi Arabia and beyond. Through her work with IQ RiskIQ Consulting and professional collaborations, she has championed initiatives that build actuarial awareness, education, and community engagement. Ashwag has played a pivotal role in developing the Saudi Society of Actuaries, fostering collaboration with organizations such as GOSI, and promoting continuing education for actuaries. She has led impactful projects including actuarial podcasts, awareness sessions, and training programs that have strengthened actuarial infrastructure in the region. By applying her technical knowledge and leadership, Ashwag has helped improve financial security and empower professionals within her community.



- Mark Litow, FSA, MAAA** Co-Founder and President, Concerned Actuaries of the United States
 Mark Litow, FSA, MAAA, is co-founder and President of the Concerned Actuaries of the United States, a non-profit established in 2006 to provide impartial, accessible actuarial analysis of the nation’s public finance and social insurance programs, including Social Security, Medicare, and healthcare. Through clear communication and evidence-based insights, Mark helps policymakers and the public understand complex funding and related challenges. He has co-hosted the American Health Care: Rethinking the Challenges, Opportunities and Possibilities series and published widely on potential health care and entitlement reforms. Leading efforts to more fully inform public policy decision-making by developing actuarial models for evaluating financing and delivery reform scenarios that portray consequences across an array of considerations, Mark freely contributes his professional expertise to improve the well-being of millions of Americans. His volunteer leadership exemplifies how actuaries can advance the public good through service, analysis, and education.



- Aly Moosa, ASA, MAAA** Head of Model Risk, National Life Group
 Aly is an accomplished leader in risk management and a dedicated community servant whose work is rooted in the culturally diverse Ismaili Muslim community of 15 million members worldwide. Leveraging his actuarial expertise, he has led several initiatives with the Aga Khan Council to advance community well-being. During the pandemic, he co-developed a logic-based app that enabled equitable access for 80,000 U.S. Ismailis to 80 Jamatkhana prayer spaces. He designed surveys on Quality of Life, Youth Empowerment, Retirement Readiness, and Non-Communicable Diseases, guiding impactful health, education, and financial programs. He also helped create a self-funded burial expense program by developing mortality tables and forecasting models to preserve families’ financial dignity. Through service, Aly exemplifies how actuarial expertise can extend beyond industry practice to create meaningful societal impact.



2025 Employer Spotlight Societal Purpose Award

- SHMA Consulting**
 SHMA Consulting is recognized for its unwavering commitment to advancing the actuarial profession and using actuarial knowledge as a force for social good. With a strong focus on actuarial expertise, SHMA extends its impact beyond traditional consulting by mentoring future leaders and strengthening actuarial capacity in developing markets. The firm has successfully applied actuarial insights to influence public policy, improve financial decision-making, and support initiatives that enhance health and retirement security within communities. Through training, mentorship, and innovative applications of actuarial science, SHMA has created measurable benefits for both the profession and society.



This dedication exemplifies how employers can harness actuarial knowledge not only to drive business success but also to foster resilience and well-being across diverse populations.

For 2026, we'll be seeking to reach an even broader pool of member and employer nominations by leveraging the interactions with past award winners and hearing their stories. The 2026 Spotlight Societal Purpose Award call for nominations will likely kick-off in April 2026.

Professional Development Sessions on Societal Purpose

Sessions were held at a variety of SOA Professional Development meetings during 2025 to highlight the SOA's Societal Purpose work, including:

- 2025 SOA Health Meeting, Dallas, TX, Session 5E: The Health Societal Purpose of the Actuarial Profession
- 2025 SOA ImpACT Conference, Seattle, WA, Session 2I: From Calculations to Community: Actuaries Making a Difference

Societal Purpose for our organization

Beyond the work of our members, the SOA has embraced the concept of societal purpose for our entire organization. The SOA strives to be an organization that embodies the community purpose of the actuarial profession and is a leader among membership associations.

Student Success Program

The Society of Actuaries (SOA) Student Success Program introduces high-performing math and science students to the actuarial profession in developing markets. SSP also allows SOA regional teams to connect with local associations and universities to provide resources and instruction that will strengthen their actuarial training curriculums and encourage more well-prepared candidates to enter our candidate pipeline. The program provides support through various resources and benefits to help students achieve actuarial designations.

- **Program Goals:** The program aims to spark interest in actuarial careers, equip students to pass SOA exams, foster a supportive community, promote SOA awareness, grow the profession in developing markets, provide networking platforms, expose students to the profession's broader scope, and strengthen actuarial science foundations.
- **Program Benefits:** Benefits include guided support from administrators, student and faculty access to online study portal and exam prep resources, mock SOA exam experience, opportunity to qualify for SOA exam waiver, enrollment assistance, calculator reimbursements, and honorariums for administrators.
- **Eligibility Criteria:** The program is invitation-only, prioritizing students in regions with financial barriers, focusing on newcomers to SOA exams. A dedicated administrator is required, and participating students must sign a commitment agreement and enroll as an SOA Affiliate Member.

In 2025, the SOA Student Success Program expanded across Africa, Latin America, and Asia-Pacific, supporting hundreds of high-performing students through free study resources, faculty-guided cohort learning, and exam fee waivers. New pilots were launched, administrative systems were improved, and partnerships with universities deepened. Students continued to achieve strong mock and official exam pass rates, reinforcing SSP's strategic impact in growing actuarial capacity in emerging markets. Program materials, onboarding workflows, and communications were modernized, creating a more scalable infrastructure for 2026 growth.

Trees4Travel

With in-person professional development events being part of the SOA's offerings, the organization recognizes that staff and member travel to these meetings contribute to carbon dioxide emissions. The SOA has partnered with ZEERO Events (previously Trees4Travel) to actively offset these emissions. ZEERO Events has a vision for a traveling future where they continue to explore and experience the world with a more thoughtful approach, planting trees, restoring ecosystems, and maintaining forests to remove carbon dioxide from the air. These acts will help reverse climate change and create a safe sustainable future planet.

At each major U.S. meeting in 2025, SOA staff and members were asked to complete the ZEERO Events survey to note the distance they have traveled to the event and their methods of transportation. ZEERO Events then used that information to determine the number of trees needed to assist in offsetting the emissions created from this travel activity. The program resulted in the SOA contributing funds to plant 2,773 trees (in Mozambique, Africa) to offset the greenhouse gas emissions generated by staff and member travel to major meetings.

Scope 1 and Scope 2 Emissions

Companies and organizations around the world are more commonly focusing on reporting greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, using protocols issued by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. GHG Protocol establishes comprehensive global standardized frameworks to measure and manage GHG emissions from private and public sector operations, value chains and mitigation actions. Building on a 20-year partnership between World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), GHG Protocol works with governments, industry associations, NGOs, businesses and other organizations. In 2023, 97% of S&P 500 companies reported using GHG Protocol, and reporting is becoming increasingly common for publicly traded companies in markets around the world. Even across public companies, the reporting of emissions is not universal, as a 2024 study by Deloitte¹ noted that, of the companies studied, 74% report Scope 1 emissions, 53% report Scope 2, and 15% report Scope 3.

The SOA recently performed a study with the assistance of S&P Global to quantify its Scope 1 and Scope 2 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, to further fulfill its societal purpose and to be seen as one of the leaders in reporting among non-profit member organizations around the world. Scope 1 emissions typically are defined as direct emissions from sources owned or controlled by an organization, such as fuel for corporately owned vehicles or refrigerants used in office spaces. For the SOA, a small amount of Scope 1 emissions is produced from refrigerators and freezers that are used in its corporate office settings. The SOA estimated that it produced 2.8 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) of Scope 1 GHG emissions during calendar year 2024.

Scope 2 emissions are indirect GHG emissions associated with the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating, and cooling consumed by the SOA. Although the SOA does not generate the electricity itself, it is responsible for the demand for that electricity, which leads to emissions from power plants. Across its office locations, the SOA has approximately 17,600 square feet of office space and estimated that it produced approximately 67.0 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) of Scope 2 GHG emissions during calendar year 2024. In total, across Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions, the SOA estimates that it produced 69.8 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) during calendar year 2024.

¹ Deloitte 2024 Sustainability Action Report, <https://www2.deloitte.com/us/en/pages/audit/articles/esg-survey.html>

Strengthening Actuarial Education Globally

Empowering Faculty to Grow the Actuarial Profession Globally

In 2025, the Society of Actuaries advanced its societal purpose by strengthening actuarial education globally, with a focus on empowering faculty and expanding access to the profession. Through record-setting faculty engagement in Asia and targeted partnerships in Africa, SOA supported universities in modernizing curricula, aligning education with real-world risk needs, and reducing barriers for students and educators. These efforts help build resilient local talent pipelines, strengthen financial systems, and equip future actuaries to address pressing societal and economic challenges.

Future Activities

As societal purpose activities grow at the SOA, additional activities being planned include:

Financial Management for Non-Profits: A Resource for Actuaries Seeking to Serve

The Financial Management for Non-Profits Project is an initiative proposed by the Societal Purpose Committee of the Society of Actuaries (SOA). Its primary purpose is to create resources that help actuaries apply their professional skills to assist non-profit organizations.

Project Objectives and Deliverables

The project aims to produce three distinct types of documentation to be hosted on the SOA website: an Overview Document, a comprehensive “How-To” Manual, and a Resource Guide for Non-Profits.

The project will include interviewing actuaries to learn about their experiences, as well as interviewing non-profits to learn their needs which could be met by volunteer actuaries. Work is underway to gather resources for this initiative.