

## **American Society of Pension Professionals & Actuaries**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### ***ASPPA and COPA Announce Intention to Join Forces in 2008***

Arlington, Va. – May 19, 2008 –The American Society of Pension Professionals & Actuaries (ASPPA) and the College of Pension Actuaries (COPA) have agreed to collaborate in moving toward the goal of combining their efforts in the pension actuarial profession. The objective will be to integrate COPA as a semi-autonomous body within ASPPA. The body would be known as the ASPPA College of Pension Actuaries (ACOPA). The boards of directors of both organizations will proceed with developing a formal agreement to implement this strategy. The plan will be offered for a vote by the COPA membership later this year. With membership approval, ACOPA would function as an operating unit within ASPPA to represent the needs of the combined group of pension actuaries.

Presidents of both pension actuarial and retirement industry groups agreed that the time has come to join forces and benefit from their common purpose. Rick Block, COPA president, said many of the members of the organization he heads also are members of ASPPA and share mutual beliefs and goals. “The collaboration of ASPPA and COPA efforts is a natural progression in the best interests of both organizations,” Block said.

“We have been working to unite COPA and ASPPA efforts and the leadership of both groups could form a focused team in the pension and retirement profession as early as this September,” said Sal Tripodi, president of ASPPA. Tripodi said the move is a consolidation of shared goals that will benefit both organizations, the actuarial profession, and the American public.

For additional information, or to speak with a spokesperson, contact Chris Robichaux, director of media relations at ASPPA – [crobichaux@asppa.org](mailto:crobichaux@asppa.org) or call 703-516-9300, ext. 130.

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The American Society of Pension Professionals & Actuaries (ASPPA), based in Arlington, Va., is a national organization of more than 6,400 retirement plan professionals who provide consulting and administrative services for qualified retirement plans covering millions of American workers. ASPPA members are retirement professionals of all disciplines including consultants, administrators, actuaries, accountants, and attorneys. The large and broad-based ASPPA membership gives it unusual insight into current practical problems with the Employee Retirement Income Security Act and qualified retirement plans with a particular focus on the issues faced by small- to medium-sized employers. ASPPA membership is diverse and united by a common dedication to the private retirement plan system.

The College of Pension Actuaries (COPA), based in Oak Brook, Ill., is the only U.S. organization composed exclusively of enrolled pension actuaries. COPA advances the knowledge of actuarial science as it relates to retirement and other employee benefit plans. It promotes and maintains high professional and ethical standards among its members, enables actuaries engaged in pension practice to assemble and discuss common problems, and promotes the interchange of information among actuaries and among the leaders of the various actuarial organizations. COPA keeps the public informed of the profession and of the responsibilities of the professional actuary and encourages congressional and grass roots support for a cohesive national retirement security policy.

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