



American Society of Pension Professionals & Actuaries College of Pension Actuaries

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Contact: Chris Robichaux
crobichaux@asppa.org
P 703-516-9300

ACOPA Honors Actuary Joan A. Gucciardi for Distinguished Service

Chicago, Ill. - The American Society of Pension Professionals & Actuaries College of Pension Actuaries (ACOPA) honored [Joan A. Gucciardi](#), an enrolled actuary, with the annual Edward E. Burrows Distinguished Achievement Award at its 2009 Actuarial Symposium this week. The pension actuaries gathered August 14-15 for a comprehensive discussion about the Pension Protection Act of 2006, cash balance pension plans, and financial accounting standards.

Gucciardi, who resides in Wauwatosa, Wis., is senior consulting actuary at Summit Benefit Actuarial Services, Inc., which is based in Eugene, Ore. She is author of a number of publications, including *The 401(k) Answer Book* (1992), *5500 Preparer's Manual* (1993-2001), *The Pension Distribution Answer Book* (2002), and *The Plan Termination Answer Book* (2002). A past vice president and member of the American Society of Pension Professionals & Actuaries (ASPPA) Board of Directors, Gucciardi has been active as an ASPPA committee and task force volunteer for several years, co-chairing the Education and Examination Steering Committee during more than one timeframe. In addition to actuarial credentials earned through ASPPA, Gucciardi holds a number of other professional credentials.

ACOPA presents the Edward E. Burrows Distinguished Achievement Award annually to a pension actuary who has set an example for other pension actuaries. This award honors an actuary who excelled in promoting ethics, education, beneficial legislation, or regulations (or such other actions as the selection committee deems appropriate) to enhance the private pension system, or the professionalism of enrolled actuaries within the private pension system. Edward E. Burrows was a beacon in this regard and ACOPA honors him by presenting an award that recognizes those who follow his path and lead by his example. The first recipient of the award, in 2008, was Burrows himself.

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The American Society of Pension Professionals & Actuaries (ASPPA) is a national organization of more than 6,500 retirement plan and benefits professionals that serves as the educator, voice, and advocate for the employer-based retirement system. ASPPA members are administrators, actuaries, advisors, attorneys, accountants and other financial services professionals who provide consulting and administrative services for qualified retirement plans. The ASPPA College of Pension Actuaries (ACOPA) formed in September 2008 when ASPPA and the College of Pension Actuaries (COPA) combined to create a semi-autonomous operating unit within ASPPA. ACOPA is the primary source of professional organizational support for pension actuaries and manages the actuarial responsibilities of ASPPA, which is one of the recognized U.S. organizations of actuaries. All credentialed actuarial members of ASPPA are members of ACOPA. For more information, visit www.asppa.org.