Surety Industry Tops $9 Trillion in Protection
SFAA Surety Loss Costs
The SFAA has filed revisions to the surety loss cost tables contained in Manual of Rules, Procedures and Classifications for Fidelity, Forgery and Surety Bonds. The change, the actuarial exhibits and supporting data are available for members in the statistical section of our website. Please check the Regulatory section for updates on the status of state approvals and effective dates. Any questions should be directed to Alan Clark, SFAA Actuary, at (202) 778-3627 or aclark@surety.org.

SFAA Call for Statistics
The SFAA currently is conducting its annual Call for Statistics collecting 2017 surety, fidelity and financial institution statistics. Original submissions of premium, paid loss/paid ALAE/recoveries, outstanding loss/outstanding ALAE were due on March 1, unless an extension was granted. All resubmissions and error corrections, if necessary, must be made by April 16 (please note that the usual deadline, April 15, falls on a Sunday this year).
A Transmittal Letter form must be submitted to eodonnell@surety.org for every file sent in response to the Call. After the data has been submitted and accepted, a Reconciliation Report must be completed and sent to the email address above by April 30. The Reconciliation Report compares the state-by-state premium, paid loss and paid ALAE amounts reported by each member through the Call for Statistics with those reported on its annual statement, and explanations are provided for any discrepancies between the two figures.

SFAA Financial Statement and Statistical Plan Reports
The Top 100 Surety and Fidelity Writers reports, the 50 Largest Surety and Fidelity Writers (by state) reports, and the Insurance Expense Exhibit reports are scheduled to be published on the website in April. The Quarterly Top 100 Surety and Fidelity Writers reports, along with the Quarterly Results report for 1Q18, are expected to be published on the website by the end of May.
Statistical reports are available on the website for SFAA members and statistical subscribers and are copyrighted. They also are available for purchase by others. Any questions about reporting fidelity and surety statistics to SFAA or the SFAA statistical plan or financial statement reports should be directed to Ed O’Donnell at (202) 778-3632 or eodonnell@surety.org.

SFAA will be offering an Intermediate Level Commercial Surety Seminar May 29-31, 2018, in Arlington, VA. The seminar will feature panel discussions presenting topics such as reinsurance, taking indemnity and collateral and navigating through the bankruptcy of your bond principal. The seminar also will address specialized bonds such as Customs bonds, reclamation bonds and workers’ compensation self-insurance bonds. Instruction will be supplemented with interactive case studies regarding claims under a commercial surety bond. SFAA will offer the session again in October 2018 in Chicago.

Coming Soon
A Special Report on The Surety Foundation in the Annual Meeting Edition of the Newsletter June 2018
For the second year in a row, the surety industry experienced record growth. In 2017, the direct premium written increased from $5.9 billion to $6.2 billion. This is the fifth straight year of steady increase. The industry premium has more than doubled over the past two decades – up from $2.9 billion in 1998.

The statistical department of The Surety & Fidelity Association of America (SFAA) reviewed the data from 2013 to 2016 and reported the areas of largest premium increases were in private contract bonds and judicial court guarantee bonds. Other areas with significant premium increase include: airport buildings at state/municipal, federal and private level; private building and building related construction; private completion bonds; state/municipal subdivision bonds; coal reclamation bonds; and mechanic’s lien bonds.

“The increase in premium indicates that public and private owners, banks, and state and local leaders see value in our product,” says Ross Fisher, chair of The Surety & Fidelity Association of America and senior vice president of Specialty Commercial at The Hartford. “What is interesting is the significant increase in the use of surety bonds in private construction. Savvy construction lenders, developers and private owners understand that surety bonds provide the most comprehensive protection – ensuring that the contract will be completed and workers will be paid.”

“It makes perfect sense for an increasing number of private owners to require surety bonds,” said SFAA President Lynn M. Schubert. “With surety bonds, the risks of contract completion are shifted from the owner to the surety company. Requiring surety bonds in private construction protects companies and shareholders from the enormous costs of contractor failure.”

Since 1998, the surety industry has protected more than $9 trillion in contract and commercial surety exposure - $600 billion in 2017 alone. Approximately $25 billion in losses were paid out, and another $50 billion in loss adjustment, underwriting and general expenses were incurred since 1998. The continuing low loss ratio signals that the adherence to underwriting criteria and prequalification, along with a greater emphasis placed on efficiency regarding expenses, remain strong factors in the industry’s growth.

“The expansion of the private construction market demonstrates that the promotional and educational efforts on behalf of the industry have raised awareness on the benefits of surety bonds and have shown others what we in the industry have known for years – that bonding protects,” said Mr. Fisher.

The largest premium increases were in private contract bonds and judicial court guarantee bonds.
Opinion: Licensing and Bonding Just Make More Sense

In April 2017, a cosmetologist in Houston was charged with practicing medicine without a license. The Harris County District Attorney stated that the cosmetologist caused medical complications in at least two patients due to the injections administered. After receiving a treatment, one patient reported going to the emergency room and was told she had an infection from the substance injected into her body.

A man from Troy, New York was arrested for practicing architecture without a license. He was accused of defrauding municipalities, businesses and construction firms in three counties over the course of seven years. New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman’s office stated the individual allegedly falsified field reports, building plans and inspections, which put the safety of all those who lived in or visited the buildings at-risk.

Occupational licensing is a credentialing requirement that certain professions must obtain before being allowed to practice to help protect the health and safety of consumers. Without it, more issues like the above examples will occur, but there is a growing debate across the country as to the effectiveness of the occupational licensing requirements.

In recent years, there has been bipartisan consideration of occupational licensing and the impact on the economy, labor force and small businesses. The Obama Administration, the Trump Administration and Congress have put resources into studying and addressing issues with occupational licensing. Several national state legislative associations are doing the same. The increased interest stems from the growing number of occupations that need licenses. According to the Brookings Institute, less than five percent of the workforce needed to be licensed in the 1950s as compared to over 30 percent today. There is a concern that many occupational licensing requirements have become simply a barrier to entry by rather than a way to protect consumers.

Perhaps the solution to the occupational licensing issue is to rely more on the use of surety bonds rather than imposing more administrative or bureaucratic burdens on the licensee. Why? The North Carolina Commissioner of Banks Ray Grace explains in the SFAA and Governing Institute’s joint publication, A Government Leader’s Guide to Bonds; “We look at surety bonds, not just for quick and reliable payment in the event that the company defaults on obligations or is unable to honor them, but we also look at them as an additional measure of due diligence that applied to these companies.”

Opinion continued on page 8

BOEM Update

SFAA has been working on the continuing issue of the revision of the supplemental bonding policy by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). In July 2016, BOEM issued a new policy that would have required more licensees (oil well owners and operators) to provide supplemental bonding to secure decommissioning obligations (NTL 2016-N01). One concept that was discussed was adding BOEM as an additional obligee to bonds that intermediate operators currently furnish to major operators. Many operators have entered into leases with major operators that were the initial interest holder. These intermediate operators have furnished bonds to the major operators to secure the obligations under the private lease. A 2017 implementation of the revised supplemental bonding policy was contemplated, but it was put on the backburner by BOEM. In November 2017, BOEM announced that it was undertaking a “thorough review” of NTL 2016-N01.

Since that time, BOEM requested that the oil industry provide options. The industry as a whole (through the Offshore Operator’s Committee) could not develop a unified proposal. Thus, two separate proposals have been submitted to BOEM.

The first proposal was submitted by the Gulf Energy Alliance (GEA), which consists of small independent operators. The GEA proposal would not require a supplemental bond if a major (i.e. an entity with significant financial resources) was a predecessor in title, no matter how remote. Under the proposal, a supplemental bond would be required only if there was no major as a predecessor in title. GEA estimated that the proposed policy would require total bonds of less than $1 billion. The second proposal was submitted by the major operators. The proposal considers the asset quality and the credit quality in determining whether to require supplemental bonds. The bond requirement is based, in part, on where the asset is in the lifecycle. For example, if the asset was at the end of its lifecycle with very low output, then the asset would be a candidate for bonding. However, if the asset was in a high production phase, then bonds would not be required. The other criterion is the credit quality of the current operator. Operators with the highest credit quality would not be required to furnish a bond (even for a late stage asset).

SFAA is working to arrange an industry call with BOEM to discuss these proposals.
Status of Congress
Congress passed a $1.3 trillion omnibus spending package for FY 2018, which ends on September 30. None of the Trump infrastructure plan made it into the budget. There were numerous hearings in the House and Senate on the Trump plan, there was no funding, and Congress rejected the deep cuts to existing transportation programs to fund the President’s new programs. Both chambers also concluded that financing state projects that were innovative or for which the states provided funding may not result in infrastructure that grows the economy and facilitates commerce and trade.

With the threat of a federal government shutdown off the agenda until September 30, and the midterm election campaigns starting, Republicans and Democrats have little incentive to work together. The legislative agenda will be limited for the next several months.

SFAA’s Priorities in this Congress
SFAA’s top priority this session is to exempt the Miller Act bond thresholds from the required inflationary increases every five years. This year, Rep. Velazquez introduced HR 4486, which contains our exemption for the Miller Act bond threshold, and Representative Steve Chabot (R-OH) is the bipartisan co-sponsor. Rep. Chabot is the Chair of the House Small Business Committee and Rep. Velazquez is the Ranking Member. We seek to have our exemption for the Miller Act incorporated into the text of the House version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

Another priority is to seek opportunities to obtain bonding requirements in federal legislation that provides funding and/or in federal programs that will provide financing, such as loans and loan guarantees, as federal dollars are at stake when such financing is used to back construction projects. The reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Act (FAA) is under consideration. H.R. 2879 and S. 1320 would provide federal assistance under a P3 program for small and private airports and we seek bonding provisions for this new P3 pilot project as it may be wrapped up in the FAA reauthorization. The FAA’s regulations require bonding of construction and we would like to get a reference to those regulations in the statute through the House and Senate bills.

Other Federal Construction Industry Procurement Coalition Issues in Congress
Slow approval of change orders and the resulting lack of timely payments remains a high priority for the contractor groups. H.R. 4754 would require that in every solicitation for a contract to be awarded to a small business, the agency must provide prospective bidders with the agency’s policies or practices for compliance with the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) on the Requests for Equitable Adjustment (REA). The agency must also provide information on its practices for the past three years. If the agency does not have information on its past practices regarding on REAs, the agency must start collecting that information for a three-year period. The agency must collect data on whether they responded to a REA within 30, 60, 90, 180, or 360 days from receipt of the REA or whether the agency responds to REAs after the completion of the contract. This is a first step to gather information on the agency practices and to address compliance with the federal regulations that require the agencies to respond to REAs in “the shortest practicable time.” We expect H.R. 4754 to be included in the House version of the NDAA this year.

S. 2113, the Construction Consensus Procurement Improvement Act, recently passed the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee. It contains two provisions from the federal Construction Coalition’s bill from the last Congress that were never enacted. S. 2113 would modify the federal government’s procedures for awarding design and construction contracts for federal facilities and would prohibit the use of reverse auctions for such awards. Specifically, the legislation would require the selection process for designing and constructing any federal facility with a cost of more than $3 million to occur in two phases. In phase one, potential contractors would provide basic information on their experience and past performance. Agencies would then select several contractors and invite them to submit more detailed proposals in phase two. The path to enactment is unclear. The vendors of reverse auctions still oppose even this limited exemption of construction and if S. 2133 is placed on the unanimous consent calendar, one Senator could put a hold on it.
In The States

Forty-six states and the District of Columbia convened in regular session this year, and by the end of March 15 states already had adjourned. By the end of April 8 more states will have adjourned. This is the short session in most states in which fiscal issues are primary and the legislators adjourn early to face primaries for the November elections.

SFAA Persuades Vermont Against a Bond Threshold Increase and Seeks the Same Result in Rhode Island

SFAA and AIA recommended removing the increase in the state bond threshold from $100,000 to $500,000 to the Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT) and the local AGC. As introduced, the bill contained the AOT’s initial recommendation of an increase to $1 million. The AOT wanted to help small contractors obtain Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity contracts and agreed to explore the ways SFAA presented for these contracts to be bonded.

Rhode Island is considering legislation to increase the state bond threshold for public works projects from $50,000 to $250,000. The bill also would grant the chief purchasing officer the discretion to waive the state bond requirements for projects up to $250,000. Under current law, waiving the bond requirements is prohibited. The bill would prohibit waiving bonds for projects exceeding $250,000. The bill has not yet been scheduled to be heard, but SFAA and AIA will meet with the leadership as this bill is backed by the Administration, therefore it may move.

Public-Private Partnerships Still High on State Agendas

Many states are still debating the merits of using P3s on infrastructure projects. A few states are preparing to create a P3 authority in preparation for the Trump infrastructure plan, which if enacted, could make federal funding contingent on states generating new revenue sources. One of SFAA’s state priorities this year is to enact bonding requirements for Indiana’s three P3 laws. Our bill was introduced and considered in the House. After reducing the 100 percent bonding requirement to 50 percent and then to 25 percent in the House, the bonding issue was sent to study again. Minnesota and New Jersey are the states most likely to enact broad new authority to use P3s for infrastructure projects. SFAA worked with its members and the local AGC in Minnesota to achieve a bond requirement in the legislation. Congress included $600 million in the FY budget for a new broadband loan and grant pilot program geared toward supporting telemedicine and distance learning services. There has been an increase in state legislation on broadband wireless construction. Over a dozen states considered bills this year that varied from the authority to use P3s on broadband construction projects, to study commissions, pilot programs, grant programs, and requirements for reclamation bonds.

New Twist on Bonding Home Improvement Contractors Considered in Massachusetts

Legislation has been introduced in Massachusetts that would exempt home improvement contractors from the existing deposit requirements if the contractor furnishes a performance and payment bond, a lien and/or completion bond, or a bond equivalent that the Director of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation approves covering a minimum of $2 million. Under current law, any deposit required under the contract to be paid in advance of the commencement of work cannot exceed the greater of one-third of the total contract price or the actual cost of any materials or equipment that are special orders or custom made, which must be ordered prior to commencement of the work. The bill may encourage bonding for private work.

Design Build Bonding Provisions Removed from the New York Budget Bill

In New York, the Governor’s budget bill would have permitted state entities authorized to the design-build method to set the performance and payment bond requirements and also would have permitted the use of other forms of security at the state entities’ discretion. The bill also expanded the number of state agencies that can conduct design-build projects. SFAA and AIA worked on the design-build bonding provisions and they were eliminated when the House and Senate issued their budget resolutions, which keeps the state’s current bonding measures intact.

Minnesota Considers Eliminating Licensing and Bonding for Contractors

Legislation has been introduced in Minnesota that would repeal the licensing laws for residential building contractors, residential remodelers, residential roofers, manufactured home installers, all of which require a bond in connection with licensure. Under current law, residential building contractors must post a $40,000 bond and make a deposit in the recovery fund. Residential roofers must post a bond for at least $15,000 and manufactured home installers must post a bond for at least $2,500. The bill also would eliminate the $8,000 bond that sign contractors must post. Existing law also provides for a contractor recovery fund, which the bill would eliminate as well. SFAA and AIA are preparing to demonstrate the value of these license bonds to the regulators.
New Bonding Opportunities

It is the short session this year in most states and the legislatures are focused on the state budgets so there are few enactments with new bonding opportunities. SFAA actively promotes the value of bonding in the legislatures as a consumer and taxpayer protection tool. Details concerning the state legislative sessions can be found under Government Relations/Federal-State Legislation, and information on past bonding opportunities can be found under Government Relations/New Bonding Opportunities on the SFAA website (www.surety.org).

Commercial Surety:

**Nebraska**

License Bond: LB 743 requires public adjusters to be licensed and post a minimum $20,000 surety bond as a form of financial responsibility.

**West Virginia**

License Bonds: SB 415 requires gaming facilities that operate sports lottery wagering to obtain a separate license for this activity and post a surety bond in an amount that the West Virginia Lottery Commission will determine. The bond must guarantee that the licensee will make all payments required under the applicable law and regulations.

Fidelity Bonds:

**Idaho**

Financial Institutions: SB 1285 requires credit unions to obtain a blanket fidelity bond in an amount that will be based on the credit union’s assets. The minimum bond amount is the lesser of the credit union’s assets or $250,000 and the maximum bond amount is $9 million. The new law allows for a deductible in an amount based on the credit union’s assets and its capitalization rating from the National Credit Union Administration and ranges from $1,000 to a maximum of $1 million.

**Washington**

Homeowners’ Associations: SB 6175 adopts the Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act, which specifies the kinds of insurance that a unit owners association must maintain, including fidelity insurance.

Commercial Lines Modernization

Legislation is moving in the states that the American Insurance Association (AIA) is seeking to exempt commercial lines, including surety and fidelity from the rate and form filing requirements. SFAA creates and files fidelity forms, rules, and loss costs and surety rules and loss costs on behalf of its members. West Virginia enacted a new law that exempts surety and fidelity, among other commercial lines, from the rate and rule filing requirements. Similar bills are pending in Massachusetts and New York that would exempt surety and fidelity from both the rate and the form filing requirements. In New Hampshire, legislation is on the Governor’s desk to eliminate the 30 day waiting period for the approval of commercial lines policy forms, including fidelity forms. The bill instead provides that these forms only would be filed for informational and auditing purposes. Bills are moving in the House and Senate in Missouri that would exempt commercial property and casualty insurance from the rate and form filing requirements for large commercial policyholders who employ a full-time risk manager or have retained a licensed insurance producer to negotiate on its behalf.

SFAA Vice President & Counsel Joanne Brooks participated in the Analyzing the 8(a) Program for Small Black-Owned Construction Firms roundtable on Capitol Hill at the invitation of Rep. Nydia Velasquez (D-New York). The discussion focused on how the 8(a) program could help the government close the participation gap between minority-owned contracting companies in federal contracts compared to the rest of the construction industry.
The Women in Surety Board of Directors met on March 16 in New York City. Founded in January 2017, Women in Surety has 80 members. Its mission is to empower women by providing a network for professional development and connection with business associates in the surety industry. The Board is a cross section of surety underwriters and brokers engaged in commercial and contract surety. Women in Surety was founded in New York and aspires to expand nationwide with satellite groups throughout the country.

The Board of Directors for 2018 are Maria Duhart of XL Catlin, Carol Levine of Levine Co., Tara Quigley of Argo Surety, Nancy Schnee of Aon Risk Solutions, Chandar Potter of Zurich, Debra Weinstein of The Shartford, Ethel Pelletier of GCNA and Theresa Giraldo of Marsh.

During the underwriting process, a surety company reviews an individual or company’s financials and capabilities to engage in the business being licensed. Through this process, the surety company is vetting the individual or company to make sure they can uphold the obligations of the bond. When a surety company issues a bond, this signals that in the surety’s opinion, the individual or company is competent and qualified to do the work.

The ultimate goal of occupational licensing is consumer protection. Lawmakers should focus on how to strengthen the aspects that are working, such as including surety bonds on license requirements. The protection provided by surety bonds can do more for consumer safety and protection than increasing some of the burdensome requirements to get the license. And if trouble does arise, the surety company is there to pay claims.

“Whether it’s nail salons, mortgage brokers or the money transmission industry, bonds are good public policy for state and local agencies. Whenever there is an obligation, there needs to be assurance that agencies can protect consumers and seek remedy for any malfeasance. Bonds give states and localities a pathway to achieve this aim,” A Government Leader’s Guide to Bonds.
It is important to have a good sense of competitive compensation practices and smart business to participate from time to time in an industry-specific survey that benchmarks participating organizations against aggregate industry practices. Understanding the trends is key to attracting and retaining talent.

Each year for over a decade, the Surety & Fidelity Association of America has sponsored the only industry-specific compensation survey of its kind and all SFAA members are invited to participate. The purpose of the survey is to gather, analyze and provide important trend data on industry salaries and benefits. All participants receive valuable benchmarked reports at the conclusion of the data collection and analysis period at a deeply discounted rate. Non-participating members are eligible to purchase valuable aggregate industry reports.

The survey will be conducted once again by Fitzgerald’s Compensation Consulting Services, Inc. Data collection will begin at the end of March and will run through May 4, 2018.

Please contact Allan Fitzgerald (afitzgerald@ccs-consultants.com) or Barbara Reiff (breiff@surety.org) if you would like to participate or have questions regarding the Compensation Survey.

**Member Companies and Company Representatives — Join an SFAA Committee and Be Heard**

Do you read the articles in the Committee Corner? Have you considered participating in the Association’s committee activity? All SFAA members and member representatives are encouraged to join one or more of the fourteen advisory committees to ensure that their viewpoint is heard and their ideas considered. Action to join for committee appointments are made at the May Board Meeting held during the SFAA Annual Meeting each year. Member companies then designate an official representative to sit on each committee. To recognize participation by member companies, attendance of a company representative at committee meetings results in a credit applied toward the member company assessment for the following year. For 2017-2018 over half of SFAA member company groups were represented on the official committees, with 342 company committee appointments.

Even if your company is not an official member of a committee, or you are not the official representative for your company on a committee of interest, you still can benefit from the SFAA committees. Company representatives are invited to attend meetings of any committee and participate online. SFAA member representatives can add themselves to the “Open Group” email list for any committee. Joining a committee will enable SFAA to send you notifications on the topic of interest.

It also will give you access to information posted on the group page. Currently, 594 additional representatives from member companies are participating on the advisory committees through the open group. If you are interested in having your company formally appointed to any of the SFAA committees, please contact SFAA staff by the end of April for action at the Annual Meeting in May. All committee minutes are posted on the Member section of the SFAA website.

We invite you to review the various Committees, their Mission Statements, Goals and Objectives, Annual Reports and Minutes of past meetings, and choose in which committees you would like to participate. By participating, you can help advance the goals of our industry.

Additional information about SFAA Advisory Committees and the Committee Credit Policy may be found at http://www.surety.org/page/AboutCommittees or by navigating to the “Board and Committees” section of the Member website.
State

As a result of SFAA and its members’ work with the Oklahoma Insurance Department (Department) to achieve a workable bond amount for pharmacy benefit managers (PBM), the Department proposed the revisions to require the bond amount to be based on the number of annual Oklahoma lives that the PBM covers and based on a schedule for the bond amount, which ranges from at least $50,000 for up to 5,000 lives to at least $1 million for over 100,000 lives. Currently, the bond must have limits of $1 million per occurrence and $5 million annual aggregate. SFAA submitted a letter in support of these improvements to the regulations.

SFAA provided comments to the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission (Commission) concerning its proposed rules to establish licensing requirements for a marijuana cultivator, independent testing laboratory, marijuana product manufacturer, marijuana retailer or any other type of licensed marijuana-related business. The proposed rules would require a surety bond in an amount equal to the license fee required for the marijuana establishment. Our comments advised the Commission on the need for clarity in the surety’s legal exposure given the conflict between state and federal law concerning marijuana.

SFAA advised the Montana Commissioner of Securities and Insurance against deleting a provision limiting the surety’s aggregate liability to the bond amount for the bond required from public adjusters. SFAA noted that the proposed rules could affect the bond’s availability by increasing the surety’s financial exposure. The proposed rules state that the intent of the changes is to remove superfluous language without changing the meaning of the rule. Our comments noted that eliminating the limit on the surety’s aggregate liability could result in a material, unintended change as the statute does not limit the surety’s aggregate liability.

SFAA made recommendations on the claims provisions to the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services that would require the bonds for mortgage loan servicers to remain in place for five years after the mortgage servicer ceases to be licensed in the State. Direct actions also are permitted on the bond and claims must be filed before the bond expires. The bond or letter of credit would have to be in an amount ranging from $50,000 to $200,000, based on the mortgage servicer’s total unpaid principal balance of residential mortgage loans in Oregon. SFAA recommended a reduction in the limitations period and advised that higher bond amounts likely would require the bond principal to have greater financial resources based on the surety’s underwriting process.

Regulatory Filing Update

Please check the SFAA website (www.surety.org) under Regulatory Filings/Countrywide Filings for the latest information on the pending ERISA Dishonesty Bond, Crime Protection Policy (CPP) Social Engineering Endorsements, CPP Schedule Endorsements, and Surety Loss Cost filings.

Request For Claim Contact Link

SFAA is in the process of gathering members’ online surety claim contact information in order to assemble a publicly available directory on SFAA’s website. This initiative comes with Board approval and is part of SFAA’s ongoing claims marketing campaign to promote surety bonds.

If you wish for your company to be included, please contact Devin Girardi at dgirardi@surety.org.

New Forms Available

ConsensusDocs publishes a comprehensive catalog of 100+ documents that cover all your contract document needs. ConsensusDocs are the only standard contracts developed by a diverse coalition of 40 leading associations with members from all stakeholders in the design and the construction industry. ConsensusDocs contracts incorporate best practices and fairly allocate risk to help reduce costly contingencies and adversarial negotiations.

SFAA members can download free Bond Forms or purchase a full subscription at a discount.

Committee Corner

Commercial Surety Advisory Committee
The Commercial Surety Advisory Committee will meet from 10:00 a.m. to noon on May 23, 2018, in Washington, D.C.

Communications Advisory Committee
The Communications Advisory Committee is seeking input and support from member companies. To join the open group, sign up on www.surety.org or contact Bryan Surcouf at bsurcouf@surety.org.

The next Communications Advisory Committee meeting is an in-person meeting at noon on May 23, 2018, in Washington, D.C. Committee members are welcomed and encouraged to take pictures at all the events such as Congressional Action Day. SFAA staff will be live tweeting throughout the events.

Contract Bonds Advisory Committee
The Contract Bonds Advisory Committee Meeting will meet on September 12, 2018, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in Washington D.C.

Diversity & Human Resources Advisory Committee
The Committee met in Washington, D.C., on March 8th and discussed a wide range of issues including plans for the 2018 Compensation Survey, future objectives for the Industry Resource Group and recommendations for changes to elements of the Surety & Fidelity Industry Intern and Scholarship Program for minority students (SFIISP) to be presented to the Trustees of The Surety Foundation for consideration.

The schedule of meetings for the balance of the year has been set. The next meeting will take place via teleconference at 2 p.m. Eastern time on Thursday, June 14, 2018, and the final meeting will be take place on Thursday, September 20, 2018, at a location to be determined. All SFAA members are invited to participate.

For more detailed information about the March 8th meeting, please refer to the Minutes posted on the SFAA website or contact Barbara Reiff (breiff@surety.org) to discuss.

eBusiness Advisory Committee
The eBusiness Advisory Committee will meet via conference call on Wednesday, April 4, 2018, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m., Eastern time.

Fidelity/Fidelity Claims Advisory Committees
The Fidelity Advisory Committee will meet from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on May 23, 2018, in Washington, D.C.

Government Affairs Advisory Committee
The Government Affairs Advisory Committee met with the AIA Surety & Fidelity Committee on March 28, 2018. SFAA and AIA discussed the key pending surety and fidelity legislation in the states and in Congress, such as public-private partnerships, bond thresholds, retainage, promoting new bonding opportunities, and addressing onerous bond requirements. Staff provided the latest updates on SFAA's legislative goals and priorities. SFAA and AIA also discussed the approach and preparation needed to address the rising trend of occupational licensing reform and its impact on license bond requirements.

The GAAC will meet from 10 a.m. to noon on May 23, 2018, in Washington, D.C. Our annual Congressional Action Day will begin at 1:00 p.m.

International Advisory Committee
The International Advisory Committee will meet from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 23, 2018, in Washington, D.C.

Surety Claims Advisory Committee
The Surety Claims Advisory Committee will meet on June 22, 2018, at 7:00 a.m. in conjunction with the Surety Claims Institute’s Annual Meeting at the Park Hyatt Beaver Creek in Avon, Colorado.
Career Opportunity with SFAA

Explore an opportunity to work on behalf of the industry – Seeking a **Compliance/Fidelity Forms Manager** to manage regulatory compliance and grow SFAA’s forms library. Ideal candidate will have experience in policy forms development, maintenance and filing in the property casualty industry.

Great opportunity with much autonomy and opportunity for growth. Visit **Compliance/Fidelity Forms Manager** for complete position description or contact Barbara Reiff (breiff@surety.org).

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 22 to 24, 2018
• SFAA 110th Annual Meeting
  Washington, D.C.

May 22, 2018
• Young Professionals Group Meeting
  Washington, D.C.

May 23, 2018
• Commercial Surety Advisory Committee Meeting
  Washington, D.C.
• Government Affairs Advisory Committee Meeting
  Washington, D.C.

May 24, 2018
• Communications Advisory Committee Meeting
  Washington, D.C.
• International Advisory Committee Meeting
  Washington, D.C.
• Fidelity Advisory Committee Meeting
  Washington, D.C.
• Congressional Action Day - Capitol Hill
  Washington, D.C.

Members can register for events online.

www.surety.org