

Social Security Advisory Board
Minutes
Board Meeting
July 14, 2014

Location: 400 Virginia Avenue, S.W., Suite 625
Washington, D.C. 20024

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

SSAB Members: Barbara Kennelly, Acting Chair
Bernadette Franks-Ongoy
Jagadeesh Gokhale
Dorcas Hardy

Presenters: **Linda Stagno**, International Federation of Professional and Technical Employees (IFPTE) Vice President, New York Region Administrative Law Judge, Brooklyn Hearing Office, Social Security Administration (SSA)
Dale Glendenning, Union Secretary, Atlanta Region Administrative Law Judge, Atlanta Hearing Office, SSA
Stephen C. Goss, Chief Actuary, SSA
Alice H. Wade, Deputy Chief Actuary, SSA
Karen Glenn, Executive Officer and Supervisory Actuary, SSA
Mark Sarney, Director, Office of Policy Analysis, Office of Retirement Policy, SSA
Kevin Whitman, Director, Office of Policy Research, Office of Retirement Policy, SSA
Dr. Jane L. Snowdon, Chief Innovation Officer, International Business Machines Corporation (IBM)
David K. Barnes, Consultant, IBM
Dr. Christopher F. Codella, Engineer, IBM
Townley Cozad, SSA Lead – Global Business Services, IBM

SSAB Staff: Claire Green, Staff Director
Jackie Chapin, Policy Chief
Jeremy Elder, Executive Assistant
Joel Feinleib, Staff Economist
Sterling Laudon, Policy Attorney
Sarah Weaver, Research Assistant
Bethel Dejene, Summer Associate
Connor Dowd, Summer Associate
Ismael Martinez, NASI Fellow
Morgan McKenna, Summer Associate

The July Board meeting consisted of four fact-finding sessions – two in the morning and two in the afternoon. The first session hosted Social Security Administrative Law Judges (ALJ) Linda Stagno and Dale Glendenning. Judge Stagno and Judge Glendenning are officers in the International Federation of Professional and Technical Employees (IFPTE), the union that represents SSA ALJs. The primary topic discussed was concern over the relationship between SSA management and ALJs and the union’s suggestions as to how the disability hearings process can be improved.

Later that morning, the Board met with SSA Chief Actuary Steve Goss, Deputy Actuary Alice Wade, and Supervisory Actuary Karen Glenn. Mr. Goss and staff provided an update on the publication of the upcoming *2014 Trustees Report*, and discussed some recent analysis of calculating retirement benefit replacement rates.

In the early afternoon, the Board was joined by Mark Sarney and Kevin Whitman from SSA’s Office of Retirement Policy (ORP). Mr. Sarney and Mr. Whitman provided a brief overview of the background and mission of ORP and the type of research and policy analysis their office is responsible for. They also spent time discussing Modeling Income in the Near Term, or “MINT,” ORP’s primary micro-simulation model that is used to make future projections about retirement income, marital trends, Social Security benefits, income, and poverty. Such projections allow researchers and policy analysts to study retirement conditions in the future as well as the effects of various policy changes and proposals.

In the final session, the Board met with IBM executives Dr. Jane Snowdon, Dr. Chris Codella, Townley Cozad, and consultant David Barnes. IBM representatives were invited to discuss *IBM Watson*, a cognitive computer system that learns and interacts naturally with people to extend what either humans or computer could do on their own. The presenters provided some history both on Watson and IBM’s seventy-nine year relationship working with SSA. IBM discussed its work with large medical facilities and insurance companies and how the Watson technology might assist SSA in its disability determination process.

I certify that the minutes written for the July 14, 2014 meeting of the Social Security Advisory Board are correct.



Barbara B. Kennelly

Acting Chair
Social Security Advisory Board