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Looking Back and Ahead

By Brian Holland

It has been a privilege and an honor to serve on the PAF Section Council and as chair for the last year. It has been a delight to work with the other councilors whom you have elected and also with our quite active community of Friends of the Council. From my corner it looks like a particularly productive group. In 2016 we have a few accomplishments:

- Podcasts on special topics related to predictive analytics (find them on our SOA page);
- The first Practical Predictive Analytics Seminar, which followed the Life and Annuity Symposium;
- Two nice, thick newsletters;
- Virtual Open Forums, facilitating connections between members and newsletter contributors;
- A record number of sponsored sessions at SOA meetings, including two at ValAct this year; and
- Some exciting webcasts in the works.

Friends of the council are playing a major role:

- Dorothy Andrews—serving as ValAct coordinator
- Richard Xu—leading Annual Meeting coordination
- Dave Snell, Kevin Jones—editing the newsletter
- Eileen Burns, Matthias Kullowatz—presenting a seminar, volunteering much time and creative energy on this effort
- Ben Wolzenski—organizing volunteer activities

I have to give Satadru Sengupta a shout-out as well for presenting at the seminar. He is a data scientist, not an actuary. Reaching out to other experts is important to us, and we were glad he could present.

Changing our name has communicated our work to more actuaries and membership has shot up. We have even more members to serve. Our business is so complex and everyone is so busy, there is surely time for you to pitch in! Please see Doug Norris'



excellent article in Issue 12 for more. I've been very encouraged that he has taken time this year to call-in every month and be there as a sounding board for me—that's one more friend of the council who has been active.

I look forward to seeing what the section does in 2017. With the experience and interests on the council and your interests, with Ricky's leadership, it will remain a fun and collegial group. I'll remind you what I'm reminding myself: there is room to pitch in and support your interests while making friends. Do you want to see a webcast on a particular topic, or research done in a particular direction? The odds are, you're not alone. I encourage you to speak up and connect with others, maybe even organize some content or guide us to it. A lot of the SOA is what we make of it, and the sections are a great way to pitch in and make the SOA what you want it to be. ■



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