



THE INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT



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William Ely, Editor



And the Beat Goes On ...

by Larry Stern

With the passage of time, every October, SOA Sections install new officers and new Council members and give thanks to those rotating off the Council. On behalf of the Entrepreneurial Actuaries Section (EAS), I would like to express my gratitude to two members of EAS Council who are leaving, but will not be forgotten: Dave Axene, former chair; and Michael Frank, member extraordinaire.

We have many times mentioned EAS is a section somewhat different than the others as our membership for the most part is composed of independent entrepreneurs and small business owners. Many times work demands trump volunteerism. Not so for Dave and Michael. In his second year of a regular three-year term, Dave stepped forward to be chair. And Michael gave us a fourth year on the Council when several other Council members were unable to continue on the Council. Their service is greatly appreciated.

I would also like to express my appreciation to Meg Weber and Sue Martz, the SOA staff members assigned to EAS. They provide insight and guidance to maintain consistency among the 19 SOA Sections and specifically keep EAS on the straight and narrow. And Jacque Kirkwood, our SOA staff newsletter editor, has helped *The Independent Consultant* maintain its high level of quality.

Last but not least, my appreciation goes out to Jeff Beckley who this past year served as our SOA Board representative. Jeff, himself a self-employed actuary, understood firsthand the special characteristics of what makes our section "different" and reported to us how SOA Board activities would influence our section.

As a close, I want to relate a new project EAS has entertained. In my

SOA Staff

[Meg Weber, Staff Partner](#)

[Jacque Kirkwood, Staff Editor](#)

[Sue Martz, Section Specialist](#)

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last column, I highlighted the EAS Group on LinkedIn. Mike Kaster began a discussion asking how the SOA Directory could (or more likely couldn't) assist the public in finding actuaries. Other professions (doctors, lawyers, accountants, etc.) have websites directing the public to find specialized individuals. This discussion led to a stream of comments. Long story short, the EAS has submitted a request to the SOA to develop a separate website for finding actuaries. This would not be an extension of the SOA Directory (which allows actuaries to find actuaries) but a website for public access to actuaries who would register as independent entrepreneurs, small business and larger consulting firms. With the help of Chuck Ritzke, Cheryl Krueger, Mike Kaster, Ruth Ann Woodley, myself and Meg Weber, we expect the SOA to soon ask for preliminary specifications for this website. This is an exciting development—and it all started with the discussion stream from LinkedIn. Stay tuned as this project will continue into the next year.

It has been a privilege and honor to be the chair of your section this past year. I now turn the reins over to Jim Ramenda for the coming year and wish him much success.

Until next time, may all your experiences be "profitable" ones!

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