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# Chairperson's Corner

By Scott Houghton

It's hard to believe 2018 represents the fifth year for the Modeling Section. As an alternative to a more formal "state of the section" address, I'll give an informal update that illustrates three recent anecdotal signs of our success as a section, and follow with a summary of benefits of being a member of the section.

Our first sign of success is that our dedicated and hardworking *The Modeling Platform* co-editors are putting together an index of past articles. The implication here is that with their help we've already published enough articles to have an index be useful.

Our second sign is that the Program Committee for the Society of Actuaries (SOA) Annual Meeting & Exhibit has increased our allocation of sponsored sessions, so we are now sponsoring five sessions, including our hot breakfast session.

The third informal sign of success requires a bit of background. When I volunteered as webcast coordinator for the section in 2015, I quickly learned that we could raise more money for the section with a webcast if we reached out to and partnered with a larger, more established section. Using precise actuarial terminology, if we partnered with a big section, we needed to share the pie, but the pie was triple (or larger) in size. Our third anecdotal sign of success was that another section recently reached out to us to partner with them on a webcast.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the work of all of our volunteers, so I would like to thank all of them. Their hard work and dedication help bring the following benefits of section membership to you, our members:

1. The section sponsors continuing education sessions at the Life & Annuity Symposium (LAS), Valuation Actuary Symposium and SOA Annual Meeting & Exhibit. The LAS this year is May 7–8 in Baltimore, and we are sponsoring sessions on topics including centralized versus decentralized models and model efficiency. Our sessions for the other meetings are still being planned for 2018.
2. We publish this semiannual newsletter and modeling section e-newsletters.



3. We sponsor and co-sponsor educational webcasts. Our planned topics for 2018 include model governance, model validation, economic scenario generators and International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) 17. Section members receive discounts on webcasts.
4. Section members may listen to and view recordings of past webcasts that are more than 1 year old for free as a recently added section member benefit. You can access the free Modeling Section webcast recordings by logging in using your SOA username and password at <https://engage.soa.org>, and look for the Modeling Section Community.
5. The section sponsors and publishes original research of interest to our members. Our members have the opportunity to influence and/or sponsor research topics related to modeling. A research project on "Validation of Predictive Models for Insurance Applications" is currently underway, and we have others we are considering for 2018.
6. Section members have networking opportunities and discounts on section networking events.
7. Section members receive members-only access to LinkedIn discussions.

Please enjoy this issue, and please reach out to me if you have ideas on what the section can do to help you, your colleagues and your employers. ■



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