

Chairperson's Corner

Closing Time

By Tim Rozar

I believe it was Seneca the Younger who keenly observed that “every new beginning comes from some other beginning’s end.” Or perhaps it was 90’s one-hit wonder Semisonic—I often get my alt-rock bands and Ancient Roman philosophers confused. Either way, while this “Chairperson’s Corner” marks the closing time for my three year stint on the Product Development Section Council, it marks a new beginning for a great slate of council members.

I know that the incoming section council will do a great job delivering on the strategies that we have pursued over the past year. Among the highest priorities is delivering groundbreaking, practical research content including a soup to nuts survey of best practices in the product development process and a thorough review of industry experience on term conversions. We have also focused on improving communication and content delivery to section members through email blasts, podcasts, webcasts, buzz group calls and LinkedIn discussions. While continuing to advance the research, content and communication agendas, I also know that they will seek ways to meet the new and emerging needs of the section membership, both in the United States and beyond.

As we have just elected new council members, I’d like to thank my fellow council members who are also closing out their current elected terms.

- Kurt Guske has served for three years on the council. Kurt has been instrumental in the success of the Product Matters newsletter and the section’s contributions to the Annual Meeting and Life & Annuity Symposium.
- Ken Birk is completing a one year appointment to the council. Ken has taken a key leadership role in coordinating the section’s research projects.

Finally, as I reflect on the past three years, I am struck by a few things:

1. Time really flies. Has it really already been three years since I started on the council? Amazing.
2. The SOA staff members are rock stars. For those of you who haven’t had the privilege to interact with the SOA staff, they are among the most dedicated, professional and friendly people you’ll ever have a chance to be around. I’d like to personally thank Christy Cook, Ronora Stryker, Jan Schuh, Jim Miles, Amy Wojcik, Ryan Smith, Meg Weber, Kathryn Baker and the rest of the SOA staff for their help on section activities. It would simply be impossible to do any of the things that we want to do as a section without them.
3. Friends of the Council are awesome. They are the unsung heroes of the section who bring their dedication and passion for volunteerism to provide continuity and energy to the section. They join our monthly meetings, volunteer on committees and generally enable the section to get things done that we wouldn’t otherwise have the bandwidth to do. Many thanks to PD Section friends Paul Fedchak, Donna Megregian, Al Klein, Paula Hodges, Doug Robbins and too many others to list.

With that, my time on the PD Section council has come to a close. As they say, I don’t have to go home, but I can’t stay here... ■



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