



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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Chairperson's Corner

Reflections on a **Three-Year Term**

By Donna Megregian

By the time you read this, a new Section Council will have been elected and gearing up for a new section council year. Many thanks to the other members who are departing the council—Mitch Katcher and Lisa Renetzky. Thank you to all those who volunteered to run for the council and congratulations to those who were elected to serve on the council. For those not elected, the council can use your input. Please become or stay a friend of the council and please take part in the council meetings and consider running again next year. We look forward to seeing what another year will bring in terms of new ideas, sessions at meeting, research, connecting with fellow members and all those things that your section council provides to you. Best wishes to Paula Hodges as she takes over the chairperson position.

“Every new beginning comes from some other beginning’s end”—that lyric just popped into my head as I exit my term in the product development section council. Just three years ago I was in a very different place in life as I entered into the section council. I was a fairly new mother, a relatively new consultant, an eager volunteer, and willing to say yes to about anything thrown at me! Fast forward three years. Now I am a mother of two, a slightly more established consultant, still an eager volunteer, but no quite as willing to say yes to anything thrown at me.

Being a part of the council has helped me learn a few more things about reliance on others to help get things done. No highly successful person is able to do it all. Letting go and delegating is a skill. Thankfully, the council members and friends of the council are willing to help out where they can as well. Also, sometimes you have to learn to say no and find where your limits are. Finding my own limits and saying no has probably helped more with the establishment of children in my life, but it certainly translates to duties at work. Also, responsibility is best owned when someone knows it is theirs. What I mean is that thinking someone knows what they are supposed to do without actually straight up telling them may be a recipe for failure. Communication is critical. That should be no surprise, right? Oh, but how often are things miscommunicated? More often than we would like. One thing you have to remember about delegation and responsibility—someone needs to know what they are responsible for before they can succeed at getting it done. If you don’t tell me what I am responsible for, how can I get it done for you? Speak up. It’s the only way you’ll be heard. So thank you section council, for helping me be better at being me.

We face a lot of issues as this section council year closes. On a global scale, economies are trying to recover only to be pulled down again for various reasons and issues. As a nation, we look toward presidential elections, high unemployment, and concerns over our own economy. As a society of actuaries, we face increasing our own value to employers and the possibility of merging with other actuarial organizations. As members of this section, we face the daunting task of developing and managing ourselves and a portfolio of products that have to provide value to the companies we work for in the chaotic global and national environment. We have a lot of work ahead, and we need to rely on each other to get things done. If there is something that you are missing, and the SOA or this section can do something about it, the best thing you can do is tell us and we will work to see if we can get it done.

Over the next few months, you should see webcasts, research, maybe even a podcast produced by or supported by the PD section. Continue to provide input and ideas to the council through letters to the editor, via the LinkedIn PD section group or email a council member directly. All are open to feedback, so please feel free to use whatever medium you are most comfortable with to enhance this section’s value to you. Thank you for three great years and let’s keep this section growing and providing valuable information and support in the years to come. ▣



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