



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

Article from:

Reinsurance News

January 2011 – Issue 69

Departing Chairman's Remarks By Ronald Klein

The one thing I dislike most about Society of Actuary's Section Newsletters is the Chairperson's Corner. It is usually a boring summary of what the section has accomplished or what it will accomplish. I hope that my previous Chairperson's Corner articles for the Reinsurance Newsletter were a little more readable than the typical Chairperson's Corner—at least, that was my attempt.

Well, now I have been asked to summarize my past year as Chairperson, and I am having a bit of trouble. Do I simply list our major accomplishments during the past year? For example, do I discuss how the LEARN initiative (educating regulators in their place of business about the basics of reinsurance so that they can become better policy makers) kicked into gear with visits to five State Insurance Departments in 2010? Should I mention that the 2010 Refocus Conference was the most successful to date with more than 330 attendees during a time when companies were cutting back on industry meeting travel? Would I dare to mention that the Reinsurance Section Council launched a new group on LinkedIn as a forum to discuss current reinsurance issues in a more informal arena? Is it so dull to chat about our educational programs at the spring and annual SOA meetings? And, do I note future projects such as the attempt to get the Reinsurance Section Membership more in tune with our non-life counterparts?

I think not. That would be too boring. Besides, I always say, if the readers do not know about our accomplishments during the past year, then were they really accomplishments? If our readers did not attend ReFocus, the SOA spring or annual meetings or hear about how successful they were from colleagues, does it really matter how great they were? This reminds me of one of my favorite sayings of very unimportant people. Did you ever run into a situation where a person is asking for something that is a little over the top? When this person is denied, the retort is: "Do you know who I am?" This has happened to me on many occasions in my various professional positions and even when I was working summer jobs during High School and College. I have many replies including, "No, do you?" and "If you have to ask, I guess I don't have to answer."

While these replies are somewhat funny, I always dream of delivering the perfect comeback that you only see in movies. Unfortunately, I am relegated to repeating great movie lines, albeit in the perfect situations. For example, when a date for my older daughter came knocking at the door and was a bit cocky, I had to deliver my absolute favorite line from *Clueless* – "I have a 45 and shovel. I don't think anyone will miss you!" And believe it or not, a fellow employee looked at me and actually said, "What would you do if you were me?" I had to deliver my favorite line from *Passenger 57*—"Kill myself!"



Ronald "Ronnie" Klein is Global Head of Reinsurance with American Life Insurance Company (ALICO). Ronnie can be contacted at ronald.klein@alico.com.

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Those of you who know me realize that I can go on and on with movie lines. I love movies and I always look for and remember good lines. I also am not shy in delivering a good movie line when appropriate. And, if you are a lover of movie lines too, I invite you to catch me at the ReFocus Conference 2011 beginning on February 27 in Las Vegas and try to stump me. I welcome the challenge. While you are at the conference, you may want to stop talking about movies long enough to attend the sessions with more direct company and reinsurer CEOs than ever before. You also may want to attend the keynote session where Michael Lewis, author of *Moneyball* and *The Big Short* gives us his view of the financial crisis. (Please look for more information about ReFocus 2011 on the website www.refocusconference.com).

Most people who leave the Chair of an SOA section have mixed emotions. While it is somewhat of a relief, it also brings a loss of knowing what is going on. I will not miss what is going on as I will become a "Friend of Council." It is easy to become a Friend of Council and I encourage you to contact Christy Cook at the SOA office or Larry Stern to find out what you can do to assist the Reinsurance Section Council in its future endeavors. What I will miss are the people—especially the new Chair, Larry Stern. Larry and I have known each other for a long time in a business capacity. After working with him during the past two years I can now call him a personal friend.

When it comes down to why I ran for the Reinsurance Section Council (again) and why I agreed to take on the position of Chair, it is the interaction with great people. Recently, the SOA sent out a survey for outgoing chairpersons and asked what the best part of serving on the council was. It is simple—getting to know dedicated, hardworking and genuinely nice people better. I encourage all of you to try it.

Now, will I run for council again? The only thing that comes to mind is, "I'll be back!" ■