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As incoming chairperson of the Reinsurance Section Council, I have a confession. One that I hope you won't hold against me. I don't presently work for a Reinsurer or as a consultant or broker in the reinsurance industry. That's it. The secret is out.

Truth be told, membership in the Reinsurance Section is beneficial for many in the insurance industry, not just those directly working with or for Reinsurers. Underwriters and other insurance professionals, bankers, accountants, academics and regulators to name a few, would most certainly benefit from section membership and/or volunteering with the section.

Here's a little of what we have to offer so please help us spread the word:

- Neuron stimulation Our research sub-committee generates topics worthy of thought provoking investigation. I hope you've had a chance to benefit from some of the research that we sponsored this year. (Check it out on the SOA website if you've missed it.)
- A good party! Reinsurance Section socials, such as New Orleans cooking school and Chicago Blues bar mixers, are a great chance to meet new faces and have a little fun!
- The adrenaline rush of performing in front of an audience Reinsurance Section sessions are regularly featured at Insurance industry conferences. We're always looking for a fresh, thought provoking point of view!

At the SOA Annual Meeting in Chicago we transitioned to the 2011/2012 Section Council. Thank you to Larry Stern for his leadership as Chair of the Section Council this past year. He will continue to work closely with the council in the planning of the annual ReFocus conference and we will be richer for his involvement. For the new council year we welcomed three newly elected members to the Section council: Audrey Chervansky, Paul Myers and Mike Kaster. Congratulations and welcome aboard.

Simply by reading the recent reinsurance related headlines ... "Collateral reform," "Solvency II, a boon to Reinsurer's," "Health Reform consequences," "Obesity and children," and you'll know we are in for a continued wild ride again this year. I look forward to riding in the front car with arms raised alongside you.



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