



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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# Letter from the Chair By Mary Ellen Luning

The Reinsurance Section has been busy this year!

The Reinsurance Section Council (with help from countless volunteers) has been working toward our goals in education, research and networking. I would like to give you some highlights of the year's milestones, both achieved and planned.

The 3rd Annual ReFocus Symposium held in Las Vegas in March was again a huge success. Feedback from the attendees was extremely positive and attendance was very impressive considering the travel restrictions imposed by many companies. The meeting is a joint venture between the SOA and the ACLI. The co-chairpersons, Craig Baldwin, Mel Young and Larry Carson, along with a dedicated crew of volunteers and speakers, did a tremendous job.

The RSC Research Committee, led by Ed Hui, has completed a survey related to concentration of risk. Highlights of the survey are included in this edition of the newsletter, and indicate a shift in priorities for cedants choosing a reinsurer. It is definitely a worthwhile read for direct company as well as reinsurance company executives. The research team has identified new initiatives for 2009: two of which are currently underway—Mortality Improvement and The Future of the Reinsurance Industry. Anyone interested in joining the team of volunteers should contact Ed at [edward.hui@caldwellfunding.com](mailto:edward.hui@caldwellfunding.com).

The LEARN program has kicked off under the leadership of Jeff Katz. This program is designed to provide detailed reinsurance education to regulators and rating agency personnel. The Continuing Ed team (led by Tim Ruark) has also been providing great reinsurance sessions and webcasts. Please check the Web site for upcoming webcasts as they are a cost effective way to get up-to-date information on industry trends. Our communications team produced a special edition newsletter featuring the history of reinsurance, by Dave Holland. If you missed that issue, you can catch it online.

Lastly, the Reinsurance Section is giving back to our community and providing an opportunity to network through a charity fun run to be held at the Annual Meeting in October. The planning involves a team from various reinsurers (thank you), and the proceeds this year will benefit the American Diabetes Association. It is going to be fun, but you don't have to run (walkers welcome)!

Thanks again to the many volunteers that make our section a success. Your efforts are very much appreciated by reinsurance section membership. ■



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