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Chairperson's Corner

By Dustin Hetzler

Happy Holidays from the Johnson Family! We had a wonderful 2015. Let me share some of the highlights: little Johnny got straight A's while finishing fourth grade. During the summer he won the "most outstanding camper" award at his summer technology camp for early middle schoolers. Jane didn't do so badly herself, finishing eighth grade with many academic awards and entering high school this past fall. She also continued the family tradition of getting straight A's, and even made the varsity cheerleader squad as a freshman. Amazing!!!

During this past year, we Johnsons were also fortunate enough to take a number of family vacations. We started early in the year with a spring break trip to Hawaii, where we saw an active volcano along with many other educational and sandy things! During the summer we made our way to Europe, where we traveled to many historical sites and gained several cultural experiences. During Johnny and Jane's fall break, the Johnsons made our way to Washington, D.C., where we spent days walking The Mall and visiting all the museums. What a wonderful experience, and so close to home!

I wish you and yours a happy holiday season and hope the New Year will be wonderful for us, and for you!

This may seem an unusual way to start my first chairperson's corner article. As I write this article, it is mid-January 2016. I am coming out of the holiday season and starting the new year, and the Society of Actuaries Reinsurance Section Council (RSC) just held an in-person 2016 planning meeting.

It is hard not to relate this RSC planning meeting and its discussion of expectations for the coming year to the holiday season that just ended. Let me explain. During the season, on a daily basis, my family's mailbox is filled with holiday cards. Many include a letter from one of the parents describing the amazing accomplishments of each family member during the year; similar to the fabricated accomplishments in the opening two paragraphs of this article (to protect the innocent, of course!).

During the meeting, council members spent the day planning our goals for the year, focusing on what content to deliver and

how best to deliver it to our members. I was particularly pleased with our ability to be specific about the types of information we plan to deliver as well as how we actually plan to go about the execution! It is our intention to have such a successful year that during the holiday season, we can distribute our own "letter" describing all of our outstanding 2016 accomplishments in great detail. Stay tuned ...

Each year, the SOA, carries out its mission (which is primarily focused on education and research) through its many volunteer committees, sections and other groups. We at the RSC focus on actuarial meeting program development, research projects, webcasts, newsletters, and other programs. The RSC will be continuing to contribute robustly to the SOA's many activities and initiatives in 2016. We will be actively involved in planning numerous sessions at the SOA's annual Life & Annuity Symposium, the Health Meeting, the Valuation Actuary Symposium, and the Annual Meeting. We will also be involved in research projects covering topics such as predictive analytics and conversion mortality and in visits to state regulator offices as part of our LEARN program. In addition, we plan to host another Reinsurance Boot Camp in 2016.

It would not be appropriate for me to mention the SOA's LEARN program, which stands for Life Education and Reinsurance Navigation, without mentioning specifically the significant amount of time our volunteer coordinators and presenters have given to execute this effort. For this we can primarily thank six individuals: Michael Frank, David Nussbaum, and Tim Robinson, who cover health topics; and Larry Stern, Jeff Katz, and Mike Kaster, who cover life topics.

These ongoing and new programs and initiatives enable the RSC to make a significant contribution to the ongoing mission of the SOA. I am already looking forward to writing the RSC's 2016 holiday season letter that will describe all of our major accomplishments! ■



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