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# Chairperson's Corner

By Dustin Hetzler

**T**ime flies! This is too common of a statement for many people, but for me, my past three years volunteering on the Reinsurance Section Council (RSC) have really passed by very quickly.

In my first chairperson's article of the year, back in March, I hinted that I would be preparing a Holiday-type letter at the end of the year, in which I would talk about some of the RSC's major accomplishments in 2016.

The time has finally come, so, here goes.

John Cathcart, the RSC leader of the SOA's LEARN (Life Education and Reinsurance Navigation) program, achieved quite a milestone with this program this year. The program, which I described in detail in March, recently received approval as a qualifying learning event by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC). This means LEARN presentations can now count as continuing education for holders of an NAIC's Insurance Regulator Professional Designation, and earn them needed Designation Renewal Credits (DRCs).

This milestone came about as a result of a LEARN session with the Pennsylvania Insurance Department. Following this session, a participant asked if he could earn continuing education credits for it. John, along with Larry Stern, James Miles and many others, combined their efforts to work with the NAIC to accredit the LEARN program. It is a great accomplishment, and will continue to present opportunities for the RSC and for LEARN volunteers to deliver reinsurance-specific knowledge to the industry.

The Reinsurance Section Newsletter also underwent an important transition: This year Ronald Poon-Affat, who was appointed RSC leader for communication in 2015, successfully brought back in house the role of editor of this newsletter, following 10 years of it being edited offsite. Ronald has implemented this transition beautifully: the newsletter is now entirely planned and edited by Ronald with support from the RSC, and we plan to develop additional internal editorial support in 2017.

We also instituted a Best Reinsurance News Article competition! The first contest is on right now, and all 2016 articles are eligible. The winner will receive the significant prize of bragging rights.

Another milestone related to this newsletter is that as of press time, 22 articles from Reinsurance News have been converted to podcasts. SOA member Mark Tanner volunteered time and resources to complete this conversion, with top quality results. On

average, about 300 downloads have occurred for each podcast, which I view as a great success!

Tim Paris, RSC leader for marketing and membership and Mike Kaster, RSC Secretary and Treasurer, were instrumental this past year in focusing our efforts on strengthening all content we deliver to the membership. The areas we focused upon were first stated in our welcome letter to new members in 2016, and will be a topic in an upcoming survey of Reinsurance Section members that will be completed in early November.

The current content topic areas of focus include:

- Impact of streamlined underwriting and big data on mortality estimates;
- Annuities and longevity;
- Long-term care and critical illness;
- Captives;
- Principle-based approaches to reserving and capital; and
- Opportunities for reinsurance growth, both globally and across product lines.

Finally, in August the RSC held its fourth annual Advanced Reinsurance Seminar in Chicago. For the first time, the meeting was standalone: in the past, it followed major industry meetings. By all accounts, the seminar was a great success! Round of applause to seminar host Mike Kaster.

These are just a few of our many notable accomplishments this past year. These, along with ongoing successful delivery of reinsurance content for SOA-sponsored industry meetings, symposia, webcasts and ongoing research projects, have resulted in a terrific 2016!

I would also like to thank RSC members Katrina Spillane, George Hrischenko, Catherine Bierschbach, and Mary Broesch for their significant contributions this past year.

I would also like to welcome the new RSC members who will join in 2017: Jeremy Lane, Emily Roman, and David Vnenchak!

This is my last column as chair. Over the past three years, I have learned a tremendous amount—about the SOA, about how much hard work goes into development of the program for the industry meetings, about how research projects are identified and completed, and much more. This time has been extremely interesting, valuable, and rewarding to me, both personally and professionally. I would strongly encourage anyone considering joining the RSC to take the plunge and do so! ■



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