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A View from the SOA's Staff Fellow for Retirement

By Andrew Peterson

I have some important personal news to share, in what will be my last staff fellow column for the *Retirement Section News*. After having served as the SOA staff fellow for retirement for the last 10 years, I have been asked to assume a new role leading the SOA's international department operations. I'm looking forward to this new assignment and the opportunities it will bring to continue serving SOA members and further the growth of the actuarial profession around the globe. Yet, at the same time, it is a bittersweet change as I will move on from my primary focus of working with retirement/pension actuaries.

The SOA is a member-driven organization, and over the last 10 years I have enjoyed the opportunities that being a staff fellow have presented to work with many of you members who have volunteered on various Retirement Section activities—whether participating on the council or various operational teams, presenting at meetings, writing newsletter articles, overseeing research projects and much more. It has been a privilege to get to know so many different people from a variety of backgrounds while seeking to enhance the intellectual capital of SOA retirement actuaries. It has also been a privilege to represent the profession and the SOA through speaking and participating at various meetings, whether actuarial events or industry events, or participating in media interviews and meeting with staffers on Capitol Hill.

Prior to working at the SOA, I always valued my actuarial credentials, particularly given the intense amount of work it took

to obtain them. But since working here, I've come to value the importance of being a part of a profession; that being an actuary means more than just being a smart person, but also involves being part of a profession that subscribes to a code of conduct, professional standards, ongoing professional development and discipline for members when needed. As such, I'm glad I was able to persevere (with support from my wife and co-workers) when the exam process seemed impossible and push through to completion. I am proud to be an actuary, an SOA member and privileged to serve you, the SOA members, in my SOA staff role.

While my direct focus with retirement actuaries will be stopping, I'm thankful that I will continue to be able to serve SOA members with a focus on our members outside of the U.S. and Canada. As I write this in early July, my change has just been announced publicly and so the SOA will begin immediately recruiting for my replacement. Information about the staff fellow job responsibilities is posted at soa.org in the "About SOA" and "Careers at SOA" section of the webpage. Due to advance print deadlines, it's possible that the role will be filled by October when you are reading this. But if not, I would encourage interested individuals to apply for what I believe is one of the more unique jobs for retirement actuaries. I have found it to be both intellectually stimulating and personally rewarding. It's a position where you can make a difference while serving members. If you have interest, I would welcome dialoguing about the role.

In the meantime, I encourage you to support the ongoing efforts of the Retirement Section Council and the other section committees. They are great groups of individuals and have been most enjoyable to work with over the last 10 years. And if you are working outside of the U.S. or Canada, I welcome ideas for how the SOA can improve our service to our members and support the growth of the profession. ■



Andrew Peterson, FSA, EA, MAAA, is senior director—International at the Society of Actuaries. He can be reached at apeterson@soa.org.