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## Chairperson's Corner I Am Just the Zipper

By Joeff Williams



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By the time you read this, the Tour de France will be completed. This is the premier bicycle race in the world. This event has been made more recognizable in recent years due to seven-time winner Lance Armstrong. As an avid cyclist, I have come to appreciate the effort and work that goes into training for an event like this. One aspect that gets lost in the public's understanding of these races is the amount and level of teamwork needed for one individual to gain all the glory. We all know who Lance Armstrong is, but he would be the first to admit that his greatness is directly related to the team he had around him at US Postal/Discovery and now with Radio Shack. In his book, *Every Second Counts*, Armstrong writes, "It takes eight fellow U.S. Postal Service riders to get me to the finish line in one piece, let alone in first place. Cycling is far more of a team sport than spectators realize, and it's an embarrassment worth cringing over that I've stood on the podium of the Tour de France alone, as if I got there by myself. I don't just show up there after almost three thousand miles, and say 'Look what I did.' When I wear the yellow jersey, I figure I only deserve the zipper. The rest of it, each sleeve, the front, the back, belongs to the guys."

I have had the privilege to see this same type of teamwork firsthand during my last three years on the Smaller Insurance Company (SIC) Section Council. The examples of the willingness and volunteering that members and friends of the council have offered have been tremendous. Each member of the team has their unique role, including the all-important

*domestiques*<sup>1</sup> who work tirelessly every day without getting any of the glory.

It is difficult to single out every volunteer, but I would like to acknowledge those who have volunteered their support and continued work on the Smaller Insurance Company Council.

Jim Thompson was the editor of *smalltalk* for many years, even beyond his tenure on the SIC Council. The SIC Council presented him with a special service award last fall for his dedicated service to the SIC for the last 10 years. He continues to participate in our activities, and has been a valuable friend to the SIC Council. Thank you, Jim.

We have many former SIC Council members who have continued to support the SIC as friends of the council.

Chris Hause (immediate past chair) was a valuable resource for me. Chris has continued to work with the council as a friend. Chris also initiated the idea of an all-day, face-to-face planning meeting in September, to bring everyone together to talk about ideas for the upcoming year. This past September, the SIC continued that tradition with our third face-to-face planning meeting.

Bill Sayre (past chair) continues to work with the council as a friend, and continues to promote the value of the SIC section. ●