



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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Chairperson's Corner The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same

By Mark C. Rowley

Many things about the Smaller Insurance Company Section have changed over the last few years, and more changes are coming. A huge change is that we now have money in our bank account, which will allow us to do something for the very first time—fund research. More about that in a moment.

Why do we have money? One word: Webinars. We have been successful attracting actuaries to view our webinars, in part I am sure because they need continuing education; but I believe that a big part of this also is that our webinars have been of high quality. In 2012 the evaluations on our webinars were outstanding, and I know I personally learned some things that helped me do my job better. We have also benefited from opportunities to partner with other sections, something we are always looking to do.

Back to research. For the first time we have a research team. We can now participate in CLIR (Committee on Life Insurance Research) calls with an eye toward actually helping fund projects, which gives us the opportunity to influence the research in a way that is useful to small company actuaries. As I write this in late December, there are two projects we are monitoring for possible funding. A key way in which we plan to influence the project would be by placing a member or two on the Project Oversight Group (POG).

Another new thing is that we are implementing an international strategy. To do this, we first looked at our membership, and by far the country with the most international actuaries was Canada. This will be our starting point. We are almost ready to send a survey to these members to see how we can better serve them. We are also taking advan-

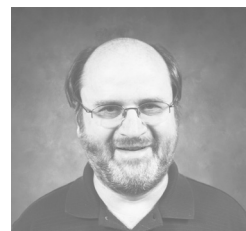
tage of a meeting being held in Toronto this year (the Life and Annuity Symposium) by having a section breakfast to further our efforts. We will see where all of this leads us.

So has anything stayed the same? Of course! It may appear that there is more change than anything else, but the core of our section, which is critical to our success, hasn't changed. I continue to thoroughly enjoy being involved. The networking I do and the friendships I have made both mean a lot to me. The networking clearly helps me be more effective in my role at my company. It is always stimulating to discuss issues with the smart and talented people involved with the section.

The most important thing that has stayed the same, thanks to Don Walker (and with credit to former SOA President Dave Holland), is the section's cheer:

e to the x dx dy
radical transcendental pi
secant cosine tangent sine
three point one four one five nine
two point seven one eight two eight
Actuaries! Actuaries! WE ARE GREAT!
YEAH, ACTUARIES!

What else could I possibly need? ●



Mark C. Rowley, FSA, MAAA, is vice president, managing actuary with EMC National Life in Des Moines, Iowa. He can be reached at mrowley@emcnl.com.