

Chairperson's Corner

By Kristen Walter Wright

This fall, I wrap up my three-year elected term serving on the council for the Management and Personal Development Section. Given the end of my term and the season of giving thanks, now is an opportune time to recognize several individuals who ensure the M&PD Section operates smoothly in serving you, our section members.

First of all, I would like to extend a warm thank you to my fellow retiring council members, Jeff Stock and Muhammad Haris Nazir. Jeff has served the section well as the M&PD web liaison in his recent council duties. Haris has brought a unique international perspective to the leadership and direction of the section activities. I look forward to working with both Jeff and Haris in the future in new capacities with the M&PD Section.

Thank you to Jill Leprich, who serves as our SOA Section Specialist. Jill ensures that our council meetings and activities move forward as planned by helping us out whenever we need to figure out the logistics of "how exactly do we get this done?" Jill also provides insight into our section finances and serves as an excellent resource to the section.

Many thanks to our SOA Staff Partner, Meg Weber. Meg not only generates great ideas and opportunities as to how to engage the M&PD Section as a nontraditional area, she also brings solid strategic perspective based on what the SOA is aiming to accomplish. I appreciate Meg's feedback on what we are doing well, as well as her ideas on how we can work even more effectively.

Marcus Robertson has served as our section Board Partner for the past year. I appreciate the guidance and wisdom he shares with the council. Marcus provides good insight into Board activities and priorities, and actively contributes great ideas to our council based on both his Board experience and previous section council experiences.

Thank you to John West Hadley, who edits our section newsletter, *The Stepping Stone*. John has now served as our newsletter editor for five years. John does exceptional work in developing,

recruiting and providing guidance to volunteers, guest contributors, and council members, resulting in a valuable and practical section newsletter. John works closely with Glenda Maki, the SOA staff newsletter editor, in the design, final editing, and production of our newsletter. Many thanks to Glenda for her support.

Special thanks to Michael Braunstein for his generous contributions as an experienced and highly involved Friend of the Council. Michael was involved in the section well before it was a section, and has continued to support our activities, including co-leadership of meeting coordination for both this year's Health Meeting and Annual Meeting. Michael is also helpful in providing history and context to different section activities and objectives.

Thank you to the continuing council members Frank Grossman, Olga Jacobs, Meredith Lilley, Stephanie Weist, Nick Jacobi and Anju Gupta-Lavey for your gift of time and effort in leading the section well. Council members have contributed their time and attention to coordinating section activities at the Life & Annuity Symposium, the Health Meeting, the Valuation Actuary Symposium, and the Annual Meeting. Incoming Chairperson Olga Jacobs brings a lot of energy for our section's mission and objectives, and I expect she will serve the section well.

Finally, thank you to each of you, our section members. We welcome your continuing support and involvement. ●



Kristen Walter Wright is vice president of actuarial analysis at Regence in Seattle, Wash. She can be reached at kristen.walter@regence.com.