



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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# Letter from the Chair

By Tim Pauza

**G**reetings! It is hard for me to believe that the year is coming to an end. This will be my last “Letter from the Chair.” It has been a pleasure serving the Technology Section as chairman. I am pleased with what we have accomplished this year, and excited about the many initiatives underway. We have a strong team with our new council and many dedicated volunteers that are entering 2010 with a lot of enthusiasm. Before I get into all of the good things going on, I want to pause to thank our retiring members: Joe Liuzzo, David Minches and Carl Nauman. It has been a pleasure working with Joe, David and Carl, and I wish them each the very best as they move on to other opportunities. Our new council members stepping in for their own terms are Lisa Lefkowitz, David Kester and Mary Pat Campbell. Along with Tim Deitz, our new chair, these folks are going to bring unique skills, ideas and energy to section leadership. Finally, I’d like to pay tribute to three members of the section who, in the true spirit of volunteerism have committed to supporting the council. To prove we are all winners when we volunteer to serve, Eddie Smith, Mark Press and Brian Reed have each agreed to take on dedicated roles as friends of the council for 2010. Please reach out to all of these folks with your appreciation for their service and with your ideas for how we can make the Technology Section a real value to you the members.

There is much going on, and I will not try to cover all the activity, but I will mention a few highlights from the past year that will continue to be major initiatives for 2010. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we have implemented a private LinkedIn group for section members, “Society of Actuaries Technology Section.” This online forum for networking and information sharing will focus on the challenges and interests of our members. As the technology demands grow for actuaries in an ever more complex and challenging economic environment, we believe LinkedIn can provide us an invaluable opportunity to keep abreast of the latest developments in arenas where technology is playing a major role in the future of our industry. Since my last report, the group has grown steadily to 84 members, and, more importantly, the activity and content have developed significantly. Nurturing this fledgling community will be a priority for the 2010 council, and I am excited about the potential here for the section. If you have not already done so, join LinkedIn, join our group, and see what your fellow section members are up to. ([www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com))

One more item I would like to highlight is a collaboration we have developed over the past two years with Gartner Group ([www.gartner.com](http://www.gartner.com)). We published a survey in 2008 to investigate the effectiveness of the collaboration between actuarial departments and information technology departments in the industry. The results of this survey were presented in a session at last year’s annual meeting. The response we received from that session indicated a high level of interest in this important topic, so we repeated the survey for 2009. This year, we also partnered with the Financial Reporting section who felt their members had particular interest in this topic. In doing so, we were able to triple the number of responses. Hopefully, you will be able to attend our session in Boston this year (Session #34) where we will be discussing observations from the survey results, including trends from our finding of last year. If not, watch for an article by Steve Leigh from Gartner in an upcoming edition of CompAct.

With that, I will draw to a close. Thanks again to our volunteers for their willingness to get involved, and thanks to all of our council members and friends of the council who work hard to keep our section going! Got an idea for us? Let us know. Want to get involved? We can accommodate that too. Please reach out to any of the council members listed inside the front cover of this newsletter with your ideas or to volunteer.

Thanks and happy reading! ■

Tim Pauza, 2009 Section Council Chair



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