



**SOCIETY OF
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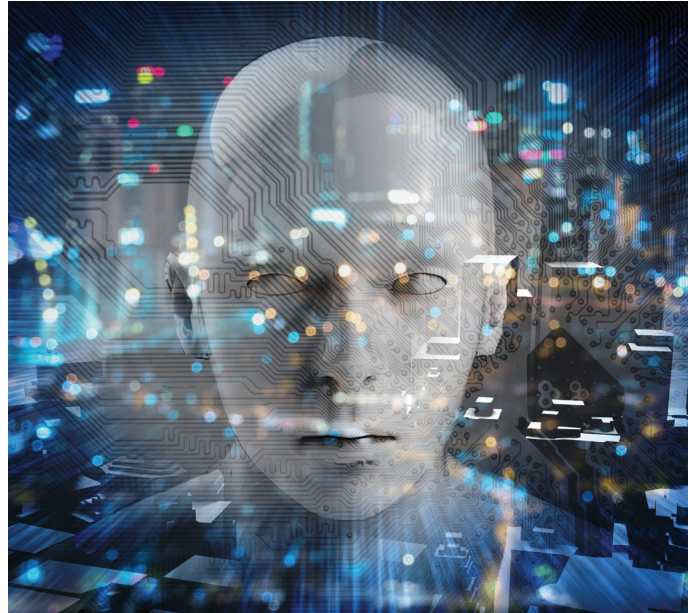
Chairperson's Corner

By Mark Africa

Welcome to the April issue of *CompAct!* I am grateful and honored to serve as chair of the Technology Section for the current cycle. I would like to briefly review section recognition, the vision and mission of our section for 2018 and the value of feedback and volunteerism.

Firstly, a thank you to our outgoing section members for their contributions. In particular, I'd like to thank our outgoing chair Paul Ramirez for his leadership and direction on behalf of the section. Paul did a great job leading by example and most definitely leaves large shoes to be filled. I also welcome our new section members and friends of our section. I firmly believe that we can never have too many friends! We are grateful for the contributions of article authors, webcast and meeting presenters. I also want to thank Sean Hayward who will serve as vice chair and performed admirably leading our second annual face-to-face meeting earlier this year at the SOA headquarters, thank you Sean.

Secondly, we will highlight some mission themes that we have formulated this year. We are a relatively small section, but technology covers a vast array of ever-changing and emerging topics: artificial intelligence, cloud computing and standardized data models just to name a few. Our membership is talented and highly skilled in a variety of topics, but we recognize that we cannot be an authoritative resource on all technology related topics. Instead, our aim is to be a source actuaries can turn to when wanting to learn what topics they need to pursue further and where they can go to learn more about those topics. In some cases, we will be the provider of that information they can use to learn more, but again, we can't be experts in everything technology related, it is simply too broad a topic. We are continuing our work to enhance Apps for Actuaries within the SOA website and also plan to continue work with ongoing research regarding InsurTech; more to come on that topic. We will have a continued focus to include vendor/consultant feedback as well as carriers in Technology Section activities. Vendors play a huge role in our technology services and products services and their input remains vital to our mutual success.



Lastly, I want to discuss volunteerism. When Paula Hodges suggested that I participate in the Technology Section three years ago, I admit that I was somewhat skeptical. But, I viewed it as an opportunity to give back to a profession that has been so rewarding to me. We all have day jobs and personal lives, but I can tell from my experience, volunteering to serve on an SOA section council is very rewarding in ways that I had no anticipated. The opportunity to network and learn from and exposure to others within our industry is very interesting and dynamic, thank you Paula for calling on me. This is your section and your SOA. If we are doing something that you like, tell us, if we do something that you do not like, tell us that as well, we appreciate all of your feedback. If you really want to impact change and have a voice, run for a section council or volunteer as a presenter, author or friend of a section, we welcome all of you.

If you are interested in participating in the activities of our section, please take advantage of one of these options. For more information, please contact me or Jane Lesch, our SOA section specialist.

Thank you for your continued support! ■



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