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Letter From the Chair

By Mark Africa

Welcome to the October issue of *CompAct*! We are excited about the continued diversity of technology topics as you will note in this issue and always look forward to your feedback on same, good or bad. Our mix of articles includes an interesting blend of real world implementation related subjects as well as some leading-edge offerings. As we close in on the conclusion of another section cycle, we will highlight our accomplishments/work in progress, discuss our vision with regard to our role within the InsurTech space, and discuss some of the other emerging technology issues that our council and membership have been researching on your behalf.

First, in keeping with the diversity of topics theme of our newsletter, we also recognize the value of the historical inventory of intellectual capital and reference material in past issues of *CompAct*, and due to our current hardcopy format, not all of our history is readily available online. In order to ensure that much of our historical article material is easily referenced, we have begun an effort to assign and/or refresh metadata for each historical article by topic, keywords and competency. We have assigned articles for the past five years of issues and will go back further if our membership agrees to the value of the effort. We also have a similar effort in flight for applications listed in our Apps for Actuaries and the metadata defined for the same. Special thanks to Richard Junker for his leadership and initiative for both of the aforementioned efforts.

Second, we continue to stay close to the InsurTech subject. Our vision as a section is to participate from a proactive perspective in the InsurTech discussion as opposed to reacting to current events. In keeping with the theme of proactive discussion, the Technology Section will co-sponsor an InsurTech Innovation Networking Event Session 142M on Tuesday, Oct. 16, 7–9 p.m. in conjunction with the 2018 SOA Annual Meeting & Exhibit in Nashville. The session is open to section members and non-members, we hope to see you there!

Next, we have our “ear to the ground” on many other emerging topics including, but not limited to, cloud computing, block chain, artificial intelligence, robotics and machine learning. The last two topics are represented in the current issue of *CompAct* along with several other pragmatic offerings. The aforementioned research is in keeping with our mission to be



a resource to access the expertise on a breadth of technology topics of interest to our members. We remain inclusive and include vendor/consultant feedback, as well as carriers, in all Technology Section activities.

Finally, I remain honored to serve on this section with so many talented and energetic council members and friends of the section. We are grateful for the contributions of article authors, and the webcast and meeting presenters and coordinators. 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 (jlesch@soa.org), our SOA section specialist.

We always look forward to your feedback, thank you for your continued support. ■



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