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Editor's Notes

by Howard Callif

The SOA meeting in Orlando provided a great forum to meet and discuss ideas. There are a lot of areas we could cover in our newsletter to help people make the most of technology. For a brief intro to the council members, please be sure to look at the "Letter from the Chair."

The newsletter has a new look, and has been reformatted to enhance on-line access, as well as be consistent with the other section newsletters. The SOA works hard to publish all of the section publications, and usually does all of the graphic and design layout for each issue. This behind the scenes work is very much appreciated, so a quick "Thank you" to Sam Phillips and Julissa Sweeney.

A special thank you Carol Marler and Stephanie Young—both of Employers Reinsurance Corp. They submitted book reviews on subjects they thought would interest section members. Please consider whether a book you are reading would fit in this category, and take a few minutes to write your thoughts on the subject. We are also going to mention any web-x presentations of interest, as long as they are not commercials, and have no cost. Please keep an eye out for material that could benefit other readers.

We are lucky to have several columnists volunteer to provide regular content to our newsletter: Steve Craighead (R Corner); Matthew Wilson (Cool Tech), and in upcoming issues Mary Pat Campell (still trying to find a catchy title). I am considering writing an article on VB, but need some guidance from readers on what topics would be most relevant. There are several different topics that could be covered in this column, but it is very difficult to know if any readers would be interested. Please let me know if any of the following would be useful to you:

- 1) Visual Basic 6.0
- 2) VB Macros in Excel
- 3) Visual Basic NET (2003, 2005, or 2008)
- 4) Converting from Visual Basic 6.0 to Visual Basic NET
- 5) Programming concepts/standards
- 6) Database/SQL processing
- 7) Introductory materials (for actuarial students or new users to easily pick up the language)
- 8) Tools/Utilities for common functions
- 9) Source code control/versioning

Finally, a sad note: a typo crept into our last issue in the table of contents. Although Mary Pat Campell found it amusing for the irony, I do apologize for the error, and take full responsibility for the misspelling. We work very hard to ensure that every issue is grammatically and typographically correct, but mistakes do occur.

Please contact me if you have any ideas, suggestions, or comments (even if it is to just point out a typo). ■



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