



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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Letter from the Chair

by Timothy Rozar

It is a true pleasure to write this note introducing myself as the new Chair of the Technology Section Council. I'm excited about the year ahead and about the terrific group of council members that I will be working with this year. Last week at the annual meeting in Orlando we had a great time getting to know each other over wine and cheese, dining at the House of Blues, and brainstorming our many aspirations for the coming year. I'd like to introduce you to our 2009 council and some of the projects they will be working on this year:

Tim Deitz is a new council member this year, and he comes to us from Old Mutual in Baltimore. Tim will serve as the council Vice Chairman this year, and he will also be our People Coordinator. In that role, Tim will be coordinating volunteers and working to develop job descriptions for the key roles that we rely on each year to reach our goals. You are really going to appreciate Tim's work when you join the council and get to serve in one of these roles!

Joe Liuzzo is in his third and final year with the council and comes to us from TIAA-CREF in Charlotte, N.C. Joe is our Secretary Treasurer, and he also heads up our Table Manager project. Joe has worked tirelessly on Table Manager over the years, and there are not very many of us who don't owe Joe our thanks for making this tool available. Joe is currently working through validation and editing of the many tables in the manager, and is always happy to have a little help in his efforts, so don't hesitate to give him a call if you have some spare time on your hands!

David Minches is another third year member of the council, and David joins us from the Philadelphia office of Ernst and Young. David has served in various roles during his tenure which makes him well qualified for his new role this year as Communications Coordinator. The Communications Coordinator is responsible for integrating and supporting all aspects of our interaction with the section membership. The main points of contact that David will be focusing on are the newsletter and the various SOA sponsored meetings that we provide content for. David will also be involved in developing a membership survey this year to get your view of how the section can meet your needs, so please look for that survey and give us your feedback.

Carl Desrochers is in his second year on the council, and hails from Berkshire Life in Pittsfield, Mass. Carl just completed his role as 2008 SOA Annual Meeting Coordinator. Carl put together six sessions for the meeting, and various section and council social events. I was able to attend three of the sessions Carl put together, and they were excellent. Carl will be working with this year's Spring Meeting Coordinator, sharing his expertise, and then he will be exploring opportunities for our section to get more involved in the various smaller meetings sponsored or co-sponsored by the SOA. Look for Carl's handiwork at such venues as ValAct, ReFocus, or the LTCI this year, as we try to expand our footprint.

Frank Reynolds is another of our first-year council members and Frank comes to us from the University of Waterloo. Frank has past experience with our council which is a good thing, as he is jumping right in as our Spring Meeting Coordinator. With Carl's help, Frank will be taking on development of sessions and activities for both the Life and the



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Health meetings in Denver and Toronto. In his spare time (ha), Frank will be serving as the council's Education Liaison which will be a key role as the SOA continues to wrestle with the development of technology curriculum for the SOA education process. It will be great to have Frank's educational background onboard for this important task.



Holly Loberg is in her second year on council and comes from Allianz in Minneapolis. Holly will be our Web Site Coordinator this year which will put her in the middle of the SOA efforts to update and improve the section communications portion of the Web site. I'm sure we are all going to enjoy the fruits of Holly's labors as we enjoy the improvements underway. I have not broken the news to her yet, but I am also hoping to get Holly involved in our fledgling local actuarial club initiative. If I can talk her into it, you might be able to enjoy a free drink on us at your next club meeting. We piloted this idea in Philadelphia last year, and it was very well received. The local clubs are a great venue for our section to get out and show the profession what we are working on.



Carl Nauman is in his third year on council and he comes to us from GGY AXIS. Carl will continue his key role in the Scenario Manager project as it comes into maturity. This project standardizes the format of economic scenarios in order to enhance our ability to use, share and test them. This will obviously be an important leading edge development as stochastic analysis grows in importance for the profession. Carl will also be our Webinar Coordinator this year which is an area where we are trying to be innovative. We have noticed that there are numerous high quality webinars being produced by various technology vendors and think-tanks, and we would like to help our membership take advantage of some of these learning opportunities by highlighting opportunities we think you will value. Look for these recommendations in future newsletters and blast e-mails, and be sure to let Carl know if you have participated in a technology webcast that you found useful.



And, that brings me full circle to next year's Annual Meeting Coordinator. **Jeff Pomeranz** is our third new council member and he hails from Qualitative Risk Management in Chicago. Jeff has agreed to take on the daunting task of planning next year's annual meeting. He is following in some big footsteps, but he is ready for the task. To get a running start, Jeff will be assisting Frank as he plans the spring meetings. Then, one year from tonight, Mr. Deitz will be thanking Jeff for an awesome annual meeting and looking forward to another year's council activities—and that is the way the world goes round.

Before I sign off, there are a few important and honorable mentions. First, thanks go out to our past Chairman and retiring counsel member **Kevin Pledge**. Kevin, like so many of our past Chairs, has made a major impact in our section as well as the profession. This is evidenced in his new popularity as various members of the SOA as well as our council compete for his services in the coming year. I like to think Kevin will be helping us define and develop some of his own initiatives for the technology section, but, whatever he does, we wish him the best. **Howard Callif** is entering his second year as editor of the newsletter. Under his guidance, the newsletter has achieved new heights in quality and innovation. The role as editor is typically a two year commitment, so, in addition to putting out the newsletter, Howard will be recruiting and training his replacement. When Howard comes your way ... duck! Finally, I'd like to welcome back a past Chair. **Phil Gold** (2006 Chair) will be rejoining our council as this year's Board Partner. I'm looking forward to working with Phil to make our section the best that it can be. So, thanks to all in advance, and let's enjoy the year ahead! ■