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CHAIRPERSON'S CORNER

20 Years and Still Flourishing ...

By Anne M. Katcher

This year, the Leadership & Development (L&D) Section celebrates its 20th anniversary. When our section was formed in 1998, it was known as the Management & Personal Development Section, and there were 281 members. Today, we have more than 1,500 section members. We also have many non-section members taking advantage of our meeting sessions, podcasts and webcasts.

During the rest of 2018, we will share insights about how things have changed over the years and how leadership and development concepts that were relevant in 1998 are still relevant today. For example, I recently reread the first issue of *The Stepping Stone*, published in April 1999. The three management topics discussed were Myers-Briggs management styles, ethics and mentoring.

Are these still relevant today?

How do we fit within the wider SOA framework, including its mission and strategic plan?

Interestingly, my son just started a new job and during his two-week orientation, Myers-Briggs was one of the assessments given and analyzed. The topic of ethics is always at the forefront of actuarial work, and is growing in importance as we expand our use of predictive analytics and other artificial intelligence. And, finally, during his address at the 2017 Society of Actuaries (SOA) Annual Meeting & Exhibit, Past President Jerry Brown talked about the importance of mentoring and encouraged SOA members to help mentor candidates and young actuaries who are starting out in their career.

The L&D Section Council held our annual on-site meeting at the SOA headquarters in Schaumburg, Illinois, on April 6, 2018.



During our day-long session, we discussed many topics, but the three main themes that we focused on were:

- How do we fit within the wider SOA framework, including its mission and strategic plan?
- How do we best serve existing members?
- How do we attract new members?

Our L&D Section secretary/treasurer wrote about the first theme in the May 2018 edition of *LeaD* (“Lifelong Learning and the SOA Competency Framework”). We also talked about the current business environment and trends, and how these will impact our members and their needs in the future, especially with the growth of remote workplaces. Despite the rapid change of technology over the last several decades, the more things change, the more they seem to stay the same—meaning the skills that actuaries need to succeed fundamentally haven’t changed. Instead, we need to be more innovative about how we develop those skills.

In future issues of *LeaD* and *The Stepping Stone*, we will share our ideas to continue to improve our value proposition. But most important, we would love to hear from you about your thoughts on these important topics. Drop me a note with yours at anne@sage-sense.com.

Happy anniversary! ■



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