



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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# FROM THE CHAIR

## BUILDING ON OUR PAST SUCCESS

By Steven C. Chamberlin

**T**his is my first column as section chair, and I'm honored to have the opportunity to lead this group. I'd like to thank Chris DesRochers for his excellent leadership over the past year. He leaves big shoes to fill, but I'm also confident that he won't stray too far away. This section has an active group of Friends of the Council, and I'm quite sure that Chris will continue to be a big supporter of this section.

We've had a lot of accomplishments in the past year and we'd like to build on that in the year ahead. Our section continues to be an active sponsor or co-sponsor of sessions at the Life and Annuity Symposium, Product Tax Seminar, Valuation Actuary Symposium and the SOA Annual Meeting. We have broadened our audience by reaching out to other sections and adding tax representatives to panels where appropriate, and we have also brought in Internal Revenue Service and Treasury Department representatives to speak at SOA programs.

If there were a prize for lengthiest section newsletter, ours would surely win. We've had an amazing selection of well-researched articles on timely tax topics. I'd also like to thank our authors, the Editorial Board and especially Editor Brian King and Associate Editor Christine Del Vaglio, who have worked extremely hard to make *TAXING TIMES* a high quality publication packed with important information.

Our April 2010 webinar on Notice 2010-29 drew a big audience to the timely topic of tax issues associated with Actuarial Guideline 43. The section will continue to look for opportunities to bring relevant information out quickly through webinars in 2011. Our Tax Reserve Seminar will be held March 24-25 in Orlando and is a great way for those with varying amounts of valuation experience to expand their knowledge of tax reserves. We hope you join us.

We value our affiliate members. Our section knows that it has been a challenge for affiliate members to pay their dues and

maintain their membership, and we are working to improve that. I am quite interested in suggestions on how to expand our affiliate membership and how to serve it better.

We also welcome new members Ann Delaney, Carol Meyer and Mary Elizabeth Caramagno to the section council. The section functions best with input and participation from our section members. It's been said many times before, but you get back far more than what you put into it. There are many ways to get involved, and I'd encourage you to contact me or any council member if you:

- Have an idea for a topic for a meeting session or webinar,
- Are interested in being a speaker,
- Have an idea for an article in the section newsletter,
- Are interested in writing an article,
- Have an idea for research or surveys that the section could conduct or sponsor, or
- Have any other suggestions on how the section can serve you better.

I appreciate the hard work of those who founded this section in 2004 and built it into what it is today. I look forward to the challenge of leading this section for the next year, but I also remind all members that this is your section. Please don't hesitate to point us in the right direction and to get involved! ◀

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