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FROM THE CHAIR

COMING SOON, TO A THEATER NEAR YOU

By Timothy Branch

As I write this "From the Chair" column, it's mid-March; time to file personal tax returns, dig out from a tough winter (for those of us in the Northeast, at least) and cheer for our favorite college basketball teams during the NCAA tournament (although there is not a lot to cheer for if you're pulling for last year's champions, the University of Connecticut Huskies). It's also time to look forward to this year's upcoming meetings, symposia, boot camps and webcasts. Taking a quick look at the SOA's online professional development calendar, one can see that there is a plethora of continuing education opportunities, offered in a variety of locations and formats.

The Taxation Section will again be well represented at many of these events; the Life and Annuity Symposium in New York, the Valuation Actuary Symposium in Boston, and the 2015 SOA Annual Meeting & Exhibit in Austin. We'll be covering our usual topics, including company and product tax updates and primers. In the past, these sessions have been well-received and highly rated by participants, and provide good foundational and current information related to tax topics of interest to actuaries.

However, we should also look for new opportunities to keep the content on the leading edge. As our section grows and changes, we'd like to hear from our members on what tax topics they would like to hear more on, and how they would like to hear about them (meeting sessions, webinars, podcasts, etc.). One of the ways we can create fresh content is to collaborate with other sections. If you are member of one or more sections in addition to the Taxation Section, think about topics that span both tax and your other areas of interest (financial reporting, risk management, health, modeling, or futurism to name a few). We should all think of ways to keep our section current and innovative, and improve our presence within the Society of Actuaries continuing education lineup.

And the most important item in creating new, innovative Taxation Section sponsored learning opportunities is … You. Yes, you. The Taxation Section is always looking for volunteers to share their knowledge by presenting at Society of Actuaries learning events or writing content for *Taxing Times*. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to the Taxation Section Council, or the Society of Actuaries staff or section specialists. This is our section, and is up to us to maintain our reputation as the premiere source for tax-related information for actuaries.

I look forward to hearing from all of our future volunteers! ◂

Timothy Branch, FSA, MAAA, is a manager at Ernst & Young LLP and may be reached at *tim.branch@ey.com.*