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Chairperson's Corner

By Elaine Corrough

Welcome to autumn! With the imminent end of my term as chair, I first want to express my gratitude to our amazing council and section volunteers. My own activities pale in comparison to the commitment that these people have demonstrated. I am especially grateful to our former chairperson, Andie Christopherson, and our incoming chairperson, Brian Pauley. It has been a privilege to have a term between these two strong leaders, both of whom made my job easier and a heck of a lot more fun.

When I first ran for council two years ago, this was the message resounding in my head:

“I mean actuaries sat down in a room and figured out how they were going to pay for this monstrosity of a program, and they decided ‘let’s just screw over everyone 35 and younger.’” (Reince Preibus, RNC Chairman, March 2014, in reference to ACA)

I must have missed the meeting that Preibus described. In any case, statements like this made me worry about our professional reputation, and I ran for council because of it. Now, two long years have passed, and rather than the bleak imagery presented, I see a bright horizon ahead for us.

What turned my frown upside down? The answer could be as glib as Preibus’ comment—actuaries sitting down in rooms across the country, figuring out how to do our best work in a rapidly changing environment, and deciding to commit to the integrity of our profession. In short: It’s our volunteers.

Until I joined the council, I had no idea of the breadth and depth of our section volunteer activities. Our continuing education



program is driven by dozens of volunteers who take the time to share their experiences for other actuaries’ benefit in a wide range of media. We continue to learn from emerging research on relevant topics, funded by the section and overseen by volunteer members. Special interest subgroups enable practicing actuaries to share ideas and discuss current issues. Members have worked to forge stronger relationships outside the profession, with an eye toward refining our own work, as well as cementing our reputation with other professionals. Finally, the council manages ongoing strategic initiatives that are designed to provide longer-term direction to the profession.

The passion, expertise and good humor of our volunteers have been the highlight of my term as chairperson. These individuals have taken time away from work and personal activities for our collective benefit. Let’s recognize and appreciate their commitment to the profession. To any actuary who thinks we are falling short in any aspect, I invite you to join us and make the same commitment.

Thank you all for continuing to support our profession, and for allowing me the opportunity to serve you. Onward to 2017! ■



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