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Chairperson's Corner

By Brian Pauley

As a busy professional, I attend many meetings. I'm sure you do as well. I recently attended a day-long strategy planning meeting. After I left the meeting and went back to my hotel room, I spent time thinking about just how complex health care is. It is complex across the board—for providers, health plans, governments, customers and so on. This complexity is a huge opportunity for health actuaries to have a seat at many tables working to develop solutions. The Society of Actuaries (SOA) Health Section is well-positioned and is doing many things to assist health actuaries become trusted, expert partners at those tables.

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My hope is that you take advantage of what the Health Section offers in terms of education, research and resources to you, the health actuary, while you engage in the complexity of health care solutions. My leadership team and I met in January to examine the Health Section Council's body of work to ensure it had the right strategies in place to deliver on our promise to give you the most value for your membership. Here are some of our key objectives for 2017.

- We must offer **relevant, engaging continuing education opportunities** for health actuaries. We will continue to put a great deal of effort into making our sessions at the Health Meeting, SOA Annual Meeting & Exhibit, Valuation Actuary Symposium, Boot Camps for health actuaries and more the best we can. We had record-breaking attendance at the 2016 Health Meeting and came within one-hundredth of a

rating point of having the highest-rated Health Meeting ever. Breaking records means you are getting value. In addition, we will continue driving for effective webcasts with quality speakers and for insightful *Health Watch* articles.

- We must offer **effective forums for actuaries to engage in meaningful dialogue** among industry experts as well as those who are trying to build expertise. We have topical subgroups (e.g., Medicaid) in place that have frequent discussions about pertinent industry topics. These groups also discuss and create content for our meetings to ensure sessions are cutting-edge.
- We must deploy **strategic initiatives linked to those set forth by the SOA Board of Directors as well as emergent issues deemed as critically important to health actuaries**. This year, my team is focused on public health, self-insurance, value-based care and commercial health care. Each of these initiatives has a clear deliverable and is on a path to completion in an appropriate time frame.
- We must **communicate effectively with our membership** so that you can take advantage of the great value that we strive to offer. Clear email communications, an easy-to-find-and-navigate webpage, *Health Watch* articles, and updates at key actuarial meetings are forums that we utilize to communicate with you. And, we are working to improve every single one of these.

Finally, I want to welcome in the new *Health Watch* editor and member of the Health Section Council, Greg Fann. Greg is a prolific health care actuarial author and has written several great pieces for this publication. I'm excited to appoint Greg to this role for the next three issues. He replaces Marilyn McGaffin, who successfully stepped in one year ago as the very first editor under our new editorial board structure of managing the *Health Watch* publication cycle.

If you ever have any questions or have ideas of ways the council can better serve you, please let me know. I love hearing from our members.

Have a great summer! ■



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