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Chairperson's Corner

By Brian Pauley

I remember my first Health Section Council meeting shortly after being elected just over two years ago. I was appointed to the secretary/treasurer role, which meant managing the section budget and meeting minutes, beginning with our annual face-to-face meeting in Chicago. I was in awe of how much work the council performed and wondered how I was going to meaningfully contribute amongst such a strong group of people. One year later, I became vice chairperson and had the opportunity to assist Elaine Corrough during her successful year as chairperson. It has been a great two years. Late in 2015, we had the idea of holding a strategic planning meeting for council leadership to set the direction for a strong 2016.

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When a last-minute work commitment prevented Elaine from traveling, she asked me to lead the meeting. It is her belief in me, as evidenced in times like that, that gives me the confidence to lead this council. For that, I cannot thank her enough.

As council chair, I'm surrounded by 11 great fellow council members. The last two years of section elections have blessed me with what I call "blue chip recruiting classes." (I love college basketball, so I often use basketball analogies in leadership situations!) I want to give special mention to my vice chair, Sarah Osborne, and my secretary/treasurer, Karen Shelton. I first met

Sarah at my Fellowship Admissions Course (FAC) in September 2009. We have been fellow SOA volunteers and great friends ever since. And, although we work at different organizations, we now also work in the same city, Kansas City. I've known Karen through our education and examination committee volunteer work through the years. I am blessed to call her a great friend as well. You'll find no one with a bigger passion for what the Health Section Council is charged to accomplish than Karen. With people like this working alongside me, I'm confident that the council will have a successful 2017 and is in some of the best hands I can imagine for the years to come.

The vision of the SOA Health Section Council is to *prepare health actuaries for positions of leadership and promote the relevance of health actuaries.* I'm confident we have put the right processes and structures in place to execute on that vision. By the time you read this, each of the council and council leadership teams will have had planning meetings to ensure that our strategies and goals to execute on this vision are strong and sound. In the next issue of *Health Watch*, I'll bring you those details.

At 4,000 members strong, the Health Section is the largest special interest section of the SOA. My team will do everything in its power to deliver value for your section dues. That said, there is much to do. As an example, the election of Donald Trump to president alongside Republican control of both houses will have a definite impact on health care policy. The Health Section Council will be at the forefront of that and other discussions to ensure the health actuarial profession has a voice.

Finally, I hope you enjoy this issue of *Health Watch*. One year ago, we came up with the idea of an editorial board to facilitate the creation and publication of our flagship magazine. This publication is stronger than ever as a result, and I want to use it as much as possible to deliver superior value to you, the section member.

Happy New Year! ■



Brian Pauley, FSA, MAAA, is chairperson of the SOA Health Section Council and is chief of staff at Humana in Overland Park, Kansas. He can be reached at bpauley@humana.com.