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Chairperson's Corner

By Vincent Xuan

Time flies, and it is time to say goodbye again. About two years ago, I remember saying farewell when I stepped away from the editorial board. On Oct. 17, I will finish my three-year term on the council.

When I am completing a mission or starting something new, I always have mixed emotions, I am proud of the council's achievements but I also reflect on the opportunities we may have missed. Nonetheless, I believe the next council will carry on the vision and mission for continued great services to our members.

Recently I joined a panel at the Spring meeting of the Actuarial Society of New York, to share the experience of volunteering for the Society of Actuaries (SOA). Representatives from four SOA section councils—Entrepreneurial & Innovation, Tax, Modeling, and International—shared their experiences volunteering for the actuarial community and all found it to be rewarding and fulfilling. Earlier this year, at the Council of Section Chairs meeting in Chicago, I was part of a panel that discussed member engagement, specifically how to engage the SOA's Millennial members, who scored lowest in engagement. I joined the panel of six Millennials from the section councils, to discuss potential causes of this low engagement and collectively we brainstormed solutions. It was refreshing to see that the SOA board is focused on this issue, and has formed a task force to address it.

This year, I am pleased to say that we have a full slate of candidates for the next council. If you have not yet voted, please do so. I am confident that our new council will bring a bountiful supply of fresh ideas. I also encourage you to seek out all the opportunities the SOA has to offer, including working on your leadership skills, networking with others in the industry, and developing your project management skills.

I also invite you to give back to the community. I find that volunteering creates a great sense of fulfillment. Among everything that the council has accomplished this year, our networking events stand out as both new and successful. To date, the council has organized two events in New York City, and another two in Berlin, Germany (*Please refer to the article from our friend of the council, Carlos Arocha*). With the refreshed ambassador program, we expect to extend this initiative to include more countries overseas. We also plan to co-sponsor additional events with local actuarial associations and clubs in locations with a high concentration of actuaries.

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I want to thank our dedicated team. I am very impressed by all the hard work carried out by the council members, especially our Vice Chair, **Wendy Kwan**, who has been instrumental in organizing International Section sponsored sessions and events at the SOA Annual Meeting and social networking events. I'd also like to recognize **Arpita Das** and **Milanthi Sarukkali** for creating excellent editions of *International News*. Lastly, I'd like to thank our staff partner, **Ben Marshall**, and section specialist, **Jane Lesch**, for their close partnership, which is essential for executing our initiatives.

To all in the International Section, it is hard to say 再会 to an old friend, especially after six years. As for my remaining days at the council, I am hoping to meet as many members as I can.

Hope to see you at one of our educational sessions or networking events during the 2018 SOA Annual Meeting & Exhibit in the Music City! ■



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