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# Chairperson's Corner

By Aaron Weindling

The June meeting of the Pension Section Council included a joint session with the American Academy of Actuaries' Pension Practice Council. This group is analogous to our own Pension Section Council. We each recapped our current slate of activities to keep the other group informed and to explore topics for potential collaboration. Although news about conflict between our parent organizations may attract attention, members of the pension groups work hard to maintain a good relationship. We periodically coordinate the logistics for our meetings to allow joint sessions such as this one. Our volunteers come from the same pool of actuaries. In fact, the same individuals often contribute to activities sponsored by both organizations. One pension group—the Pension Finance Task Force—is even jointly sponsored by the Academy and the SOA.

The majority of our meeting, though, focused on more typical agenda items: reviewing ongoing Pension Section activities and identifying additional pursuits. Our overriding objectives are to deliver value to section

members and to foster engagement among the community of pension actuaries. We spent a fair amount of time reviewing a survey prepared by the communications team that you have by now received. By the time you read this, we will have received and tabulated the results, but they are not available as of the time of writing. Perhaps the current vice chairperson and my successor, Julie Curtis, will have some interesting findings to share with you in the next issue of this publication.

We formed two new project oversight groups (POGs) at our meeting. One group, chaired by Julie Ocaya, will explore ways in which we can better utilize other media (particularly social media) to communicate with our members. The second, chaired by Grace Lattyak, will develop a series of podcasts to provide overviews of pension topics outside the expertise of the target audience. For example, the first such podcast will discuss multi-employer issues for pension actuaries who do not practice in that area. POGs such as these are temporary work groups established for a specific purpose. POG partici-

pation is not limited to council members, section members or even actuaries. If you've considered volunteering, POGs represent a great way in which to get involved.

Continuing with the topic of volunteering, we heard from Beth Bernardi, the SOA's director of member engagement. She called in to discuss the concept of micro-volunteering. This structure identifies very clearly defined volunteer tasks of limited scope—just a couple of hours. It enables new volunteers in particular to contribute in a meaningful way without the fear of overcommitting. Council members responded with interest to this idea. You may see some volunteer opportunities arranged in this manner in the future.

This is the last column I am to write as chair of the Pension Section Council. I've benefited both personally and professionally from the experience, and it's been an honor to meet and work with fellow council members. The terms of two noteworthy members, Monica Dragut and Martin McCaulay, end at the same time as mine. Special thanks to them for their efforts over the last few years. ■



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