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## CHAIRPERSON'S CORNER

# May the Force be With Us

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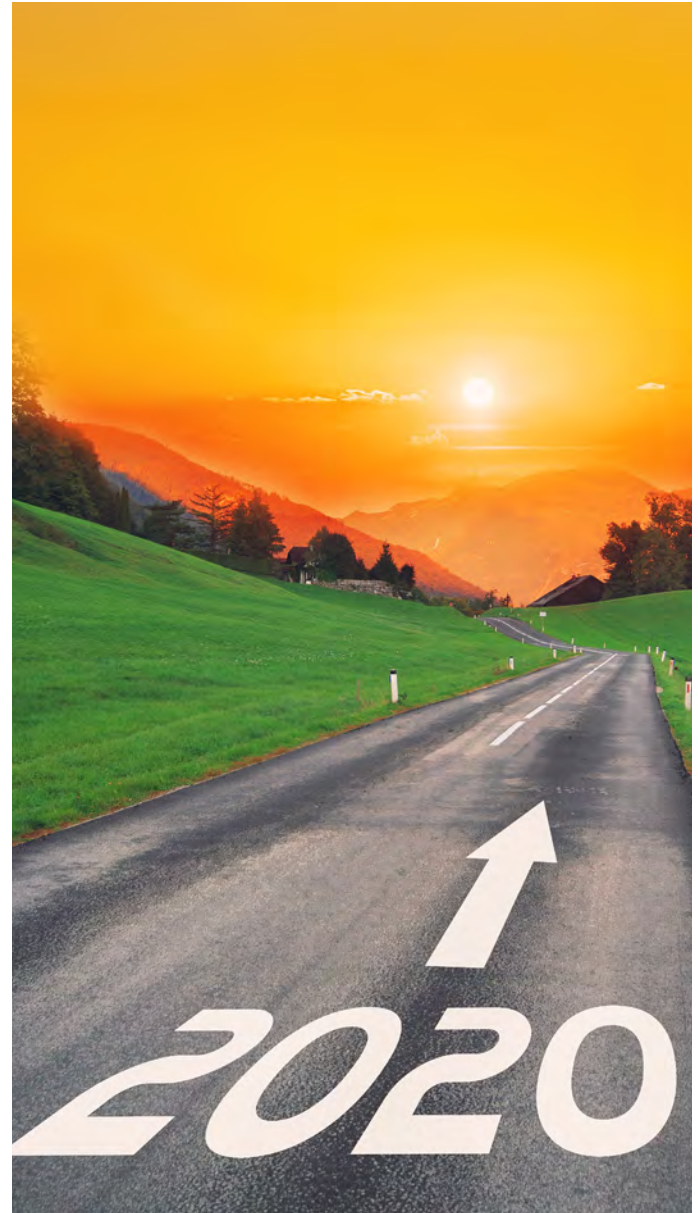
“Change is the only constant in life.” We have probably all heard this famous quote from Heraclitus. Many of us are dealing with changes at work these days—planning for and implementing new accounting standards, developing unique products for a digital distribution channel, experimenting with predictive analytics to bring novel insights into policyholder behaviors, transforming business process through collaboration with a global team and so on.

Changes are also happening for the Leadership and Development Section. Marked by the Society of Actuaries (SOA) Annual Meeting & Exhibit, three members of the section council, Mitchell Stephenson, Abe Gootzeit and Rong Rong, have rolled off, as their terms ended last October. Many thanks to them for their dedication and hard work over the past three years. Special appreciation goes to the outgoing chair, Mitchell Stephenson, for his leadership over the past year and his continuous contribution to the section as well as to the profession.

I am honored to have been selected to assume the role of chairperson of the Leadership and Development Section Council. And I am thrilled to welcome the newly elected section council members, Olyvia Leahy, Kelly Rabin and Katie Rook. We also have a number of volunteers joining the team as friends of the council to help serve the section members.

The new section council went to work right away. We held our annual strategic planning meeting in November at the SOA headquarters. The goal was clear: how to bring high-quality content and valuable resources to our section members and fellow actuaries at large.

We decided to continue successful past practices, including being thoughtful in sourcing speakers to ensure the quality and diversity of the voice and views of the content, and leveraging



multiple media platforms (e.g., newsletter, webcast, podcast) to deliver high-quality content to a wider audience.

In addition, the council constantly looks for ways to enrich the value of being a section member. Like what we experience in our day jobs, the new initiatives focus on the theme of change and most involve cross-collaboration with other sections or the SOA:

- Embrace the new digital format and publication schedule of section newsletters by redesigning our existing content delivery structure and creating new content to better leverage the new format.
- Recognize the increasing presence of millennials in the SOA and the section and create new ways to engage young professionals and bring new energy into the section.
- Coordinate with the SOA to support new initiatives to develop leadership skills and build a stronger professional network.
- Collaborate and cosponsor webcasts, podcasts and meeting sessions with other interest sections to deliver content that is relevant to the fast-changing demands of our jobs.

Changes are challenging and exciting at the same time. We grow through change. Since “change is the only constant in life,” we are better off embracing it. While the technical skills are essential to meet the changing demands, our soft skills are increasingly put to the test.

We need the ability to learn new topics fast, we need creative ways of solving problems that were never seen before and we need to explain what we do to people who don't speak the same language (metaphorically and linguistically). On top of it all, we need to balance production vs. projects, doing things vs. learning things and work vs. our personal lives. The Leadership and Development Section would like to help you develop these skills to manage the changes and turn them into growth opportunities. We would like to become a force behind you to progress in this ever-changing profession. ■

*The views expressed by the author are her own and not necessarily those of Ernst & Young LLP or other members of the global EY organization.*



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