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Chairperson's Corner

By Kyle Bauer

Spring is a busy time for both the Reinsurance Section and the Society of Actuaries (SOA). Everyone is in full swing and working hard to accomplish the goals we've set out for the year. In spite of the disruption from COVID-19, we are endeavoring to deliver value and engagement to our Reinsurance Section membership, and we have high hopes of success on the basis of the many efforts underway! I'd like to outline the most significant items in the hopper.

SOA section council elections. Joining the Reinsurance Section Council is the perfect way to give back to the actuarial profession. It is a truly enjoyable experience, full of great opportunities to build relationships and have a meaningful impact on the many actuaries around us. Elections are coming up with an Expression of Interest form deadline of May 29. Easy to find on the Reinsurance Section webpage, soa.org/reinsurance, so please don't delay if you're interested!

If you've thought about this before but aren't sure what it entails, please come talk to us! My fellow Reinsurance Section Council members and I will be available for a virtual networking session via the easy-to-use Brazen platform coming up on **Tuesday, May 19 from 1:00–1:30 EST**. Come ask us any questions you like, whether about the elections and serving on the council or about any other reinsurance or section-related items. Details to join the session are also available on the Reinsurance Section webpage.

Research. Perhaps our hallmark activity, the Reinsurance Section's research projects are as active as ever and many are collaboratively co-sponsored with other SOA sections. This is where most of the section revenues go, and rightfully so as it's one of the best investments we can make in furthering the actuarial and reinsurance professions! Our research docket includes:

- Currently underway projects: Mortality Improvement Trends, Reinsurance Treaty Recapture, Living to 100 Sym-



posium monograph, and U.S. Mortality by Socioeconomic Category.

- Developing projects that are progressing toward reality: YRT Guarantees under PBR, Predictive Modeling in Assumption Setting, Older Age Mortality, and Pandemic Risk Analysis.

LEARN. This stands for Life Education and Reinsurance Navigation and is a long-standing staple activity that involves presenting objective and educational material on the role of reinsurance to state regulators through onsite, day-long (plus) sessions. These take a lot of energy and expertise, so here's a great big "Thank you!" to the key volunteers who contribute to this and have built it into the valuable service it is today!

Newsletters, Podcasts and Webinars. There are many new and improving ways to learn about reinsurance and related topics. Whether articles in the monthly (and now digital!) newsletter, or the numerous podcasts on topics ranging from technical to leadership and diversity, or the CE-friendly webinars with just the right level of depth, we hope you enjoy all this content.

Continuing Ed. The Reinsurance Section coordinates a number of sessions at the major actuarial conferences during the year. This includes putting forth ideas and sponsoring publicly-submitted ideas, including coordinating speakers and content. It also includes the always-sold-out networking luncheon we host at the SOA Annual Meeting. Fingers crossed that COVID-19 doesn't disrupt any more of this in 2020!

Online resources. We host a webpage tracking recent and relevant content (on the broader SOA site), as well as a LinkedIn page where you can connect with other reinsurance professionals. Please take a minute to look us up and join if you haven't already.

Last but not least, the REAL Symposium. We're reimagining our annual Reinsurance Seminar this year to bring you the "Reinsurance Education and Learning Symposium." Please sign up for this and come expecting a day full of great educational material and networking. There is a lot of energy going into building an agenda with fresh content and excellent speakers, covering both life and health reinsurance topics, so stay tuned to learn more.

I hope you can tell there are many opportunities to engage as a member of the Reinsurance Section. We're always looking for new ideas and volunteers, so please don't hesitate to reach out if you're interested or have feedback on any of the preceding. None of this content would be possible without our members! Thank you for the support you provide through your section membership.

I'd like to specifically mention my fellow council members and thank them for their support: Xueli Zhang (Vice Chair), Sean

Kim (Secretary/Treasurer), Jean-Marc Fix (Research), Laura Muse (Continuing Ed), Olivia Yang (REAL/LEARN), Laurie Kolb (REAL/LEARN), Nina Han (Webcasts) and Faisal Haddad (Website, Marketing & Membership).

We also have a number of "friends" of the council whom I'd like to thank for their significant contributions to the previous efforts. At the risk of missing a few, I will still mention: Ronald Poon-Affat, Jing Lang, Dirk Nieder, Mike Kaster, Dave Vnenchak, Ken Nilsen, Anton Kobelev, Larry Stern and Jerry Enoch.

Finally, a big thank-you to Jessica Schuh and Jim Miles on the SOA staff for serving as the glue that binds us and providing great leadership. ■



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