



Article from
Health Watch
June 2019
Issue 89

Chairperson's Corner

By Karen Shelton

"The real gift of gratitude is that the more grateful you are, the more present you become."

—Robert Holden

I'll be honest, I was struggling with what to write for this issue's Chairperson's Corner. To get some inspiration, I perused prior issues of *Health Watch*. As I was poring over the articles, I found myself full of gratitude to be following in the steps of prior Health Section Council chairpersons like Andie Christopherson, Elaine Corrough, Brian Pauley and, most recently, Sarah Osborne. Like my predecessors, I'm keenly aware of what a privilege it is to lead the 12-member council, and I'm amazed at all that we do, year after year.

Many of you may be reading this article while at the Health Meeting in Phoenix. Did you know that the content is largely coordinated by members of the Health Section Council? Rick Pawelski and Deana Bell, the meeting chair and vice chairperson,

have combed through session proposals to find the right breadth and depth of content, landed fantastic keynote speakers and worked the logistics for the various section breakfasts.

Other ongoing educational opportunities provided by the Health Section Council include:

- Contributing valuable content to the Society of Actuaries (SOA) Annual Meeting & Exhibit and Valuation Actuary Symposium
- Producing in-depth seminars through the Health Boot Camps
- Embarking on relevant and timely research
- Building community with section members through special interest subgroups
- Providing high-quality educational content through *Health Watch*, webcasts and podcasts
- Giving longer-term strategic direction to the profession via targeted strategic initiatives

Without the dedication, leadership and diverse talents of the Health Section Council, SOA staff, active "friends" of the council and the many content contributors, we simply could not continue to provide such high-quality opportunities.



The Health Section has an active LinkedIn Group page where you can share information and engage with fellow health care actuaries on current topics and new articles and research from the Society of Actuaries (SOA). You can request to join the group at the address <http://bit.ly/SOAhealthLI>, or you can search LinkedIn for “SOA Health Section.” You do not have to be a current Health Section member to join this LinkedIn group—all are welcome. Join our community and stay up to date on important health care issues and share your experience and knowledge.

Like many other organizations, the Health Section continues to evolve in how we bring value to our members. While we continue to provide consistent and relevant education, we are also asking ourselves, “What next?” As mentioned in my column from the February newsletter, we are now leveraging social media through the SOA Health Section LinkedIn group to bring section and industry highlights. In the four months since launching our social media campaign, our LinkedIn page

has had nearly 80 posts and has grown from 334 to nearly 500 members. If you haven’t already, join the group and start a conversation at <http://bit.ly/SOAhealthLI>!

Technology has also crept into *Health Watch*. While I personally prefer reading old-fashioned print books and articles, I find myself consuming information more often from a mobile device. It’s just a lot easier! Since going fully digital in February, *Health Watch* has been much easier to read online and share with others. Did you know that you can even listen to articles instead of read them?

I hope that you’ve found our content valuable and are enjoying the new technology. If you have any ideas for future topics or enhancements, please feel free to share them—I’d love to hear from you! ■



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