



Article from

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# Chairperson's Corner

By David Vnenchak

**A**s I sit down to write my first Chairperson's Corner article of 2019, it is New Year's Day. As it turns out, the New Year's holiday might just be the perfect day to draft this type of commentary. For starters, there are absolutely no interruptions. Everyone I know—from family and friends to colleagues and clients—is home fitting in one last relaxing day before it's back to business as usual. What is even more ideal than the quiet of this day is that New Year's brings a special kind of mood. A mood of reflection and hope. We all slow down just long enough to reflect on the past and dream about the future. For whatever reason, my thoughts this year are focused on how quickly our lives and the world around us are changing due to the impact of technology. It has changed the way we communicate with one another, how we make purchases, and what information about us is available for the world to see. These days, our children grow up downloading apps rather

than playing with toys. Packages seem to effortlessly appear on our doorstep, all with the click of a button. Our news and entertainment continually show up via new media and formats. We live in very exciting times, where the solutions to many of life's problems feel like they are just one innovation away from being revealed.

This theme of change has been a frequent topic of conversation over the last year at the Reinsurance Section Council. As we think about how we can continue to engage the actuarial base and our section members, we contemplate the media formats we use, the type of content we deliver, and what constitutes meaningful information to reinsurance actuaries in 2019. The topic of change was front and center as a major theme during the Reinsurance Section Council's full-day face-to-face planning meeting this past December. Based on our deliberations from that day, here are some of the important changes and updates we have planned for this year:

- A brand-new digitized newsletter format. While you may be reading this newsletter as a paper copy, be aware that in 2019, the Society of Actuaries (SOA) has launched a brand-new digital platform that we will use to share the newsletter moving forward. The new platform will allow for newsletter articles to be viewed in a variety of formats and on a variety of devices. There is also a feature that reads

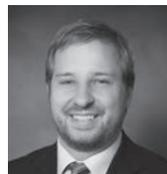


the articles aloud for those of you who would like to get through your reinsurance newsletters while focusing on other things. Special thanks to Ronald Poon-Affat and Dirk Nieder for all the time they put in as editors of the Reinsurance Section newsletter.

- Podcasts. Thanks to the valuable efforts of Jing Lang, we have a number of podcasts planned for 2019, including a Women in Leadership series that will be offered jointly between the Reinsurance Section and the Leadership & Development Section. If you haven't done so already, I suggest subscribing to the SOA podcasts on your phone or tablet by searching for "Society of Actuaries podcast" in iTunes or Google Play Music.
- Reinsurance webcasts, sessions and seminars. For those in search of Continuing Professional Development or those looking just for timely updates on reinsurance hot topics, you'll be able to find the information in a variety of venues. There are three reinsurance specific webcasts planned for 2019. We'll also have plenty of reinsurance content this year at the Life and Annuity Symposium, the Health Spring Meeting, the Valuation Actuary Symposium and the Annual Meeting & Exhibit. Last, the Reinsurance Seminar will be back in 2019; the details are currently being finalized for a conference later this year.
- LEARN. We have been working through an exciting promotion of the Life Education and Reinsurance Navigation (LEARN) program, which provides a comprehensive overview of life and health reinsurance knowledge to state regulators and other interested parties. The SOA has been canvassing a number of state department of insurance regulators on their interest in a presentation, and we expect to hold as many as eight sessions in 2019. Thanks to all our volunteers who make the LEARN program such a huge success.

- Member survey. To further aid us in our efforts to ensure that we meet the needs of our members, a member poll was distributed earlier this year. We intend to share these results with you in an upcoming newsletter. We will rely on this survey to help guide the Reinsurance Section Council's decision process and research agenda into 2019 and beyond.
- Research projects. The Reinsurance Section is heavily involved in developing research that impacts the reinsurance industry and related disciplines. In 2018, we completed two research projects: "The Impact of Genetic Testing on Life Insurance Mortality" and "Mortality Analysis of 1898-1902 Birth Cohort." As of the time of this publication, planning is already underway to kick off our new research projects in 2019.

As you can see, there are lots of activities taking place in 2019. At this point, I'd like to keep with the theme of my New Year's mood of reflection (despite the fact that you are reading this well after the fact). My last thought is one of awe. Awe for the tremendous effort put forth by all our volunteers. I'd like to say thank you to all our Section Council members, friends of the council and section volunteers for the time they spend working to advance the mission of the Reinsurance Section. While we are thankful for this support, we're always looking for new members to be active in the Reinsurance Section. If you are interested in helping out, please look to the website of volunteer positions or contact me or one of the Reinsurance Section Council members directly for more information. ■



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