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## Message from the Chairperson

by James R. Trefz

**P**eople sometimes ask what benefit they receive from membership in the Management and Personal Development Section. There are a few obvious ones: the newsletter comes to you through the mail, and you receive a discount at section functions. However, the newsletter is also available on the Section's Web site, and you needn't be a member to attend one of our hot breakfasts.

In my judgment, the real benefit you receive is knowing that you support the purpose of this Section: to create opportunities for actuaries to fortify their skills in the areas of leadership, management, and communication. Is this important? The mission of the SOA is to "... enhance the ability of actuaries to provide expert advice and relevant solutions..." Surely the better communicators we are, and the higher the levels of management and leadership we reach, the more effective we will be in fulfilling this mission.

Therefore, we believe that our Section's work benefits the entire SOA. You are part of the small proportion of the SOA which is willing to pay dues; in so doing you are carrying the freight for the entire membership. Thank you.

What are your dues used for? In addition to the newsletter, dues are

largely used to pay expenses and honorariums for speakers at SOA meetings.

Unlike the technical actuarial areas, the real expertise in our areas of concern comes from outside the profession. We often secure accomplished and well-known speakers, some of whom do not come cheaply.

Speaking of our Web site, we do have plans for it. While this exists in rudimentary fashion right now, we hope to have a robust catalog of useful Web sites which provide opportunities to you in the management and personal development arena. If you are aware of any such sites, please pass them on to Chris Ruckman, our Web site coordinator.

Although I will continue on the Section Council for two more years, I am nearing the end of my stint as the chairperson. I wish to thank the rest of the council for a great year. I have had more fun than you can reasonably expect an actuary to have.

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Jim Trefz