



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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Chairperson's Corner

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"Only I can change my life. No one can do it for me." — Carol Burnett

As actuaries, part of our responsibility is to examine the world around us and interpret what it means to others. In order to do this, we must continue to learn and stay connected to what is around us. Being isolated from what impacts the products and people around us only leads to false conclusions and misguided perceptions.

In this issue's Chairpersons Corner, I hope some thought presented here will lead you to become more engaged in learning and growth as you pursue your actuarial career. Growth is important, and it is up to you to take the steps needed to reach your objectives.

"Think like a wise man but communicate in the language of the people." — William Butler Yeats

One of any actuary's primary goals should be communication. However, this communication needs to be understood by those who need the information. Having enormous amounts of data or great studies is of very limited use if only you or people like you can understand the information. To be of value, the information must be compiled and presented in a manner that is clear and actionable, not overwhelming.

The exam process and continuing education opportunities have provided you with the opportunity to study a wide variety of topics. Your goal now should be to take the information you've read and used and explain how it applies to the everyday work of those around you. Being plugged into the people and processes of your company will allow you to learn more about what you are doing, but will also

provide you the opportunity to share what you already know.

"The great aim of education is not knowledge but action." — Herbert Spencer

In order to make what you've learned a part of your everyday life, you will need to experience and apply the information you've gained. As mentioned in the previous issue, there are a number of books and articles on effective communication, but to truly learn to communicate, you need to do it. To improve your verbal and written skills, you need to speak and write. Look for opportunities to use new skills and new ways of reaching your audience.

"How use doth breed a habit in a man!" — William Shakespeare

Don't give up as you make attempts to change. To become effective in what you do as an actuary, continuous learning is critical. Although changes in how you communicate with others may seem awkward at first, over time, the new behavior will become how you always do things. Use your skills, don't just read about them.

"The wisest mind has something yet to learn." — George Santayana

Your training as an actuary is not finished just because you have earned a credential. The exam process was (and is) just the beginning of your career. Look for opportunities to learn and improve as you continue your actuarial career. Practice and hone your communication skills so what you know can be used by those around you. □



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