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# Message from the Chairperson

by *Lisa F. Tourville*

**1**999, our first full year as a Section, was an exciting and busy year for the Management and Personal Development Section (M&PD). The year 2000 doesn't look to let us down in any way. We are prepared for the spring meetings in San Diego and Las Vegas and will be offering a variety of sessions as well as a breakfast at each location. We are already in the planning stages for the annual meeting to be held in Chicago in October.

For more than 12 years, the M&PD Section (prior to mid-1998, a continuing education committee) has offered sessions at Society of Actuaries meetings that were designed to help actuaries develop their management and interpersonal skills. After a great deal of time and effort, I'm proud to tell you we are taking the next step in offering a full seminar. M&PD board members have designed a curriculum and solicited, reviewed and selected proposals from experts in the field.

For facility planning and management purposes, we decided to hold the seminars adjacent to the Fellowship Admissions Course (FAC) dates and in the same locations. While the seminars will be extremely beneficial to attendees of FAC, they will also be invaluable for actuaries at other stages of their careers. They are intended to help actuaries improve their communications, become better problem-solvers, work effectively with others, achieve their objectives, manage and lead. We plan to offer seminars two to three times a year and will vary topics, methods of delivery and presenters.

The first seminar is scheduled for March 14 and 15 in Atlanta, GA. The facilitator will be Training Solutions Group, LLC, whose president is Kathy Carrier. Topics include managing change, sales and marketing concepts/skills, strategic planning, succeeding in the front room (effective presentations), and coaching vs. managing. The second seminar is scheduled for May 16 and 17, also

in Atlanta, GA, and will be facilitated by Alter and Associates. Topics have not been determined yet. Both Kathy Carrier and Bev Alter have been guest speakers at SOA meetings and have received very favorable marks on surveys from attendees.

With the initial planning of the seminars behind us, we return to our regular routine of writing articles, planning sessions for upcoming SOA meetings, recruiting speakers and, sometimes, speaking ourselves. As always, your input and participation are welcome. If you would like to suggest topics for sessions, have topics you'd like to speak about, would like to contribute written materials for the newsletter or if you would like to participate on the Council, please notify me or any Council member.

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