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From the Chair Welcome to the Taxation Section Council

By Tony R. Litterer

The dawn of a new era is upon us. By the time this message is published, many individuals and companies will have filed their 2018 tax returns. How has the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) impacted you? For the Taxation Section, 2018 was a year to be remembered.

As their three-year term comes to a close, the departing members of the Taxation Section should be proud of their contributions to the section and the industry. Housseine Essaheb, Jeff Harper and Michelle Cramer completed their third year on the council, and what a year it was. The signing of TCJA on Dec. 22, 2017, by President Trump created a need for information. The section, under Mr. Essaheb's leadership, met the need through a host of different in-person seminars, webinars and our *TAXING TIMES* newsletter. Each departing council member shared in these responsibilities in one way or another.

In addition, Mark Smith served with distinction for the past three years as the affiliate council member representing the legal community. In this role, Mr. Smith shared his knowledge and expertise of various tax topics, generally from a legal perspective. As an affiliate council member, he held the only voting position on the council available to someone other than an actuary. Even though Mr. Smith was willing to continue on as the affiliate council member for yet another term, the Society of Actuaries (SOA) bylaws prohibit successive periods of such length.

A door may have closed, and, as the saying goes, a window was opened.

The chair is pleased to share that Dave Noga and Sandhya Ramakrishnan were nominated and have accepted their positions on the council. Both individuals bring a variety of knowledge to the section, ranging from valuation to product development. We also accepted the resignation of Siksha Dhar and Vincent Zink from the section council, and we thank them for their service. For the remainder of the 2019 term Jeffrey Stabach and James "Jim" Weaver have volunteered for section council.



With all these changes in section leadership, the section will have five council positions available beginning next October. The section council terms will vary between 1 and 3 years. We welcome new members to the council, as each brings a fresh perspective and new voice to our section. It is a great opportunity for any SOA member to be a part of our section, as volunteerism is at the core of the Taxation Section.

It is a pleasure to announce Jean Baxley as the new affiliate council member of the section. Ms. Baxley, as many of you may know, was extremely busy during 2018. She spoke at several sessions and contributed to *TAXING TIMES* during the year, helping to bring awareness of the changes created by TCJA.

Last, a special recognition goes to John Adney. Mr. Adney contributed to the section for many years. He authored numerous articles for *TAXING TIMES*, spoke at industry conferences and served on the *TAXING TIMES* editorial board. After all these years, he says retirement from the editorial board beckons. Going forward, the section hopes Mr. Adney will continue to contribute informative articles for the section. It is an honor to salute Mr. Adney as editor emeritus as we move forward.

In closing, if you are reading this publication and have a desire to contribute, please reach out to one of the section council members or check the SOA's Volunteer Opportunities website at engage.soa.org. ■

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