

Letter from the CEO



This newsletter is designed to keep you informed of key highlights, important updates and actionable items throughout the coming year.

Dear Members,

As we move through the first quarter of 2026, the Society continues to build on strong momentum from the past year. We entered the year from a position of strength, supported by healthy financial performance in 2025, improved productivity, and continued progress across our strategic priorities. More importantly, we continue to focus on what matters most: ensuring that the actuarial profession remains relevant, trusted, and impactful in a rapidly changing world.

The Council Strategy Session took place in early March 2026. Good progress was made in several areas, including on ASSA's public interest strategy.

The year 2026 will likely see further progress reported on AI and Data Analytics, Governance, and Research.

Research essay initiative: AI and the future of the profession

The Actuarial Society of South Africa's Research Committee will shortly launch a **Call for Essays** on an important question for our profession: **Artificial Intelligence and the Future of the Actuarial Profession in South Africa**.

Artificial intelligence, large language models, and generative AI are rapidly changing how data is analysed, models are built, and decisions are supported across the financial sector. These developments raise fundamental questions for actuaries. Which parts of actuarial work will

be automated or augmented? What skills will define the actuary of the future? And how can the profession lead in areas such as model governance, responsible AI, and public policy?

This essay initiative aims to spark thoughtful debate across the South African actuarial community about how the profession can adapt, innovate, and remain influential in an AI-enabled world. We encourage actuaries and actuarial students to begin reflecting on how the profession may evolve over the next decade. More details will be shared soon.

This initiative aligns strongly with ASSA's broader focus on future skills and on ensuring that our education, professional development, and thought leadership remain fit for a world increasingly shaped by data, technology, and AI.



New AI Committee

We are also pleased to announce the establishment of ASSA's new **AI Committee**.

This is an exciting development for the Society and the profession. AI and data analytics are likely to become an increasingly important area of practice, innovation, and public-interest contribution for actuaries. The creation of this committee reflects our intention not simply to respond to change, but to help shape it.

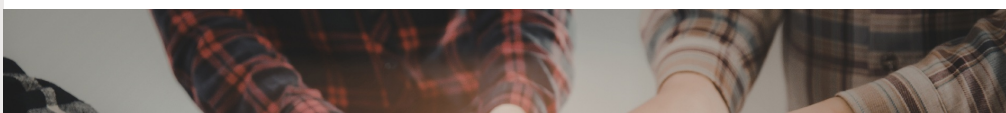
I am delighted to share that **Ron Richman** has been appointed as Chair of the Committee.

Members interested in joining this practice area committee are invited to send a short motivation and CV to nfourie@actuarialsociety.org.za.

Website Improvements and AI-enabled Member Support

In keeping with this broader focus on innovation and AI, we have also introduced a chatbot on the ASSA website as part of our ongoing website improvement efforts. While this capability is still developing and will no doubt be refined and optimised over time, it already offers members and other stakeholders an alternative, smarter way to search, navigate, and access information on the website. We see this as a practical step toward improving the member experience while exploring how AI can be used responsibly and effectively in support of the profession.

We have also refreshed ASSA's **Public Benefits & Research** hub. New material has recently been added, and more thought leadership content will follow. Members are encouraged to visit the page and explore the latest resources [here](#).





Convention 2025: Appreciation to an Exceptional Team

Our 2025 Convention was the largest ASSA Convention to date, with more than 2,000 attendees, and it was a strong reminder of the energy, relevance, and reach of our profession. It was also a reflection of the extraordinary contribution of volunteers who gave their time, expertise, and creativity to make the event such a success.

I hereby extend sincere thanks to the **Convention Organising Committee**, led by **Ricardo Smith** as Chair, and to the heads of the key workstreams:

- Chris Anastasiades for Member Experience
- Simon Louw for Programme Management
- Raeela Ahmed for Programme Hosts and Plenary Speakers

A special word of thanks goes to **Chris Anastasiades**, who personally undertook much of the design and video work for the 2025 Convention. His contribution went well beyond the ordinary and significantly enhanced the event's quality and distinctiveness.

To Ricardo, Chris, Simon, Raeela, their teams, and all who contributed behind the scenes: thank you for helping to deliver such a memorable and impactful Convention.

2026 Convention

The 2026 Convention is taking place from 7 to 8 October in Cape Town, and we're already gearing up for an exciting programme. The call for speakers and presentations is currently open and will close on 10 April. Registration will open in June, and we're looking forward to welcoming you.





ASSA Abroad

The ASSA Abroad UK community, led by Dylan Ascough and Panashe Hakutangwi, continues to grow as members connect and build professional networks beyond South Africa. The group has established a strong rhythm of quarterly events that combine networking with short, member-led discussions. The consistently strong turnout reflects the clear appetite for global engagement among ASSA members.

In the Netherlands, the community held its inaugural ASSA Abroad Netherlands gathering, led by Lisa Thétard, on 12 March, marking the launch of a new regional network. The event created a space for local professionals to connect, share experiences, and begin shaping the future of the ASSA community in the region.

Examination Environment Updates

Maintaining the integrity, credibility, and fairness of the actuarial qualification process remains one of the Society's most important responsibilities. As the environment in which examinations are written continues to evolve, the Board of Examiners regularly reviews exam processes to ensure they remain robust, secure, and appropriate.

Following a recent review, several refinements will be introduced from this semester to strengthen examination integrity and reduce avoidable exam-day incidents.

Key changes candidates should be aware of include:

- **Equipment at venue examinations:** Candidates will no longer be permitted to bring personal mice or keyboards into venues. Standardised equipment will be provided at all venues.
- **Equipment in remote examinations:** Candidates writing remotely must use the laptop keyboard and trackpad/mouse built into their laptop. External devices, such as keyboards or mice, will no longer be permitted.
- **Venue entry times:** Candidates must now be seated 30 minutes before the scheduled start time of their examination. Venue doors will close at that point, and late arrivals will forfeit their exam attempt.
- **Leaving the venue:** Candidates will not be permitted to leave the examination venue during the first 30 minutes or final 30 minutes of an exam.
- **Remote examination start time:** The previous one-hour grace period for late logins has been removed. Candidates must be logged in at the scheduled start time.
- **Script uploads:** The upload process has been simplified, and candidates remain responsible for ensuring that the correct files are uploaded in the prescribed format and location.

A detailed examination update will be communicated directly to candidates, including guidance on equipment available at venues, updated exam logistics, and script submission procedures.

Candidates are also strongly encouraged to attend the upcoming **Education Sessional on 17 March 2026 at 15:30**, where further important examination-related information will be shared. Register for the sessional [here](#).



**CODE OF
CONDUCT**



Code of Conduct Review: Member Input Invited

Over the past two years, the Code of Conduct Review Working Party, established by the Professional Matters Board, has been working on a comprehensive update to ASSA's Code of Conduct.

Our Code of Conduct plays a crucial role in setting the standards of behaviour to which our members aspire, and in supporting the Society's disciplinary framework. It is an important part of upholding professionalism, strengthening trust, and protecting the profession's standing. As expectations of professional bodies continue to rise, this work is both necessary and timely.

Members now have an important opportunity to help shape the future of the profession by engaging with this process.

More information on the proposed changes can be accessed [here](#). Download the comment template (attached to this email).

Comments should be submitted to nfourie@actuarialsociety.org.za on or before **Tuesday, 31 March 2026**.

I encourage members to review the proposals and provide input.

ASSA's strength continues to rest on the quality of its people, our members, volunteers, governance leaders and staff, and on our shared commitment to professional excellence, sound judgement and service in the public interest. As the environment around us evolves, we must continue to be curious, forward-looking, and willing to adapt, while remaining anchored in the professionalism and integrity that define our work.

Warm regards,
Imran Mahomed | CEO

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