



## Who Could Imagine?

NAMIC CHAIR STEVE SLIVER MIGHT NOT HAVE PLANNED A CAREER IN INSURANCE, BUT HE HAS ENJOYED ALL IT HAS OFFERED HIM.

### STEVE SLIVER

As my term as this association’s chair comes to its end, I am thinking about two things totally unrelated to NAMIC. First is myself as an elementary school student in York, Pennsylvania, lying on the living room floor wondering about the future. Second, I think of the line in the movie “The Natural” when the main character Roy Hobbs, lying in a hospital bed, tells his girlfriend his life didn’t turn out as he expected. When she asks how he expected it to turn out, he replies “Just different.”

As a boy, I never could have anticipated the tremendous experience I have just had. My life hasn’t turned out as I expected, but it’s been amazing in so many rewarding ways, especially when it comes to my time as part of NAMIC.

When I agreed to journey through the NAMIC board chair cycle, COVID-19 was

barely a blip on anyone’s radar. Three years later, it continues to rearrange meeting schedules and formats as well as travel itineraries. All the while, I have been astounded at the creativity of our mutual industry to adapt and excel at finding ways to meet the needs of our policyholders, our employees, our companies.

Because of rescheduling, I was not able to travel to all the state association meetings on the agenda. But I was grateful to be able to record my message — that I believe got better with practice — for my mutual insurance colleagues with whom I couldn’t visit with in person. At the meetings I did attend, I found exhilarating experiences.

I will tell you, though, speaking directly after keynoters can be daunting. In Missouri, I followed President Gerald Ford’s son, who gave a fascinating presentation about his father and life

inside the White House. It was quite humbling, particularly given that I was about to present for only the second time. Then, in Iowa, I followed Pastor Rick Rigsby’s impassioned speech, which inspired me to become much more animated and confident in my delivery.

The best part of attending these meetings was realizing our industry has not lost any of its mutual culture and collegiality. My extended NAMIC family welcomed with me open arms at each state meeting. And I very much appreciated the love of state, God, and country I saw everywhere.

Empathy was evident in the way meeting attendees talked about serving their neighbors and communities. Passion for what they do was palpable in these colleagues’ character. And they always displayed ethics and honesty when discussing business experiences. It is abundantly clear why the mutual experience is desired by so many insurance buyers.

I know I’ve said this many times before, but I have been blessed to enjoy a career that turned out to be a calling. I believe many of you feel the same way. What we do contributes to the peace of mind and well-being of policyholders and claimants, and that is something to be enormously proud of.

I cannot say enough about the tremendous support from NAMIC staff as I traveled through my year as chair. Everyone is a notable example of that mutuality that is our industry. My Mutual Benefit Group board and colleagues have been extremely supportive as well, helping cover for me as this year played out.

Having spent more than 40 years in the mutual insurance industry, two decades of which I have been actively involved in NAMIC, I am convinced of the ongoing viability and success of mutuality and NAMIC’s place at the forefront of it.

Thanks to you all for trusting me to carry forward the banner of mutuality. It’s truly an honor. 