



From the Desk of the NCD President Ramblings by Sandy

January 2017

Greetings, NCD!

Hello all,

Another year in the books. I hope you all had a wonderful Holiday season and are back reenergized for 2017. I am not making any New Year resolutions. But if you don't have one I would like to propose one: Use your paid vacation time. I have been really burned out lately both personally and professionally. Luckily my husband and I already had a vacation planned and it helped me decompress. Stepping away from the stress and burdens of work, politics, and everyday life is vital to maintaining good mental and emotional long term health. And while you are on vacation don't check your work emails! I know it's hard. But if you can't make it a whole day, at least make it a once a day rule. I think we forget our jobs are not usually life threatening, no one is going to die if you don't reply to an email about a Largemouth Bass sampling data set. So let's make 2017 the year of "take a freaking break and enjoying life"!

One group of folks who are going to need a vacation is the meeting organizers for the 2017 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Lincoln, NE. I am sure they are working hard to get everything ready for next month. We had a record number of applicants (six) for the Outstanding Student Subunit Award. The Awards Committee had a tough time picking a winner. I won't spill the beans of who was chosen as the winner, you will have to wait until February. But I want to acknowledge all of our applicants Western Illinois University, Ball State University, Lake Superior State University, Ontario Chapter, Southeast Missouri State University, and South Dakota State University. The amount of activities and professional development these subunits are accomplishing is impressive.

We also had two applicants for both the Best Communication Award (Indiana and Missouri) and Outstanding Large Chapter (Missouri and Wisconsin). We also had one applicant for Outstanding Small Chapter (Indiana). These awards are a great way to acknowledge the hard work your chapter is doing and show recognition for all the folks on committees, ExCom's, and organizers who work to make your AFS chapter strong and active.

Wishing you good travel weather for the Midwest FW Conference,

Sandy