

Hey NCD, Happy February 2020!

When was the last time someone at work stopped you and said “Good Work”, “Nice Job” or “Thank You”? It probably doesn’t happen often enough. That doesn’t mean our supervisor, boss or coworker doesn’t appreciate you; it is more likely a reflection of our work culture. To those of you who have great bosses and who get those compliments often, enjoy it! I have a really good supervisor, and I get to hear those words, and it makes a difference.

Now, how often do these kinds of things happen in our professional society life? Sure, there are the “big awards” that the society gives out, but in reality less than 1% of AFS members get that kind of recognition. In our division, it is even less. Chapters may do more, and I am going to give a shout-out to the Missouri Chapter because I know they have an active member recognition program.

In my role as NCD president, I work on the AFS Membership Committee. This has given me some interesting insights on AFS membership, and also some data about who our members are and how long they have been involved. For example, Howard Tanner from Michigan has maintained a regular or retired membership in AFS annually since 1947. That is simply awesome. I saw that number, and the join dates for more AFS members, and thought I should do something to celebrate and “honor” these folks. So, I created a “Hero of Fisheries” award for the NCD, at least for this year. We handed out 10 pin-on buttons and 20 stickers at the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference. I asked the recipients to wear them at the meeting, to allow students in attendance to identify them and take an opportunity to talk to them. These folks have been involved as leaders in AFS for a long time, and I thought they deserved a little fun recognition. In addition to the stickers handed out at the Midwest, I also sent a few to every chapter president in the division, and I asked them to distribute them as they saw fit at their chapter meetings.



I hope to receive back some pictures of where these awards end up. I have received a couple already. A couple are pinned up in peoples office cubicles. Another is tucked into a picture on a wall. And one more has a place of honor by a voodoo doll bestowed upon the recipient to rid his office of evil anti-fisheries spirits that were haunting the place.



In the end, all of this is about having a lit fun, and remembering to say thanks. Keep up the good work folks. As Red Green would say, “we are all in this together”.

Thanks,

Jeff

