

President's Blog

January 2021

Looking backwards, looking forwards

People always say it, right? The older you get, the faster the years seem to go. Calendar Year 2020 will be remembered for some time for any number of reasons, but for me it had a very odd sense of going very quickly while seeming to take forever doing so.



My service to the North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society seems just about the same: moving into the President's role seems like it was ages ago back in September but at the same time I'm wondering how it can already be nearly time for the Annual Business Meeting. I think the 3+ years total spent serving the NCD moving from Vice President to Past-President will work the same way, too.

So what has/will the NCD done/do during my year as President? Really, this year is about back to basics---I'm trying to re-connect with our existing governance structures (Executive Committee, Governing Board, Technical Committees, and Standing Committees along with chapters and subunits) and will work to update our governance documents (bylaws and procedures). I think I'm well on my way with the first task and the second task will be addressed during the latter half of my term of service. Consequently, I see my contributions as much more like moving rocks or digging a hole than "flash and sizzle". And I'm ok with that!

Divisional Reminders

Your chance to inform the future of the Division by electing our next Vice President closes this Friday, **January 15, 2021**. We have two extremely strong candidates who would both make great contributions to the Division. [As an aside, the Division has > 1,300 members but only about 280 have voted to this point. Have you?]

To access the candidate biographies and voting form, follow this link [HERE \(click HERE\)](#):

As a reminder, you must be a current NCD member (AFS member in the geographic region represented by the NCD) to vote.

Finally, an announcement that the NCD Annual Business Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference (as is standard practice). The meeting will occur on Tuesday, **February 2, 2021**, remotely. Look for additional details in the next week or so.

To discuss any of the issues above or to just let me know that you read this blog post, please reach me by email at joseph.conroy@dnr.ohio.gov.