

A very happy 50th anniversary to all and I look forward to meeting everyone in Minneapolis. The Symposium to be held in conjunction with our 50th Celebration looks very promising. The Abstracts are in and the results are overwhelming. Right now it looks like we will have over 50 speakers presenting at the Symposium.

Muskie fishing is at its current level because of you and because of us, collectively known as Muskies, Inc. Doubtless there are others who have been instrumental in this endeavor, but without MI the fishery would be a very different thing. We need to honk our own horn more. There are many great conservation organizations out there doing great things and we are one of them. Our breadth and depth goes beyond one fish, one lake, and one region. We are at the forefront of science. Our Symposium is bringing together the greatest fisheries minds in North America to exchange ideas and get better at their craft. This is happening because of Muskies, Inc., our Symposium donors, and because of you.

Every MI member follows in the footsteps of some very great people. It is incredible to think that Gil Hamm had the vision and foresight to begin this organization. It is our responsibility to carry on the vision that our founders began. We have to continue to carry out our mission. We need you and we need others. Spread the word, MI is doing great things. We have members everywhere going above and beyond. Danny Kurttila is an unaffiliated member in Wyoming. Recently the Wyoming Game and Fish Department had Danny release the first tiger muskie into Freemont County, his county of residence. Danny has worked tirelessly in Wyoming and elsewhere to improve the fishery. His contact list reads like a who's who of state fisheries managers across the country. This is only one example of the many individuals doing great things for our resource. My gratitude and appreciation goes out to all of you.

We are trying to aggregate these volunteer activities and moneys spent by our chapters and regions to spread the word. MI is doing great things across our four regions, from New York and New Jersey to the State of Washington. But we cannot tell the complete story unless we know all of your activities. When your Regional Representative asks for this information please let them know what you do. Better yet, reach out to them with a list of your chapter's activities from 2015. We will post the aggregated results on our website. Region 4 is ahead of the game as they have a comprehensive list as a part of their 2015 Annual Meeting minutes. If you have already sent in your calendar donation – THANK YOU. MI is dependent upon the calendar program. It is our only fundraising effort. If you have not done so, please take a minute to send in a check.

I would like to thank the chapters who have donated funds and/or merchandise to the Symposium and Celebration. Your donations help make these events a reality. Also thanks to the chapters that have donated to help offset costs associated with the calendar program.

See you in Minneapolis. Thank you to all the volunteers. Tight lines.