

May 29, 2020

Dear AFS-FHS Members,

I hope that everyone had a great Memorial Day weekend and are continuing to stay safe and healthy during these times. Hopefully, we can all safely return to whatever the 'new normal' may look like in the coming months. This has been a crazy year, and I cannot believe that this is my final President's Message! Thank you for the opportunity to serve the section as President this year. I am proud of the accomplishments of the FHS, and this is attributable to our hard-working members and committees. While the FHS will continue to be challenged with the dynamics of the pandemic, I believe we are on the right path by being positive, staying strong, and carrying on.

The Nominating and Balloting Committee has done a great job in preparing an excellent slate of candidates for the positions needing to be filled. The elections are currently being conducted and you should have received an email with a link for voting. If you did not or lost the email, please contact Derek Gibbs ([gibbsgo@oregonstate.edu](mailto:gibbsgo@oregonstate.edu)) and the committee will ensure you get the opportunity to vote. Voting is open until June 12<sup>th</sup>, and I highly encourage each of you to take a few minutes to review the biosketches of the candidates and cast your votes. It would be outstanding if we could get >80% of the membership to vote, so let's do it!

I would also like to encourage everyone to attend the virtual seminars being conducted by outstanding FHS students and post-docs. These are being conducted every Friday at 12-1 PM CST. For more information, please visit the website: <https://sites.google.com/umn.edu/fishhealthseminar>. These have been very well received, with average attendance near 50 for the first two weeks! I would like to thank Nick Phelps, Matt Griffin, and the Recruitment and Student Involvement Committee for pulling this together, well done!

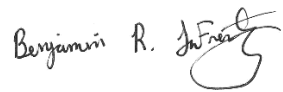
The Recruitment and Student Involvement Committee has also developed a survey for FHS members and friends. The goal of the survey is to gain a better understanding of what membership benefits are important for joining the FHS and how the FHS can better serve its members. The survey has recently been completed and in the next week or two you will receive this survey. We would greatly appreciate it if everyone would take 5-10 minutes to thoughtfully complete the survey.

Since the 2020 Joint Meeting of the Northeast Fish Health Committee and the Fish Health Section Annual Meeting was postponed until 2021, we will be holding our annual Business Meeting virtually. **Please mark your calendars for Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM CST for this meeting.** The meeting will be conducted through GoToMeeting, and you will receive more information concerning this in the next few weeks, including a link to register for joining the

meeting. I hope that all members will join, and the agenda will include old and new business, committee highlights, election results, and presentation of awards.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as President of the FHS. If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Take care and stay safe-

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Benjamin R. LaFrentz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "B" and "L".

Ben LaFrentz

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