



January 2013

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Sioux Empire Chapter President's News

Jeff Decker, President

Many of the discussions during the months of September and October focused on Lake Oahe and the new limits set forth by the GF&P's and the State Game Commissioners meetings. As the article, "Fisheries Rule Changes Add Opportunity," details, the regulations for 2013 are spelled out.

The "State Meeting" will be held in Deadwood, SD January 18-19, 2013. The guest speakers lined up for this event are highly respected and educated in their fields – biology and professional fishing skills. There is no registration fee for this event and attendance affords you the opportunity to win some extensive door prizes.

In January we will host our inaugural 2013 sport show, "Greater Outdoor Expo." We will be making some phone calls the

first week of January to request your assistance in helping out for a couple of hours over this three day event. Your two hours of time gets you into the show and provides you the chance to view the 2013 boats and campers before they hit the show room floors.

The arrival of 2013 leads us into the spring and the "Walleye Banquet." Ya, baby, that's what I'm talking about. Mark Mattison is legendary for putting on this incredible gala of all-you-can-eat walleye. Start watching for the mailings or register at the Sport Shows at the SDWU booth. Come out and be part of the fun. Your attendance is requested.

I would also like to add a "welcome aboard" to Pat Detlefsen. Pat has volunteered to be the newsletter coordinator.

Rapid City Area Chapter President's News

Michael Johnson, President

By now I presume most anglers that fish on Oahe have heard about the changes made to limits for 2013. We have all anxiously followed the changing conditions in the aftermath of the 2011 Flood. The phenomenal fishing and the condition of the walleye have consumed our thoughts and conversations. I would be very surprised if each of us didn't have an opinion about the Missouri River.

I want to thank Mark Fincel and Geno Adams for making themselves available in October to conduct public meetings in Rapid City, Pierre and Sioux Falls regarding the data analyzed to make the proposals. There is strength in numbers, and when SDWU requested more information about this issue, the GF&P responded.

Now that the biologists have made their recommendations and the commission has acted on them, we all need to make sure anglers are aware of the changed regulations, and monitor the effects they have on this valuable resource. We need to continue to assist the professionals when they gather information about angler

satisfaction, angling hours, harvest and condition. When you are approached for an angler survey, this is a fantastic opportunity to express how you feel about your experience on the water. You have the same opportunity when approached by a conservation officer for a compliance check. They are doing more than making sure you are following the rules. They are also gathering information from the people most in tune with the resource – the outdoors enthusiast.

Regardless of how you might feel about the changes, remember each of us was given an opportunity to learn about this beforehand, and submit our opinions to the commission. We are very blessed to live in a state where we have such abundant resources available for our enjoyment, and that these resources are managed carefully. Yet each of us that benefits from the outdoors also has a responsibility to be involved in how it is taken care of. Please support the GF&P and the conservation group of your choice so they can continue to effectively take care of the resources we all enjoy.



Great Catch!

Tanner Brown of Sioux Falls shows off his catch – a 38" long Northern caught on East Lake Okoboji, summer 2012.

Fisheries Rule Changes Add Opportunity

GFP

PIERRE, S.D. — The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission finalized changes to fisheries regulations at its November commission meeting, and the rule changes went into effect Dec. 3, 2012.

Anglers are now allowed to spear northern pike on all inland waters in South Dakota, except those managed as muskie waters.

Additionally, the daily limit for walleye on Lake Oahe has increased to eight fish per day. Of the walleye taken daily, no more than four may be 15 inches in length or longer and only one of those four may be 20 inches or longer. The possession limit has been increased to 24 walleye.

More information on fisheries rule changes can be found in the 2013 fishing

handbook available online at <http://gfp.sd.gov/fishing-boating/rules-regs.aspx>. The printed version of the 2013 fishing handbook will be available through license vendors and GFP offices in early December. Anglers with questions concerning rule changes are encouraged to contact their local Game, Fish and Parks office.

Sioux Empire Chapter Election Results

Election of officers was held at our monthly chapter on November 20, 2012. The election had been postponed from the October meeting due to low attendance. Elected officers are: Jeff Decker – President, Woody Tiggelaar – Vice President, LeRoy

Huntimer – Treasurer, Ruth Tiggelaar – Secretary.

With Woody becoming the newly-elected Vice President, bylaws require Woody give up his immediate past President role on the State Board of Directors. Woody's

resignation from this role opened a position for an At-Large member for the State board from the Sioux Empire Chapter. The At-large position has been filled by Lyle Monarch. Thank you, Lyle, for volunteering to fill this position.

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Changes Proposed For Lake Oahe Walleye Regulations

GFP

DEADWOOD, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Commission has proposed changes to walleye harvest regulations for Lake Oahe.

Included in the proposal is an increase in the daily bag limit to eight walleyes per day, of which only four can be 15 inches or longer, and eliminating the rule allowing only one walleye over 20 inches daily. The possession limit would be increased to 24 walleyes, or three times the proposed daily limit.

GFP staff recommended the changes for Lake Oahe in response to the effects of last year's flooding, when record releases of water from Oahe Dam flushed a large number of rainbow smelt out of the lake.

"Rainbow smelt are the primary prey fish for Lake Oahe walleyes, and reduced smelt abundance has resulted in an imbalance between smelt and walleye," said Mark Fincel, a senior fisheries biologist. "Larger walleyes have shown a sharp decline in condition – or plumpness – due to the relative lack of food. Additionally, highly abundant smaller walleyes of less than 15 inches are also showing a decline in condition."

A similar event occurred in the late 1990s when high walleye abundance, combined with low smelt abundance, resulted in skinny walleyes. Fisheries staff realized an imbalance between smelt and walleyes and recommended a regulation change to allow increased harvest (bag limit of 14 walleyes, as opposed to the current daily limit of four) to reduce walleye abundance and make it easier for smelt to repopulate.

"While the walleye harvest increased following the rule change, natural mortality had a greater effect on lowering walleye abundance," Fincel said.

The smelt population rebounded a few years later, and the walleye population soon followed, he said.

"It is believed that smelt abundance increased because conditions were favorable for successful spawning and growth of young smelt -- not that enough walleyes were removed from Oahe to allow smelt to recover, Fincel said.

Allowing the high harvest of young walleyes when abundance was high presented an opportunity for anglers to keep more fish at a time when it would not hurt the Oahe walleye population.

"The proposed changes for 2013 are a way to provide extra opportunities for anglers to harvest walleyes that may be lost due to higher than normal natural mortality in the near future," Fincel said. "Some of the larger walleyes will likely start dying from starvation, and this regulation will allow anglers to harvest some of those fish before they are lost."

The increased walleye limits will allow increased harvest of young, abundant walleyes that will likely make up the bulk of the catch next year from Lake Oahe.

The increased possession limit is aimed at providing weekend anglers the ability to harvest and transport 24 walleyes.

"With a four-fish daily limit, many weekend anglers (those with three-day licenses) consumed part of their catch during their trip, allowing for additional harvest on their third angling day. Increasing the possession limit will allow the

increased harvest to take place without the need to consume large quantities of walleyes during a trip.

"It is crucial to understand that increasing the daily and possession limits are not an attempt to "fix" the unbalanced predator/prey ratio; it is simply an attempt to use an abundant resource without doing any harm to the resource," Fincel said. "The public input process is vital in determining acceptance by anglers across South Dakota of this recommended rules change."

Make Plans to Attend the 2013 State Convention

The Rapid City Area Chapter is hosting the 2013 Walleyes Unlimited State Convention on January 18-19, 2013 at the Deadwood Gulch in Deadwood, SD. Call the Deadwood Gulch (1-800-695-1876) for reservations. Join us on Friday for an informal gathering and greeting session following check-in and registration. On Saturday the State Board Meeting (open to all members) is held at 9 AM. SDSU faculty and students are presenting seminars beginning 1 PM followed by a presentation by Jason Mitchell at 3 pm. The event ends Saturday evening with a social hour, dinner buffet and entertainment. Complete details are available at http://www.sdwalleyesunlimited.org/walleyes_events.php.

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Northern Plains Outdoor Expo

The Northern Plains Outdoor Expo dates have been set for February 8 - 10, 2013. Hours: Friday, Feb 8th: Noon - 7:00 PM; Saturday, Feb 9th: 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM; Sunday, Feb 10th: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Vendor displays include boats, campers, ATV's, and motorcycles as well as information on lodges, guides, conservation groups, and governmental agencies related to the outdoors. This is a great opportunity to look at new models, make purchases, and gain valuable information from knowledgeable sources.

This year's Expo brings back the popular Kid's Fishing Pond and Duck Races. In addition, fund raisers such as the 100 Gun Raffle, Live Auction and Silent Auction are planned in support of SD Youth Hunting. This incredible program provides the

thrilling experience to youth who may not otherwise have the opportunity of hunting with an experienced outdoorsman. New activities include the Eastman's Trophy Deer Hunting Tour, the Big Buck, Bull & Mt. Lion Contest offering \$10,000 in prizes and an archery contest.

The Northern Plains Outdoor Expo is one of very few non-profit outdoors shows left in America. Proceeds raised benefit many area charities including SD Youth Hunting, the Rapid City Cosmopolitan Club (Diabetes Research), and the NAJA Shriners transportation fund to Shriners' Hospitals. Do your part to support this community-minded event!

For Vendor info, contact Jim Glines 605-390-9001 or go to www.npoutdoorexpo.com

Transfer of Newsletter Coordinator/Editor Duties

Mallory Hoekman has dedicated her time and energy to writing and putting together our SDWU newsletter for the past two years. Mallory's family has expanded (congratulations!) which has required her to realign her priorities. Mallory offered us very advanced notice of her decision to step down and stayed on board until we filled her position. Mallory, we thank you very much for your dedication and professionalism to South Dakota Walleyes Unlimited.

Pat Detlefsen has offered to serve as the newsletter coordinator and editor. Pat provides an extensive professional background and will bring fresh ideas. Thank you, Pat, for volunteering your time and expertise.

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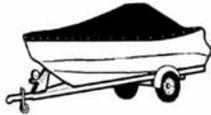


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SD Walleyes Unlimited Membership Dues Now Payable by ACH

LeRoy Huntimer, Treasurer

SD Walleyes Unlimited members have the opportunity to pay their memberships by ACH (a debit to your designated bank account) beginning 2013. This means there are no checks to mail each year and a reduction of reminder mailers to members.

The ACH process is quite simple.

Members are asked to return a completed ACH debit authorization form (look for the insert in this 4Q 2012 newsletter) that includes this information: member's name, bank name, indication if the account is a checking or savings account, the account number to be debited as well as the 9 digit bank routing number (left set of numbers

on the bottom of your check). SD Walleyes Unlimited's bank processes a debit on the last business day of February, 2013, for the amount of the membership fee.

To participate, complete the ACH debit authorization form and mail to SD Walleyes Unlimited, PO Box 89514, Sioux Falls, SD 57109-9514 by February 18, 2013.

Save the Date for the Sioux Empire Walleye Banquet

Mark Mattison, Committee Chair (605-940-6512)

The holidays are behind us, winter is here but spring is coming. As committee chairman, I'm reminding you to save the date -- April 6, 2013. SDWU will hold their 10th annual Sioux Empire all-you-can-eat Walleye banquet. I've said before, I don't want to tell our members and friends we have no reservations left. We have a limited amount of reservations (275). Please don't drag your feet.

This year I am pleased to introduce to you my new assistant, Tina Beal. Tina comes on board with high expertise in event promotion and marketing. She will be a great addition to the activities of this event. I am looking forward to a first class, exciting and fun night with all our friends.

Our event will again be at the Crooks Gun Club. Reservation sign-up sheets will be available during our first show in January - the Greater Outdoor Show hosted by Soo Sports and Budweiser Beer at the W.H.

Lyon Fairgrounds. Reservations can also be purchased by mailing a check payable to SDWU Sioux Empire Chapter to SDWU, PO Box 89514, Sioux Falls, SD 57109-9514.

With all that in mind, get ready and submit your reservations (\$18 per ticket) for "all the Walleye you can eat" along with everything else you would find in a guided American package shore lunch. Members and friends don't miss the fun and craziness at the 10th annual SDWU Banquet. See you there. Thanks again.

Pelican Lake - Urban Fisheries Improvement

Jeff Decker

There had been a need for improvements to an already nice stretch of beach for shore fisherman at Pelican Lake in Watertown. During the August, 2012 Sioux Empire Chapter meeting of SDWU, the Chapter unanimously approved donation of six foot benches to this stretch of the lake to improve the fishing and visitors' experience to this stretch of shoreline. The following excerpts are shared from Rhet Russel, Public Water Access Coordinator for the SD Game Fish and Parks in Watertown, outlining the

demographics of the area and the reason the benches will be a welcome addition.

- This area is officially called Northwest Pelican Lakeside Use Area. This location is located approximately 5 miles southwest of Watertown proper.

- This is a highly visited area and a very popular shore fishing area. In 2010 we claimed 38,400 visitors, in 2011 we claimed 30,044 visitors and so far in 2012 we have claimed 19,900 visitors from Jan through July. So as you can see the area gets a lot of visitors.

- This area has no entrance fee.

- The species that are targeted and routinely caught from Lake Pelican are walleye, perch, crappie, northern pike, bluegill & white bass.

SDFP in Watertown would like to thank everyone for their support in this effort of providing an improved fishing/outdoor experience for folks across our region and state. This donation by SDWU is in keeping directly with our mission statement of "Improved Fisheries and Public Access". Thank you to all South Dakota Walleyes Unlimited members.



Jeff Alvey

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2013 Calendar of Events

RCAC = Rapid City Area Chapter

SEAC = Sioux Empire Area Chapter

CHAPTER	DATE	EVENT	INFORMATION
SEAC	January 15, 2013	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus East, 7 PM
SEAC/RCAC	January 18-19, 2013	SD Walleyes Unlimited State Meeting	Deadwood Gulch, Deadwood, SD
SEAC	January 18-20, 2013	Greater Outdoor Expo	W.H. Lyons Fair Grounds
RCAC	January 20, 2013	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus West, 7 PM
RCAC	February 8-10, 2013	Northern Plains Outdoor Expo	Rushmore Plaza Civic Center
RCAC	February 17, 2013	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus West, 7 PM
SEAC	February 19, 2013	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus East, 7 PM
SEAC	February 28, March 1-3, 2013	2013 Sioux Empire Sportsman's Show	SF Convention Center
RCAC	March 17, 2013	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus West, 7 PM
SEAC	March 19, 2013	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus East, 7 PM
RCAC	March 23, 2013	RCAC Annual Fundraising Banquet	Moose Lodge, E Saint Patrick Street next to Robbinsdale Bowling Alley. Tickets must be purchased in advance (\$15). Contact Larry Smith for tickets – 605-343-1052
SEAC	April 6, 2013	Sioux Empire Chapter Banquet	Crooks Gun Club
SEAC	April 17, 2013	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus East, 7 PM
RCAC	April 21, 2013	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus West, 7 PM
RCAC	May 19, 2013	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus West, 7 PM
SEAC	May 21, 2013	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus East, 7 PM
RCAC	June 16, 2013	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus West, 7 PM
SEAC	June 18, 2013	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus East, 7 PM
SEAC	July 14, 2013	Sioux Empire Chapter Walleye Fishing Tournament	Platte Creek
SEAC	July 17, 2013	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus East, 7 PM
SEAC	August 21, 2013	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus East, 7 PM
SEAC	September 18, 2013	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus East, 7 PM
SEAC	October 15, 2013	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus East, 7 PM
SEAC	November 19, 2013	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus East, 7 PM
SEAC	December 17, 2013	Chapter Meeting	Outdoor Campus East, 7 PM

Response from Mississippi River Commission

As members may recall from the previous newsletter, Dugan Peterson, SDWU member, spoke with the Mississippi River Commission during the August 12, 2012 meeting in Bismarck. Dugan's concern, which he expressed also for the majority of like-minded folk sharing vested and recreational interests, is in the Corps' management of the Missouri River. Anthony Funkhouser, Colonel, Corp of Engineers, responded to Dugan's comments with the following letter.

Dear Mr. Petersen:

Thank you for your statement presented to the Mississippi River Commission at the public engagement meeting held in Bismarck, North Dakota on August, 12, 2012.

In your testimony you mention the importance of regulating the Missouri River reservoir system with recreation and fisheries in mind. As you know, both are congressionally authorized project purposes of the main stem reservoir system. To the extent possible, we attempt to provide a steady to rising pool elevation at the upper three large reservoirs (Fort Peck, Garrison and Oahe) each spring during the forage fish spawn. During years with abundant runoff this is generally possible; however in low runoff years our ability to do so is very dependent on the volume, timing, and distribution of runoff. Therefore, working closely with the state game and fish agencies, we have devised a plan to rotate emphasis among the upper three reservoirs during low runoff years, favoring Fort Peck and Oahe one year and Garrison the next. This plan can be adjusted year to year if needed based on the states' recommendations regarding the condition of the individual reservoir fisheries.

Your testimony also recommends that the Corps take proactive measures to prevent the spread of invasive species such as Asian carp and zebra mussels. Generally, invasive species management and control programs are administered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service in cooperation with state fish and game agencies. The Corps participates and in some site-specific cases leads an effort if one of our projects is directly involved.

Regarding taking a look at the existing authorized purposes, the corps was authorized to conduct such an effort in the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009, P.L. 111-8, Division C, Title 1, Section 108. The study was called the Missouri River Authorized Purpose study and the intent was to study the Missouri River Projects located

within the Missouri River basin to review the original project purposes based on the flood Control Act of 1944 (FCCA '44) to determine if changes to the authorized project purposes and existing Federal water resource infrastructure may be warranted.

A total of \$7.4M was appropriated in FY09 and FY10 for the study. In partnership with the Bureau of Reclamation, the Corps held 42 scoping meetings throughout the Missouri River basin in 2010 to obtain public and Tribal input on important conditions that should be evaluated in the study. The Corps received approximately 1200 comments during the scoping period and released a draft Scoping Summary Report summarizing all comments received and it provides the Corps' initial response on how those comments would be addressed in a study. Unfortunately, funding was not appropriated to continue the study in FY11 or FY12 and would need to be for the Corps to continue with the effort in FY13.

The Commission appreciates your comments and looks forward to hearing from you at future public hearings.

Anthony C. Funkhouser, P.E.
Colonel, Corps of Engineers

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Sioux Empire Chapter Tournament Results

Jeff Decker

The 2012 Sioux Empire Chapter of SDWU Fishing Tournament again was very well attended and successfully run by tournament organizer LeRoy Huntimer. For the 3rd year running, the tournament was held at Platte Creek of the Missouri River. There were 32 teams present in this year's tournament with a total of 84 fishermen represented.

This is a members only tournament so at least one person in the boat needs to be an active member of SDWU. This tournament

is organized and run to give our members a fun-filled weekend of doing something together that promotes friendship, new members and, of course, bragging rights for the next 12 months.

Hosted by the Sioux Empire Chapter, the \$60 tournament entry fee to the Sioux Empire chapter included a pork loin supper served by Elsie Juhnke and her crew from the Platte Creek store.

Below are the top 12 teams that finished in the cash.



Sioux Empire Chapter 2012 tournament winners: Andrew Harr, Shane Niewenhuis and Rocky Niewenhuis

TEAM #	MEMBERS NAME	PARTNER'S NAME	PARTNER'S NAME	WEIGHT	BIG Walleye	BIG non species	Place
30	Rocky Niewenhuis	Andrew Harr	Shane Niewenhuis	15.64	4.75		1
20	Woody Tiggelaar	Rollie Tiggelaar	John Magnuson	14.55	2.86		2
5	Dennis Campbell	Dan Campbell	Fred Bassett	14.51			3
15	Gerry Roe	Rhonda Roe		13.58	4.02		4
1	Gary Verhey	Lloyd Bender		11.69	2.6		5
24	Jerry Juhnke	Kevin Blankartz		11.51			6
16	Mike Page	Loren Bowden	Mark Lueth	10.82	2.87		7
6	Terry Nelson	Katie Nelson	Jeff Foster / Dawn Foster (meal)	10.06	3.42	5.21	8
19	Brian Moen	Don Aldrich		9.71	2.95		9
2	Denny Kiner	Allison Kiner		8.92			10
12	Dusty Wasmund	Misty Wasmund		8.35	2.56		11
4	Chris Christofferson	Ron Rologg	Shirley Haacke	8.18			tie 12
14	Patrick Newburn	Jeremy Newburn	Matteew Varnadore	8.18			tie 12

As you can see from the results of the top teams, the Dutchmen were well represented. Hopefully, for the 2013 tournament, the Norwegian and German decedents will be better represented. Gary

Verhey and Lloyd Bender have proven to be the team of the decade thus far with 2 - 4th place and a 5th place finish over the past 3 years, Congratulations guys! For future improvements in this tournament be sure to

attend the monthly meetings and voice your suggestions!

Thank you to all that participated in the fishing and the preparation that goes into making this an enjoyable weekend.

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Camp Bob Marshall, SDWF Youth Conservation Camp

**Mike Johnson, as told to him
by Taylor Staab, a camp participant**

Every year as part of the SDWF Youth Conservation Camp at Camp Bob Marshall, 20 kids are randomly selected to participate in 2 days of fishing at Angostura Reservoir. Ten kids are driven by Camp Counselors each day to the lake where experienced anglers take them on their boats to encounter a different kind of fishing. The RCAC has provided volunteers for this event for as many years as the club has existed, and 2012 was no exception. On June 6-7, 2012, there were 4 boats from SDWU and 2 from the GF&P to take kids and counselors out on the water for a very productive day. The kids tried different techniques including trolling spinner rigs with bottom bouncers, casting spoons, and pitching or vertically fishing jigs. They fished for walleye, smallmouth bass, crappie, bluegill

and northern pike. Harvested fish were cleaned by the same volunteers and taken back to Camp Bob Marshall to be prepared for the camp participants.

I was able to get time away from work this year to attend and was very privileged to take 2 girls fishing with me each day. Miranda was a camp counselor and will be attending SDSU's Wildlife and Fisheries Science program this fall. Her goal is to become a Conservation Officer with GF&P. She was very intrigued with scholarships SDWU sponsors in her field of study at SDSU. The other young lady was contemplating a biology major, but had not decided to what end she would apply the course of study. I particularly enjoyed fishing with 16-year-old Taylor, whose dad owns a bait shop in Sioux Falls. She was a very good angler and a lot of fun to be around. She was also very helpful and supportive to her 14-

year-old friend who did not share Taylor's familiarity with fishing.

The most rewarding part of the experience was when several of the kids said that Angostura was their favorite part of the camp. Considering how many activities they participate in, and what a wonderful experience the camp is overall, this is quite a compliment. It is hard not to come away a little inspired and a little humbled when you are given an opportunity to witness the enthusiasm of these kids for the outdoors. It reaffirms my belief that there is a next generation of sportsmen and women out there who will continue to appreciate the awesome resources we all enjoy here in South Dakota. Each of the kids I took with me expressed their thanks for taking them fishing, but I think I owe them a bigger thank you for allowing me to be a part of their adventure.

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All SDWU Members

In an effort to become a better organization and to give all members a voice, SDWU encourages you to utilize the website www.sdwalleyesunlimited.org. Many of us are unable to make the monthly meetings because of commitments or geography. The website will allow you to voice your thoughts and to keep up with the current events of your local chapter.