Sat evening address:

Tochi is certainly a hard act to follow. When she handed things over to me, the thing she was most adamant about was that I take over the NYSAFP President’s Twitter account (@NYSAFP\_Prez). I suspect I’ve disappointed her by not tweeting or following much at all. But, really, is an actively tweeting President really a good idea, especially when I’ve got no filter?

I am going to keep this short--thank a few people and then share a short poem with you.

Recognitions.

This piece by Robert Frost has been a favorite of mine since college. I think it speaks a lot to us as scientists, citizens, and humble beings searching for meaning. I would ask that you quiet your minds, close your eyes if you like and imagine a clear, moonless night sky.

Choose Something Like a Star (by Robert Frost)

O Star (the fairest one in sight),  
We grant your loftiness the right  
To some obscurity of cloud-  
It will not do to say of night,  
Since dark is what brings out your light.  
Some mystery becomes the proud.  
But to be wholly taciturn  
In your reserve is not allowed.  
Say something to us we can learn  
By heart and when alone repeat.  
Say something! And it says, "I burn."  
But say with what degree of heat.  
Talk Fahrenheit, talk Centigrade.  
Use language we can comprehend.  
Tell us what elements you blend.  
It gives us strangely little aid,  
But does tell something in the end.  
And steadfast as Keats' Eremite,  
Not even stooping from its sphere,  
It asks a little of us here.  
It asks of us a certain height,  
So when at times the mob is swayed  
To carry praise or blame too far,  
We may take something like a star  
To stay our minds on and be staid.