

Minutes of the CCM Breakfast Meeting and Forum  
January 17, 2007 during the Annual AMS Meeting in San Antonio, Texas

### **Breakfast Meeting**

More than 30 CCMs and AMS staff members attended the traditional CCM continental breakfast meeting hosted by AMS. Attendance was low this year due in part to weather-caused travel delays and cancellations, an example of the importance of weather to the public. CCM Board Chair, Mr. Vince Scheetz, gave a recap of last year's breakfast and CCM Forum, and summarized the current program. Vince noted the low number of oral exams being administered during this meeting. He was pleased to note more applications in progress at the current time, urging all active members to actively recruit new applicants. Vince saw this year as a successfully meeting the objective stated for this year, namely to "stay the course" of recent developments in the program.

On Continuing Professional Development, Vince noted a few minor adjustments to the approved categories usable toward the required number of points indicating a suitable rate of professional development. One example of the adjustments is completing a COMET training module. Ms. Kelly G. Savoie provided further information on this program during the CCM Forum.

Activities of the CCM Marketing Committee, chaired by Ms. Jill Hasling, were presented by Mr. Stan Marsh. Stan acknowledged the article on the CCM program that appeared in the November/December 2006 issue of Weatherwise by Mr. Sean Potter, and the bi-monthly advertisements that have started to appear in the AMS Bulletin (BAMS). Mr. James Block, member of the Board of Private Sector Meteorologists, discussed the recently begun Mentor program. This program is an opportunity to mentor to potential or even new CCM. The Mentoring program has three primary elements: guide in proper professional ethical conduct, direct in technical competence, and encourage professionalism.

Mr. George Greenly discussed the on-line CCM Forum, noting a low level of participation. Some improvements were planned, such as the login procedure. Mr. Walt Lyons discussed modernization with further utilization of electronic tools for the AMS application process. Appreciation for the previous nights' reception for CCM was expressed to the NCIM organization of primarily CCM members involved in private sector work.

### **CCM Forum**

Approximately 50 people attended the second CCM Open Forum during the annual AMS meeting this year. The attendees included at least a dozen people who were not (yet) CCM, but were interested in the program. Mr. Gerald Mulvey introduced the agenda for the meeting. Some presentations were invited, including the CCM who volunteered to present their personal reasons for becoming a CCM, and remaining active in the program.

Two current CCM Board members opened the Forum with short presentations on their own personal reasons for becoming a CCM, and remaining active. Mr. Elliott Abrams began; for him, the primary reason is the professional development that accompanies being an active CCM. Mr. Robert Baxter's initial reasons included recognition within a large engineering firm, and for

credibility in proposals. Both sets of reasons were also reflected by other CCM attending the Forum.

Another current Board member, Ms. Jill Hasling, and the AMS staff person supporting the CCM program, Ms. Kelly G. Savoie, called attention to the presentation available on the AMS web site about the program. This could be used by any CCM in presenting information on the program to a group. Kelly also summarized status of the Continuing Professional Development program, and the need for CCM to tally their points toward demonstrating the required number by January 2009.

Four panelists provided further information on the program. Mr. Peter Robinson noted the CCM Program is broad in scope. His own background is in Geography, and academia. Peter noted the CCM bringing a “touch of reality” to his other pursuits. Mr. John Henz represented a strong business background, owning small companies and now involved with a large engineering firm. Mr. James Giraytys spoke of utilizing his CCM in work with two Institutes, and with involvement in local governmental actions. Mr. Walt Lyons (Past President of AMS) spoke of the element of trust; people use the CCM identifier as a way to “get the person you can be sure of”. He also spoke of added value with a CCM while involved in the academic sector.

Other CCM in the audience responded to the invitation for comments. The not-yet CCM visitors were encouraged to talk with currently active CCM with questions.

Mr. William Haggard provided information for a special presentation on the history of the CCM program, including the recent upswing in applications noted previously.

Mr. Phil Falconer provided a history of the use of meteorologists in forensic work evolving from Weather Bureau staff providing testimony to the present situation where Federal employees are restricted from such testimony unless it involves the Government. Current forensic meteorologists still rely on credible and reliable resources such as the National Climatic Data Center for data.

Mr. Robert Iwanchuk and Mr. John Henz gave further insights into other branches of applied meteorology that they found value to have the CCM.

The Forum was adjourned, with attendees apparently quite satisfied with the results.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Fransioli  
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