

Bruce Telfeyan

AMS Secretary-Treasurer

Bruce Telfeyan has a long and involved history with the Society, beginning with when he first joined AMS as a high school student in 1963. Bruce noted that “my membership lapsed while I was in college, but I rejoined when I was a graduate student at Cornell in 1970. The AMS journals that came with membership were a huge asset to my thesis research and completion of my master’s degree.”

Bruce has been active in local AMS chapters in Omaha, was the program chair for the WAF/NWP Conference in Omaha in 2009, and in 2012 joined with CMOS as program cochair for a joint Canadian–AMS conference in Montreal. He chaired the AMS Weather Analysis and Forecast Committee from 2012 to 2014, chaired the AMS Board for Operational Government Meteorologists, and was a member of the AMS Local Chapter Affairs Committee and the AMS Board for Enterprise Planning.

In October 2014, the AMS Council considered Bruce to serve as the incoming commissioner for the Scientific and Technological Activities Commission (STAC), a service that lasted six years.

“It goes without saying that I was greatly honored to be considered for STAC commissioner,” Bruce comments. “I eagerly accepted and anticipated the challenges and opportunities it would afford and approached the duties with a sense of purpose and humility.”

As commissioner, Bruce authored the *Best Practices for STAC Boards and Committees* (<https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/stac/chair-member-information/stac-board-committee-best-practices1/>), which continues today as a living document that provides guidance to chairs

and members of all 36 STAC boards and committees.

Bruce was only 11 years old when five major weather events between March 1960 and February 1961 cemented his determination to have a career in meteorology. This eventually led to a career of 48 years as a meteorologist for the U.S. Air Force. His varied assignments began at the Air Force Global Weather Central (AFGWC) near Omaha and continued to Plattsburgh AFB in New York; Scott AFB in Illinois; Izmir, Turkey; and Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio. Along the way, he was an air force ROTC professor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and an adjunct professor of meteorology for the University of Maryland European Division.

After 21 years of active duty, Bruce retired in 1993 as a lieutenant colonel. A few months later he was hired as a civil servant at AFGWC and worked there for the next 27 years. He served as the Technology Exploitation Branch chief for 10 years and directed the development of the Interactive Grid Analysis and Display System (IGrADS). He retired in December 2020 as the chief requirements meteorologist for the 557th Weather Wing, closing out his 48 years of service with the USAF.

In January 2021, the Council of the AMS unanimously elected him to an initial four-year term as the secretary-treasurer of the AMS.

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take on the duties of the office,” Bruce says. “His note left me feeling exceptionally honored and excited at the opportunity to serve our community.”

In this volunteer position, Bruce devotes an average of 15 hours each week for numerous board and committee meetings as well as responding to e-mail correspondence from AMS presidents, the executive director, senior salaried staff members, and Council members.

“I am proud to provide assistance to the six commissioners and the Culture and Inclusion Cabinet as they seek out the most efficient ways to accomplish their duties and advance the Society,” Bruce notes. “It is at the commission level that I interact and directly assist the more than 1,000 dedicated members who serve the Society as volunteers. I also devote as much time as needed every year to help each of the five newly elected councilors understand their duties and responsibilities. I feel it is essential to help unravel the complex aspects of the work of the 1,000 AMS member volunteers and the 90 salaried staff members.”

As the AMS secretary-treasurer, Bruce serves as the parliamentarian for all AMS Council and Executive Committee meetings and maintains the minutes of those meetings. He ensures that the meetings are conducted in an orderly fashion and assists the AMS president in properly running the meetings so that all discussions and motions are given appropriate consideration in a congenial and collegial fashion.

“I serve on numerous groups, including the Ethics, Membership, Nominating, Awards Oversight, Finance, and Invest-

ment Committees,” Bruce explains. “I am also responsible for maintaining the *Organizational Procedures of the AMS* and obtaining Council approval for all needed updates.”

Separate from his air force career and AMS involvement as a volunteer, Bruce served as the primary night shift meteorologist during Steve Fossett’s three around-the-world balloon flight attempts in 1996, 1997, and 1998.

“I conducted critical analyses of Northern Hemisphere circulation patterns in preparations for these flights,” Bruce says. “I also performed precedent-setting work in developing techniques for avoiding unfriendly countries during Fossett’s 1997 flight.”

Then, in February 2000, he was a meteorologist for Kevin Uliassi’s around-the-world balloon attempt that went from Illinois to Burma.

Bruce and his wife, Connie, reside in Bellevue, Nebraska, with Gracie, their six-year-old West Highland White Terrier. Bruce enjoys classical music (he has been a guest host on Omaha’s classical station), reading about American and world history, and working out.

He plans to continue contributing to the greater good of the AMS community.

“I want to assist students in expanding their volunteer roles in the Society,” he says. “I also hope to reinvigorate our presence among and service to operational meteorologists both in the government and private sectors.”

—RACHEL S. THOMAS-MEDWID