

American Meteorological Society

Weather Analysis and Forecasting Committee 2008 Annual Report

The 2008 Weather Analysis and Forecasting Committee was comprised of 10 members, 3 student members and a chair. Three of the members and one of the student members were new to the committee in 2008 replacing three outgoing members. In addition, the chair position was taken over this year by Peter Neilley. The committee met together at the AMS annual meeting in New Orleans in January, and held a formal teleconference meeting in April. A considerable amount of business was conducted throughout the year via informal means.

As the WAF committee Terms of Reference and statement on Weather Analysis and Forecasting were reviewed and updated in 2007, formal committee duties (as outlined by the terms of reference) were limited in 2008. Nonetheless, these important activities did occur during the year:

1. Planning for the 2009 WAF/NWP Conference: A formal conference committee was selected and Bruce Telfeyan was selected as Chair. Edward Bensman was selected as co-chair. A separate student subcommittee was created to advise on student-oriented activities. The location and date of the conference was reaffirmed as Omaha in June 2009. A broad call for papers was published in October. An exciting aspect of this conference is that it is jointly sponsored by both the AMS and the National Weather Association (NWA). To our knowledge, this is the first joint AMS/NWA sponsored conference. The conference committee is comprised of members from both the AMS and NWA. We are currently soliciting a conference chair for the (nominally) 2011 WAF/NWP conference and hope to have that person in place shortly, but certainly well before the 2009 conference.
2. Award Recommendations: The committee reviewed nominations and made a recommendation for the annual AMS Exceptional Specific Prediction award. Eleven nominations were received for this award, and selecting the most exceptional was difficult. There were no nominations for the Charles Mitchell award this year despite active attempts to solicit nominations. This is an issue needing more attention moving forward. Two members of the WAF Committee also participated in the nomination process for the Francis Reichelderfer award.

Other activities of the WAF committee in 2008 of note include

1. Updating the WAF Committee web pages. A subcommittee was formed to draft an update to the committee's web pages. The final version will be published shortly and will include a consolidation of previous WAF awards, conferences and chairs for the first time.
2. The WAF committee is co-sponsoring the Hollingsworth symposium at the 2009 AMS Annual meeting. Most of the leg work for this conference is being done by the Climate Variability and Change Committee.
3. Recommendations for membership changes in 2009 were made to the STAC chair.

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Peter Neilley, WAF Committee Chair