

American Meteorological Society

Weather Analysis and Forecasting Committee 2009 Annual Report

The 2009 Weather Analysis and Forecasting Committee was comprised of 9 members, 2 student members and a chair. One member was new to the committee this year and one member was removed for inactivity. The committee met together twice during the year (in January at the AMS annual meeting in Phoenix and in June during the WAF and NWP Conferences in Omaha). Two teleconference meetings of the full committee were also conducted as well as various teleconferences of the three subcommittees organized during the year. In addition, a considerable amount of business was conducted throughout the year via informal means.

The major activities of the committee for the year were:

1. The 2009 WAF/NWP Conferences: The 23rd Weather Analysis and Forecasting Conference and 19th Numerical Weather Prediction Conference were conducted jointly in Omaha on 1-5 June 2009. Bruce Telfeyan (AFWA) and Ed Bensman (Univ. of Notre Dame) served as conference co-chairs. A total of 257 attendees registered for the conference. There were 22 NWP, 16 WAF and 3 joint sessions held with 199 oral presentations and 51 poster presentations. A keynote invited presentation on storm-scale NWP was given by Ming Xue (OU), and representatives from NCEP, UKMO, Environment Canada, the US Navy and the US Air Force gave invited overviews of NWP activities at their respective organizations. Approximately half of the NWP related papers discussed data assimilation and/or model initialization techniques. The conferences were particularly noteworthy for being the first (to our knowledge) conferences jointly sponsored by the AMS and the National Weather Association (NWA). By all accounts, the joint sponsorship worked well, was beneficial and may be repeated at future conferences.
2. Award Nominations and Recommendations: Two nomination subcommittees were formed in the spring to address (a) the lack of Charles Mitchell Award nominations in recent years and (b) to identify members of our field that may be worthy of nomination as a AMS Fellow. The Mitchell Award subcommittee identified one suitable candidate and solicited a colleague to submit a nomination on their behalf. The Fellow subcommittee created and submitted nominations of three members for consideration. The full committee reviewed and made recommendations for the Charles Mitchell award and the Exceptional Prediction Awards. Two committee members also participated in the review of nominations for the Reichelderfer award.

Other major of the WAF committee in 2009 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 was created and will be published shortly.
2. The 2011 WAF/NWP Conference Committee was formed. Carolyn Reynolds (Naval Postgraduate School) was named as chair with Zhaoxia Pu (U. of Utah) co-chair. The conference will be held as part of the AMS Annual Meeting in Seattle. Planning for the 2012/2013 Conferences also began, with consideration given to an international location (perhaps Canada) or possibility of a joint conference with numerous other STAC Conferences.
3. Recommendations for membership changes in 2010 were made to the STAC chair.

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Peter Neilley, WAF Committee Chair