

## **American Meteorological Society Weather Analysis and Forecasting Committee 2012 Annual Report**

The AMS WAF Committee had an extremely successful and active year. Our largest effort was our WAF/NWP Conference, held jointly with the 46<sup>th</sup> CMOS Congress in Montreal, but we had many other activities as well. The committee was comprised of ten members, two student members, and a chair. The committee met together once during the year in January at the AMS annual meeting. Two teleconference meetings of the full committee were also conducted as well as various discussions by the 2012 conference subcommittee. In addition, a considerable amount of business was conducted throughout the year via informal means. The major activities of the committee for 2012 were as follows:

### **1. 46<sup>th</sup> CMOS Congress, 25<sup>th</sup> Conference on Weather Analysis and Forecasting, 21<sup>st</sup> Conference on Numerical Weather Prediction:**

This joint conference with our Canadian colleagues was the inspiration of the past WAF Chair, Peter Neille. He worked with Keith Seitter and the CMOS Executive Director Ian Rutherford to bring this concept to fruition. There were about 650 registered attendees representing eleven countries and our AMS presence there pulled in folks from most of the non-North American nations. Only about 110 came from the US, probably due to travel budget constraints (and 15 were with Lance Bosart from close-by SUNY, Albany).

Pierre Gauthier and Louis Lefaivre were my Canadian counterparts (Pierre and I chaired the Scientific Program Committee) and were a pleasure to work with. At the conclusion, they both approached me about joining with CMOS again for future joint meetings. Here are my opening remarks that I delivered at the joint conference:

*“Bonjour Mesdames et messieurs. Je suis Bruce Telfeyan, président du Comité de prévision et analyse météorologique de la société américaine de Meteorologie. Good morning Ladies and Gentleman; I am Bruce Telfeyan, Chair of the AMS Weather Analysis and Forecast Committee. It is my honor to welcome you to the 25<sup>th</sup> Conference on Weather Analysis and Forecasting and 21<sup>st</sup> Conference on Numerical Weather Prediction. It is our committee's practice is to host a WAF/NWP conference every 18 months. But take note: it goes without saying that this is a uniquely special WAF/NWP conference. Indeed, this is the first international setting for an AMS WAF/NWP conference, as we have joined together with our Canadian colleagues.*

*This is a natural and logical thing to do since WAF and in particular NWP are truly international disciplines. It is, I think, entirely appropriate for us to begin to take our conferences to international venues. We are extremely grateful to the CMOS for being our host organization for this WAF/NWP international conference. To our Canadian colleagues, clearly, this splendid joint conference would not have been possible without your support. In particular, I must recognize CMOS President Ian Rutherford, Pierre Gauthier, and Louis Lefaivre for being so accommodating to the AMS in putting together this joint conference. Without the vision and foresight of Peter Neille, my predecessor as WAF Chair, this event would never have come into being. Of particular note, we are grateful for CMOS in adjusting the conference to start on Tuesday, in order to accommodate the United States' Memorial Day holiday and thus make it possible for AMS to participate.*

*I believe our enthusiasm is shared by the community as we received a very strong response to our call for papers. We have over 150 oral presentations in the parallel sessions we are hosting. We also have over*

*100 poster presentations. We will have poster sessions every day and we strongly encourage you to attend those and to take time to speak with the presenters.*

*Naturally, in this unique blend, there is an overlapping of sessions between what is normally a part of the CMOS conference and for a WAF-NWP conference. My committee's focus is upon sessions for Data Assimilation and Predictability, Ensemble Prediction, General NWP-WAF, Overview of Operational Systems, and New Technologies for Weather Services. We believe that these sessions blend in naturally with the very solid lineup of sessions that CMOS already has without us joining together.*

*As a quick look ahead, I will mention that the next AMS WAF/NWP Conference will be folded in with the AMS Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia in January, 2014.*

*I extend most sincere thanks for welcoming us to Canada and especially to Montreal. I'm confident that when we look back upon our week here, we will be proud of all that we have accomplished together and eagerly look forward to collaborating in a similar manner in the not too distant future. Encore, bienvenue à tous et s'il vous plait profiter de votre temps ici au maximum! Again, welcome to all and please enjoy your time here to the fullest!"*

There was a very favorable response from attendees for the operational forecasting and modeling aspects we on WAF brought to the conference, in contrast to a largely climatologically focused conference they are more accustomed to having. Outgoing CMOS President Norm McFarlane and Executive Director Ian Rutherford also approached me with the same message. They would really like for us to join with them every three years. I responded diplomatically that we would certainly be honored to do so, but we would need to carefully consider various factors including travel budget constraints and AMS policies. I noted that WAF/NWP normally attracted 250 to 300 attendees as opposed to the 100 who came to Montreal. So, I certainly indicated a strong likelihood that we could join with them again, but just how soon and how frequently would have to be determined over the next year or two. We will be discussing the possibilities of future link-ups with CMOS at our luncheon meeting in Austin in January.

Also, we worked cooperatively with David Novak, BOGM Chair, to assist with a post conference webinar that was composed of select speakers from this joint meeting with CMOS. BOGM asked for our assistance due to the austere budget climate with precluded many operational meteorologists from being able to travel to Montreal. From an AMS perspective, we viewed this as a targeted "test" of how webinars might help AMS members stay up to date on AMS activities in an environment where budgets do not permit travel – in this specific case, focusing on WAF-supported content that is focused on their interests.

Annual Awards: WAF Committee members participated in selecting the winners for the Reichelderfer, Charles L. Mitchell, and Exceptional Specific Prediction Awards.

## **2. Special Symposium at 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting:**

We are conducting a special symposium, largely at the request of AMS President Louis Uccellini, at the 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting in Austin. Kelly Mahoney and Andrew Molthan are the co-chairs and they have made great progress on putting it all together, from writing the call for papers to inviting our lead speakers. The one day symposium is entitled

***“Advancing Weather and Climate Forecasts: Innovative Techniques and Applications”*** and it will occur on Wednesday, Jan 9<sup>th</sup>. We have commitments from all four of our invited speakers: Jack Kain, Marty Ralph, and Rajul Pahdya, in addition to Louis Uccellini. We also have approval to hand out student awards totaling \$1500 for the very best of the student presentations.

**3. Assisted with Third Research to Operations Conference (3R2O):**

We assisted the 3R2O program chair, John Pereira, in developing and inviting speakers for the Symposium on Joint Center for Satellite Data Assimilation (JCSDA): Special Introductory Panel — Importance of JCSDA on Agencies.

**4. Luncheon Meeting in Austin:**

The WAF Committee luncheon meeting will occur on Tuesday, Jan 8<sup>th</sup>, 12 to 1:30 PM. It looks like eleven of our seventeen members/members-elect will be in attendance.

**5. 26<sup>th</sup> Conference on Weather Analysis and Forecasting, 22<sup>nd</sup> Conference on Numerical Weather Prediction:**

We are in the planning stages for our next WAF/NWP conference. It will be held in Atlanta in January, 2014 in conjunction with the 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Our program chair is Andrew Molthan.

**6. AMS WAF Statement:** Our committee has had a difficult time finding a sufficient number of volunteers to form the writing committee for the AMS WAF statement. We only elicited two volunteers (one professor and one graduate student). The STAC Commissioner is taking active steps to help us recruit additional volunteers.

*Submitted 4 December 2012  
R. Bruce Telfeyan, WAF Committee Chair*