

**American Meteorological Society (AMS)  
Scientific and Technological Activities Commission (STAC)  
August 2020 STAC Newsletter**

**AMS Elections:** Voting for the 2021 AMS President-Elect and AMS Council is now open. The deadline to vote is November 11: [AMS Election Information](#)

**STAC Level Award Call for Nominations:** As a reminder, AMS Council approved the request to allow for STAC Commission Awards on an annual basis. The process can be found on the STAC webpage, under the “Chair & Member Information” tab or at [STAC Level Awards](#).

There are three types of awards for which each Board/Committee can submit a nomination:

- Outstanding Early Career,
- Distinguished Scientific/Technological Accomplishment, and
- Outstanding Service.

When considering a candidate for a STAC award, consider whether an AMS level award might be more appropriate. The nomination must be received by the STAC Commissioner no later than October 1, 2020.

**2021 AMS Annual Meeting:** The Annual Meeting set for New Orleans (January 10 – 14) is fast approaching. You can view all the conferences and symposia set for that week [here](#). For most conferences, the abstract submission deadline is Monday, August 24. Claudia Gorski, AMS Director of Meetings, reports the following:

“We have completed the analysis of the recent survey regarding the 101st AMS Annual Meeting that was sent to past authors, attendees, and exhibitors. An overwhelming majority noted, at this time, that they are not comfortable traveling to New Orleans for in-person sessions. Given this, we are moving all oral and poster sessions, panel discussions, and exhibits to a virtual format. We will also plan on having virtual networking opportunities and short courses available. ... We will continue to monitor the situation around COVID-19 and are looking into the options for a smaller, in-person meeting in New Orleans for those that would still like to gather, if it will be safe to do so.”

You can find some FAQs for the virtual elements of the annual meeting [here](#)

**STAC Annual Meeting in New Orleans:** Given the latest guidance of the virtual nature of the Annual Meeting, the STAC meeting will have to be adjusted accordingly. This will also impact the individual board and committee meetings. We will share details as soon as they become available.

**Invite AMS Award Winners to Speak at your Conferences:** If you are hosting a conference or symposium at the AMS Annual Meeting in January 2021 (or during the coming year), we ask that you consider including AMS Award Recipients and new Fellows in your conference schedules either as presenters or in panel discussions. Details were recently posted on the STAC Board and Committee Chairs & Vice-Chairs Community page. [List of 2021 award recipients and fellows](#)

**New Board/Committee Members and Renewals:** By September, it is time to begin recruiting new members and reviewing whether those members completing their initial 3-year term (2-year for student members) wish to be extended for a second term. Some committees have proactively stepped out in this endeavor and requested that interested people apply for vacancies that will open up in January. Do not feel that there is a rigid limit to the number of members you can have. Rather, we encourage you to have as many quality members as you can effectively use and manage.

**Board and Committee Leadership:** If you are Chair of a STAC Board or Committee and will be rotating off in January 2021, you should be in the process of identifying your successor. Identifying a new Chair at the last minute leaves the successor with little opportunity to learn the many responsibilities, hence we suggest beginning the process now. Often a logical successor is the Vice-Chair, which is one reason why we encourage every board and committee to have a Vice-Chair as a way of training the next Chair. There is not a set method and you have flexibility in how your B/C goes through the process. Regardless of the approach you take, be thoughtful in developing a succession plan if you are stepping down as Chair in 2021.

**AMS Volunteers:** On the AMS website, there is a [page](#) for those who would like to volunteer within the Society to fill out an online form. If they indicate STAC as their prime interest, the Commissioners are notified and then we reach out to the applicable Board or Committee chairs. Many of you already have waiting lists for new members, but please consider these individuals and reach out to them so they know that they are being considered. For those that lack at least the one required student member, this can be an easy way to add an enthusiastic member since many of the volunteer requests come from students.

**AMS Webinars:** Consider [organizing a webinar](#) around a topic of interest to the AMS community. Speaking of webinars, did you know AMS has over [50 recorded webinars available in the webinar directory?](#)

**Upcoming STAC Conference Call:** After the September Council meeting, we will host our second conference call of the year. Details will follow soon.

**Commissioner:** [Genene Fisher](#)

**Past Commissioner:** [Bruce Telfeyan](#)

**Incoming Commissioner:** [Ankur Desai](#)