

**American Meteorological Society (AMS)  
Scientific and Technological Activities Commission (STAC)  
December 2021 STAC Newsletter**

**2022 President-Elect and New Council Members:** Congratulations to Brad Colman, the AMS President-Elect for 2022. The newly selected AMS Council members are Kristen Averyt, Mona Behl, Kandis Boyd, Rachel Hauser, and Bernadette Woods Placky. You can read about each of them at: <https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/aMS/about-ams/ams-election-information/>

**New AMS Executive Director Named:** The AMS Council has appointed [Dr. Stella Kafka](#) as the next AMS Executive Director. Stella comes to AMS from the American Association of Variable Star Observers (AAVSO), a nonprofit worldwide scientific and educational organization of amateur and professional astronomers, where she is currently Executive Director. She will begin on January 3, 2022. Current Executive Director Keith Seitter has agreed to remain on hand in an Emeritus role for several months to help with this transition.

**2022 AMS Annual Meeting:** The program for the Annual Meeting has been released: [102nd American Meteorological Society Annual Meeting](#). AMS is working hard to create a hybrid meeting space that is valuable and engaging for everyone, whether you attend remotely or in-person. Learn more about the hybrid Annual Meeting experience [here](#).

**STAC Annual Meeting:** The STAC Chair Annual Meeting is set for Sunday, January 23, in Houston from 11 AM to 2 PM CST, BOA F at the Hilton Americas.

- It is important that all 36 Boards and Committees of STAC have at least one representative at the meeting. If neither the B/C Chair nor Vice Chair can attend, please have another member represent your group's interests. It is fine to have more than one member present.
- If you are unable to attend in person, you can join via a link to the online platform from AMS that will be provided closer to the meeting.
- An agenda will be provided before the meeting. We welcome your input for any discussion items you would like to have included in the agenda. Also, just before we meet (10 to 11 AM CST), Jen Ives will be available for open discussion on the planning process for conference program chairs (or those who would like to be) in the same room.

**Board and Committee Meetings:** The Annual Meeting marks the transition point for outgoing and incoming committee members and chairs, so it is a good time to get the committee together to review the past year and plan activities for the coming year. We encourage the inclusion of both outgoing and incoming members and that the agenda be set jointly by the outgoing and incoming chair (if a transition is occurring). If you haven't already requested a location in Houston, please let your meeting planner know to see if last minute space is available. Also, one of the STAC Commissioners will likely stop by your meeting to answer questions and offer assistance.

**AMS Conference Reports:** Similar to last year, rather than submitting a conference or symposium summary to the STAC Commissioner, B/C will submit [AMS Conference Report Reviews](#). Please review this before your meeting to see the questions. This new form will allow not only to provide highlights of the meeting, but to also give feedback to AMS. Please have the chair or another assigned member be responsible for submitting this form a month after your meeting.

**STAC Membership Update:** By now Boards and Committees should have submitted their nominations for any new members or requests for member second terms to their STAC Commissioner contact. Boards and Committees without one or more student members should be actively seeking student members. AMS also encourages including at least one early career member. There is not 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. You will find the link to the STAC Membership Nomination Form at this site: <https://www.ametsoc.org/stac/index.cfm/chair-member-information/membership/>

**Board and Committee Leadership:** If you are Chair of a STAC Board or Committee and will be rotating off in January 2022, you should have already identified your successor. Often a logical successor is the Vice-Chair, which is one reason why we encourage every B/C 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, we recommend developing a succession plan if you are stepping down as Chair.

**Professional and Respectful Conduct at AMS Meetings:** Please take a moment to note the [AMS statement](#) regarding conduct at our meetings and events. AMS is committed to safe and productive meetings for all attendees. Harassment, intimidation, or discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated at any meeting or event associated with the meeting.

**STAC Best Practices:** Please share the [Best Practices](#) with all your incoming members as a part of their orientation. Your annual B/C meeting is also a good time to review this document with your members.

Commissioner: [Ankur Desai](#)

Past Commissioner: [Genene Fisher](#)

Incoming Commissioner: [Kristie Franz](#)