

**American Meteorological Society (AMS)  
Scientific and Technological Activities Commission (STAC)  
February 2019 Newsletter**

**STAC Chair Annual Meeting:**

The STAC Chair Annual Meeting was held in Phoenix on Sunday, January 6. The minutes from the meeting are located [here](#).

**STAC Level Award Call for Nominations:**

On January 3, we issued the call for nominations for [Scientific and Technological Activity Commission Awards](#). There are three types of awards for which each board or committee can submit a nomination:

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

This is a once every two years opportunity to recognize an outstanding individual in your area of science. This is our second instance of offering this biennial award opportunity. In the 2017 award cycle, STAC presented ten awards and we anticipate that many more boards and committees will submit nominations this year. Please work within your board or committee to ensure your group takes advantage of this opportunity!

**AMS Centennial Activities and Participation:**

We are now in the centennial year of the AMS and the 2020 Annual Meeting in Boston will culminate the celebration. Check out this [website](#) that the AMS developed and find ways that your board or committee can play an active role in this special event. You can do exciting and valued activities, both in looking back on past accomplishments or looking to the future. The AMS has Centennial Celebration Goals, Ways to Participate, and sample social media posts that your board or committee might choose to employ.

**Conference Summaries:**

If your board or committee had a conference or symposium at the AMS Annual Meeting in Phoenix, please provide the STAC Commissioner with a short summary of that event. This is typically an action for the conference/symposium Program Chair, though your B/C can determine who authors the summary. You also need to post it on your board or committee's web site in the "News and Announcements" section. We will be glad to post it if you need assistance. *Please complete your short summary by the end of February.*

**Society Awards:**

The May 1 deadline for submitting Society Awards and AMS Fellow Nominations is fast approaching. Each STAC B/C should encourage colleagues to nominate deserving individuals or groups for these awards and recognition. Also B/Cs might consider nominating a worthy individual as an AMS Fellow. Further information on AMS awards can be found at <https://www.ametsoc.org/ams/index.cfm/about-ams/ams-awards-honors>

Note that the Society's lectureships are now intended to recognize outstanding mid-career scientists. Mid-career is nominally taken to include scientists who are within 10 to 20 years beyond earning their highest graduate degree or within 15 to 25 years beyond earning their baccalaureate. Consideration will also be given, however, to those who are still in the middle stage of their careers but have seen these interrupted for up to 5–10 years by family leaves, military service, and the like.

### **Updated STAC Best Practices:**

We updated the Best Practices document on January 15 and shared it with all STAC members through the AMS Community. Updated material is provided for recruiting new members (paragraph 5a) and on the AMS Policy Process (paragraph 9c).

- Please share the Best Practices with all your incoming members as a part of their orientation (and it is also a good idea to ask all your B/C members to review the document). <https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/stac/chair-member-information/stac-board-committee-best-practices1/>

### **STAC Membership:**

Board and Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs should review their updated 2019 membership rosters on their web pages at <http://www.ametsoc.org/stac> and report any corrections or omissions to Erica Callahan, [ecallahan@ametsoc.org](mailto:ecallahan@ametsoc.org).

### **Student Membership on Boards and Committees:**

We still have a few B/Cs without one or more student members. Having student members is an AMS requirement and the Commissioners will be glad to help find prospective student members. Submit a CV and nomination form for your student members to your Commissioner. You can find the STAC board/committee nomination form at <https://www.ametsoc.org/stac/index.cfm/chair-memberinformation/membership/>

### **Vice Chairs for Boards and Committees:**

At the STAC Annual Meeting in Phoenix, we again encouraged each Board and Committee to appoint a Vice Chair. Having an alternate to contact is really beneficial both for the Commissioners, the AMS Staff, and for other STAC B/Cs. At times the Chair may not be available and it really is a bonus to have another person to reach. Happily, 22 of our 36 B/Cs already have a Vice Chair!

### **Webinars:**

The launch of a formal AMS Webinars program is on the near horizon. Once live, both seasoned and first-time webinar organizers may opt to submit a webinar proposal and receive help with the development, organization, and promotion of their webinar. The goal of this program will be to greatly expand AMS's webinar offerings and add value to the great work many AMS boards and committees have already been doing. Please contact Brandon Crose ([bcrose@ametsoc.org](mailto:bcrose@ametsoc.org)) and Kelly Savoie ([ksavoie@ametsoc.org](mailto:ksavoie@ametsoc.org)) for more information. Offering webinars is great way to educate the broader community about your science. In particular, AMS certification holders receive .25 professional development points for participating in a webinar, or attending a technical seminar or lecture, that is not part of a technical conference on a professionally related topic.

**Comments from AMS President, Jenni Evans:**

As planning for the AMS 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations continues, I am excited to work with the many STAC committees that have committed to participating in the annual meeting in Boston in January 2020.

The theme of the 2020 meeting is **“The AMS Past, Present and Future: Linking Information to Knowledge to Society (LINKS).”** The underlying building blocks for this theme are: developing a more **holistic view of meteorology that is outcome-focused**, by inviting other experts to become part of the AMS community; building and **taking leadership of interdisciplinary teams addressing critical societal challenges** related to weather, water and climate; convening a **diverse membership in the wider AMS community** so that we are equipped to address these critical societal challenges, being **mindful of social and ethical considerations**; developing **new technologies and novel methodologies in big data and modeling** that advance our capacity to support this broader vision of our profession; and, expanding communication and collaboration across a **global community**.

In support of this vision, the 2020 Presidential Forum will include a keynote speaker Sunday evening to focus on the elements of the theme. A series of Presidential Forum Highlight (PFH) Sessions will be featured throughout the week. PFH sessions will focus on demonstrating how these principles can be used to address complex societal challenges. Each PFH session will have a focus that requires a diverse team of experts to make headway on a particularly challenging problem.

One example would be planning for rebuilding a community devastated in a weather event to increase resilience. In this example, meteorologists and climate scientists could feasibly work with hydrologists, civil engineers, town planners, government officials, community leaders, local industry, infrastructure managers, emergency managers – and many others. This is not a framework for PFH sessions, just a “for instance” so please be creative and look well beyond this idea.

PFH sessions will use non-traditional, interactive approaches to actively engage attendees. We envision 3-8 of these sessions through the week, depending on interest. PFH sessions will be heavily promoted, and to ensure that they attract a diverse audience, they will be the only session for that timeslot for the STAC meetings involved.

**The Overall Planning Committee of the 2020 Centennial Meeting is seeking teams drawn from within and outside AMS membership with proposals for Presidential Forum Highlight sessions.** Please publicize this opportunity to your community. Contact Claudia Gorski (AMS Director of Meetings) with any questions.

Commissioner: [Genene Fisher](#)

Past Commissioner: [Bruce Telfeyan](#)

Incoming Commissioner: [Ankur Desai](#)