

## June 2018 STAC Newsletter

**STAC Mid-Year Telecon:** In an effort to improve communications among STAC Boards and Committees, STAC will hold a mid-year telecom on Friday 29 June from 11 am till noon EDT. Please put this teleconference on your calendar and plan to join. The call-in number will be 866-939-8416 (international number 678-302-3534) and participant code 4093786#. The agenda will be provided a few days ahead of time.

**Conference Summaries Needed:** A reminder that if your board or committee had a conference or symposium at the AMS Annual Meeting in Austin, you need to provide us with a short summary. This is the one report that is required by AMS. (I will be glad to post it if you need assistance). Bruce Telfeyan (rbruce.telfeyan@us.af.mil)

**Student Membership on Boards and Committees:** Boards and Committees without one or more student members should be actively seeking 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-member-information/membership/>

**Safe and Inclusive Meetings:** We recently learned of a conference sponsored by another science society during which there was inappropriate behavior towards women. AMS is committed to safe and inclusive meetings for all – harassment, intimidation, or discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated. Please review the AMS statement on Safe and Inclusive Meetings during your next board or committee meeting and be sure to apply due diligence when you are approached by other science societies to participate in joint conferences. We need to be certain of their commitments regarding safe and inclusive meetings before developing any partnerships. <https://annual.ametsoc.org/2019/index.cfm/about/safe-and-inclusive-meetings/>

**Board and Committee Leadership:** If you are Chair of a STAC Board or Committee and will be rotating off in January 2019, now is a good time to begin identifying your successor. We all know that the Chair is the key for B/C activities. Identifying a new Chair at the last minute leaves the successor with little opportunity to learn the many responsibilities, hence this fervent plea to begin the process soon. 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. In terms of identifying the new Chair, there is not a set method and you have flexibility in how your B/C goes through the process. A more authoritative Chair might inquire among several members to see who is willing to take over as the new Chair. Other groups ask each member if they are interested in becoming the new Chair and then find a consensus across the B/C membership. Regardless of the approach you take, be thoughtful in developing a succession plan if you are stepping down as Chair in 2019.

**Invite AMS Award Winners to Talk at your Conferences:** AMS has again accelerated the award approval process this year in order to give conference program chairs the opportunity to invite award winners and new Fellows to present invited talks. If you have a conference later this year or at the AMS Annual meeting in January 2019, then be ready to involve AMS Award Winners in your conference schedules. With AMS Council approval pending, we expect the award winners to be public information by about 20 July.

**Possible Changes to AMS Student Travel Grants:** Recently, Justin Minter (Chair of the Committee on Mountain Meteorology) pointed out the dichotomy between AMS Student Travel Grants and the student presenter travel allowance that STAC boards and committees can award out of the \$1,500 available for each conference or symposium. The AMS grants are restricted to students who are *not presenting* a paper at the conference. This is in stark contrast to the conference and symposium allowance for each conference and symposium. In order to use these funds for student travel assistance, the student *must be presenting*. Stephanie Armstrong, AMS Director of Development, explained that the guidelines for the AMS grants were set by the Executive Committee at the time of origination. We plan to bring up this policy for review as an item of discussion at the September AMS Councilors/Commissioners Meeting in Boston

**STAC Board/Committee Rosters:** It is a good idea to check your B/C roster on the AMS STAC website. Erica Callahan ([ecallahan@ametsoc.org](mailto:ecallahan@ametsoc.org)) is the expert at AMS who will correct any errors that you find. We've noticed that some members are listed twice or have their status incorrectly shown (e.g., Member versus Vice Chair, etc.). Erica can fix this type of issue quickly. Also, for some members, their home address is listed instead of an office or department address. This is probably not what we really want to have displayed and Erica will make any updated roster information you provide her.

**STAC Conference Schedule:** We have added a table to help track all board and committee conferences and symposia. It is posted on our website under Chair and Member Information > Meetings and listed as [Conference Cadence/Schedule for STAC Boards and Committees](#). The table shows the interval for each B/C's conferences, the next planned event, and most recent past event. Its main purpose is to help the Commissioners to have an awareness of when conferences most recently took place or will occur. We plan to keep it updated on an annual basis, but feel free to let us know of any errors or changes. Special thanks to Claudia Gorski and Jen Ives for helping to build the table!

- On a related note, each board and committee should be alert to potential conflicts with planned conferences such as AGU Chapman Conferences and other international events.

**New Member Orientation:** We don't really have a STAC-wide orientation program for new members of your board or committee. However, we do ask that you to send a copy of the Suggested Best Practices for STAC Boards and Committees document and ask any new/incoming members to review it. You'll note in paragraph 8b of our Best Practices that this is already a suggested action.



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