

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

Upcoming STAC Board and Committee (B/C) Chairs Conference Call: Our next STAC B/C Chairs telecon will be Wednesday, Oct 30 from 2 to 3 PM ET. A calendar invite was sent to the B/C chairs and vice-chairs with call-in information. If your chair or vice chair cannot dial in, please have another member of your group participate in this call.

STAC Annual Meeting in Boston: We will have our STAC B/C Chair Meeting on Sunday, January 12, from 11 AM to 3 PM at the Westin Waterfront Marina Ballroom 1. We request all Chairs and Vice Chairs plan to attend, or if you cannot, ensure that a member of your B/C is there to represent your concerns. Claudia Gorski will conduct a training session immediately preceding our meeting from 10 to 11 AM. The training is specifically designed for those who are (or would like to be) a Conference/Symposium Program Chair.

STAC Membership Update: Between now and Dec 1, it is time to recruit new members and review whether those members completing their initial 3-year term (2-year for student members) wish to be extended for a second term. As most members terms expire (or come up for renewal in January), this is the time of the year when you should ensure that there are successors for departing members, if needed. Also, for members who are completing their initial terms, we need notice if you wish them to have a second three-year term (two-years for student members). Each B/C must have at least one student member. 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. You will find the link to the STAC Membership Nomination Form at this site: <https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/stac/chair-member-information/membership/stac-membership-nomination-form2/>

Board and Committee Leadership: If you are Chair of a STAC Board or Committee and will be rotating off in January 2020, you should be in the process of identifying 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, be thoughtful in developing a succession plan if you are stepping down as Chair in 2020.

AMS Elections: Voting for the 2020 AMS President-Elect and AMS Council is now open. The deadline to vote is Wednesday, November 13.

Participation in the AMS 2021 Annual Meeting:

Mary Glackin, AMS President-Elect, has been working with the 2021 Overall Planning Committee to build a framework for the AMS's 101st Annual Meeting, to be held 9–14 January 2021 in New Orleans. The theme is “*Strengthening Engagement with Communities through our Science and Services.*” Please consider if you would like to participate in the meeting and if there is a match to incorporate this theme. The theme is not meant to be overly restrictive but has been crafted with the intent of being broadly relevant across our community.

B/C chairs should reach out by **1 November 2019** to Claudia Gorski (cgorski@ametsoc.org) to either confirm their participation of an existing conference or if they would like to submit a proposal for a full conference or one-day special symposium. When sending along the confirmation, be sure to include names of the program chairperson(s). Keep in mind that joint sessions with any of the existing conferences and symposia are welcome as well. If any of your committees are planning on having a specialty meeting at another time during 2021, please think about options of how the theme can be part of your conference so that we are able to carry the theme throughout the year. While the exact language is still being finalized, please see below for more details on the theme. Comments/suggestions can be provided by Nov 8 to cgorski@ametsoc.org.

AMS 2021 Meeting Theme:

9–14 January 2021

Morial Convention Center, New Orleans, LA

Theme: Strengthening engagement with communities through our science and services

Why

- Improve actions/decisions with respect to our environment
- Improve our ability to communicate our science in terms of risks and impacts
- Help us guide and shape our science to be actionable and improve our services
- Improve understanding of the value of our science and build support for funding
- Help identify priority areas of research based on its applicability to societal needs

Discussion

It is increasingly clear that the development of sound science while essential is insufficient to translate into beneficial actions with respect to the weather, water and climate threats and opportunities. There are numerous cases to demonstrate this including:

- Post-disaster surveys following major weather disasters that document decision makers not understanding and reacting appropriately to the forecast and warning information received
- Disproportionate impacts in diverse and marginalized communities
- The lack of action commensurate with the threat of climate change impacts
- Flat or reduced funding for key science efforts including sustaining basic observing systems.
- Inadequate engagement with communities to increase resilience (e.g., inadequate building standards).

We must emphasize engaging communities in meaningful and respectful ways; we must meet communities of stakeholders where they are versus where we are. **Engagement implies a two-way dialogue where we enter the conversation just as interested in learning as we are in communicating our ideas.**

Communities include the public at large through various structures (e.g., faith-based communities, civic associations, etc.), policy makers in governments at all levels, the emergency management community, health agencies, infrastructure providers, etc.

We should ensure we better serve disadvantaged communities by working with policy makers and non-profit organizations. Social justice should be germane to our actions.

We should identify ways communities could contribute to our science and services. Examples include citizen science, being ambassadors from various communities (e.g., faith based), etc.

We should leverage our media experts to ensure traditional and social media are used appropriately.

We should be working with the research community to help discern areas to be prioritized in order to address societal concerns. Cities and communities are facing impacts of environmental changes and natural hazards and disasters atop social injustices. Our goal should be to understand the science factoring into concerns and help seek solutions while making the most of available research resources. In tackling/pursuing this goal, the investigative, yet concentrated efforts of scientists in both basic and applied research are important.

New Orleans

The 2021 meeting will be held in New Orleans, LA, a location familiar to many AMS members. In the past, this setting has allowed us to explore actions this region has taken to become more resilient to disasters. We should continue to explore that topic but broaden the lens to include other key features in the NOLA culture including art and food. For example, how have changing conditions in the Gulf of Mexico influenced the local food scene?

With the theme of this meeting in mind, the planning committee intends to build some partnerships with local people to develop aspects of the meeting to contribute to community needs as well as meeting attendees to learn about NOLA initiatives. For example, the latter could be accomplished through a walking map of community arts, music, culinary and weather sites.

Commissioner: [Genene Fisher](#);
Past Commissioner: [Bruce Telfeyan](#),
Incoming Commissioner: [Ankur Desai](#)