

**AMS Scientific and Technological Activities Commission  
Semiannual Report for the Council  
Commissioners: David Stensrud, Ward Seguin, Bruce Telfeyan**

**3 August 2015**

The following is a report of STAC activities for January-July 2015.

**STAC Membership Analysis**

Bruce Telfeyan has undertaken an analysis of STAC board and committee membership. The analysis looks at STAC member participation by enterprise sector, gender, AMS member category, country of residence, state of residence and age. It is an interesting analysis (shown at the end of this report) and will be used to help guide the upcoming STAC membership drive. You can also view it online at:

<http://www2.ametsoc.org/stac/index.cfm/news-reports/membership-breakdown-of-stac-boards-and-committees/>

**STAC Web Page Updates**

Thanks to the hard work of Ward Seguin, Bruce Telfeyan, Mary Cairns and Brian Mardirosian, STAC is increasingly using the STAC Web page to provide helpful information to STAC Board and Committees as well as STAC Commissioners and Council. The web site is located at <http://www2.ametsoc.org/stac/>. The objective is to continue to keep STAC members informed on STAC and Society activities and increase its utility. We want STAC members to use the web site routinely as a starting point for Society information needed for awards; membership; and conferences, symposiums, and meetings. Bruce Telfeyan recently added a STAC Board and Committee (B/C) Best Practices document.

<http://www2.ametsoc.org/stac/index.cfm/chair-member-information/stac-board-committee-best-practices/>

**Newsletter**

A STAC Newsletter is being prepared monthly by Ward Seguin with the assistance of the other commissioners to keep STAC members better informed on what's happening and what's planned. The links to these monthly newsletters are also sent to Council. Recent specialty conference sessions and events are summarized and upcoming activities hosted by the B/Cs, other Commissions, and AMS offices are publicized.

<http://www2.ametsoc.org/stac/index.cfm/news-reports/monthly-stac-newsletter/>

**Five year plans**

STAC B/Cs are being asked to prepare five-year plans again this year. This is the second year for which five-year plans have been requested. The plans are intended to facilitate communication and coordination between the Commissioners, AMS staff, and the B/Cs; and to encourage B/Cs to broaden their activities beyond just sponsoring symposiums and conferences. The most repeated feedback from chairs, who have prepared these plans, has been -- they wish the plans had been in place to inform them of their responsibilities when they became chairs.

### **Named Sessions and Symposiums**

The 37<sup>th</sup> Radar Meteorology Conference will be held from 14-18 September in Norman, Oklahoma, and will feature a named specialty session in honor of Dale Sirmans and John Carter. Both Dale and John spent their careers at the NOAA National Severe Storms Laboratory and were instrumental in the advancement of radar meteorology, leading to the eventual deployment of the WSR-88D and its recent upgrade to dual polarization capability.

Multiple requests for named symposiums were received during 2015 and sent to Council for discussion and action. There are a number of very deserving individuals within our field who are reaching the end of their careers and have colleagues interested in recognizing their contributions with named symposiums. The number of requests received in 2015 may be a harbinger of the future.

### **Policy Program Connections**

The STAC Commissioners had several very productive discussions with Paul Higgins of the AMS Policy Program. One outcome is that Paul will present a standard 12-minute talk on the Policy Program at the Conference on Mesoscale Processes in Boston during August. The intent is to better connect AMS members who are scientists with the policy program to help build awareness and share ideas. Connections between science and policy are only going to grow more and more important, so introducing these concepts and linkages to our community is particularly valuable to those in their early careers.

### **STAC Very Early Career Best Paper Awards**

After much discussion on approaches to recognize outstanding individuals very early in their careers (i.e., within five years of highest degree), the Mesoscale Processes committee will be presenting the first Very Early Career Best Paper Award during their August conference in Boston. There is no monetary aspect to the award - it is simply recognition of outstanding work that is reported at the conference or symposium. The award winner will be presented a certificate. Thanks to the AMS for being able to quickly modify the abstract submission page to add this category to the eligible awards for those submitting to the conference.

### **Meeting Funding Requests**

Thirty conference/symposium funding requests have been approved so far this year. These support student best paper awards, travel assistance, registration and abstract fee assistance for conferences held or scheduled for 2015 and 2016. The full list of these approved requests will be included in the winter STAC annual report.

### **Glossary of Meteorology**

STAC members continue to provide Mary Cairns, Chief Editor of the *Glossary*, with help reviewing new and update term definitions as requests are submitted. So far this year, 7 reviews were completed, 5 new or modified terms were incorporated into the *Glossary* and 9 suggestions are currently in review.

2015 Membership Breakdown of STAC Boards and Committees								
<b>Sector of the Weather Enterprise</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>State of Residence</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Decade of Birth</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Academia	249	59.86	Alabama	10	2.73	1930s	2	0.48
Government	125	30.05	Alaska	2	0.55	1940s	14	3.37
Private	36	8.65	Arizona	4	1.09	1950s	57	13.70
Non-Profit	3	0.72	Arkansas	0	0.00	1960s	94	22.60
Not Specified	3	0.72	California	33	9.02	1970s	120	28.85
Total	416	100	Colorado	65	17.76	1980s	62	14.90
			Connecticut	1	0.27	1990s	12	2.88
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	Delaware	2	0.55	Not reported	55	13.22
Male	305	73.32	District of Columbia	8	2.19	Total	416	100
Female	111	26.68	Florida	8	2.19	Median birthdate	Oct 1970	
Total	416	100	Georgia	4	1.09			
			Hawaii	3	0.82			
<b>AMS Member Category</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	Idaho	0	0.00			
Fellows	29	6.97	Illinois	12	3.28			
Members	281	67.55	Indiana	4	1.09			
Student Members	45	10.82	Iowa	1	0.27			
Members with Student Privileges	8	1.92	Kansas	0	0.00			
Associate Members	22	5.29	Kentucky	0	0.00			
Non-Members of the AMS	31	7.45	Louisiana	0	0.00			
Total	416	100	Maine	0	0.00			
			Maryland	39	10.66			
<b>STAC Board/Committee Roles</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	Massachusetts	14	3.83			
B/C Chairs	36	8.65	Michigan	5	1.37			
B/C Vice Chairs	6	1.44	Minnesota	3	0.82			
B/C Members	333	80.05	Mississippi	1	0.27			
B/C Ex Officio Members	3	0.72	Missouri	3	0.82			
B/C Student Members	34	8.17	Montana	1	0.27			
Board Member at Large	1	0.24	Nebraska	8	2.19			
STAC Commissioners (Past/Current/Incoming)	3	0.72	Nevada	3	0.82			
Total	416	100	New Hampshire	2	0.55			
			New Jersey	8	2.19			
<b>Country of Residence</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	New Mexico	3	0.82			
Australia	3	0.72	New York	15	4.10			
Austria	1	0.24	North Carolina	9	2.46			
Brazil	1	0.24	North Dakota	2	0.55			
Canada	12	2.88	Ohio	3	0.82			
Chile	1	0.24	Oklahoma	17	4.64			
China	2	0.48	Oregon	1	0.27			
Cyprus	1	0.24	Pennsylvania	6	1.64			
Finland	1	0.24	Rhode Island	1	0.27			
France	2	0.48	South Carolina	3	0.82			
Germany	2	0.48	South Dakota	1	0.27			
Israel	2	0.48	Tennessee	1	0.27			
Italy	2	0.48	Texas	12	3.28			
Japan	1	0.24	Utah	5	1.37			
Netherlands	3	0.72	Virginia	12	3.28			
New Zealand	6	1.44	Vermont	2	0.55			
Spain	2	0.48	Washington	16	4.37			
Switzerland	1	0.24	West Virginia	1	0.27			
Taiwan	1	0.24	Wisconsin	8	2.19			
United Kingdom	6	1.44	Wyoming	4	1.09			
United States	366	87.98	Total	366	100			
Total	416	100						