August 2017 STAC Newsletter

Board and Committee Leadership: If you are Chair of a STAC Board or Committee and will be rotating off in January 2018, now is the 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 now. 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. Right now less than a third of our 36 B/Cs have a Vice-Chair and of course it is optional. But in the two years since the position was introduced, we have become more inclined to make it a mandatory position. We'll nail this matter down when we meet in Austin in January.

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. Whatever method is appropriate for your group is fine, but begin the process now!

If the new chair only has a year left on the B/C, I will be more liberal than had been the case within STAC in extending a term. That is because it is usually beneficial to have a Chair serve more than one year. I know when I have been a Chair, it has typically taken me a year to figure out all my duties and become effective in the role. Contact me directly with any questions or comments: Bruce Telfeyan, r_bruce.telfeyan@us.af.mil and rbt48@cox.net

Membership Drive: As most of you recall, we have loosened the times you can seek to add new members to your B/C; basically you can contact us year-round to add a new member very quickly. However, Board and Committee membership terms typically end in January, so each fall STAC takes a close look at our Board and Committee membership rolls. Hence, this is the time to either add new members or extend the terms (typically a second three-year term) and thereby keep your B/C roster with enough members to be effective.

- Please review your membership and determine which members will be rotating off in 2018. Then gather your Board or Committee to discuss your membership needs for 2018 and beyond. Please be sure to read over the **Best Practices** document (paragraph 3c) and consider diversity and student participation as you look to the needs of your Board/Committee. In terms of diversity, you might find it helpful to look over our Breakdown of Board and Committee Membership to get a feel for which groups should be better represented.

- We have simplified the form that you need to fill in for a new member "application." Here is the link for the form: **STAC Membership Nomination Form**

- Remember each B/C **must** have at least one student member (more than one is fine!) Student terms are two years in duration and you can extend each student for a second term. At last check, six of our 36 boards and committees do not have a student member and this is something that the AMS President and Council members are monitoring.

- Special thanks to all six boards: Data Stewardship, Atmospheric Biogeosciences, Environment and Health, Environmental Information Processing Technologies, Societal Impacts, and Urban Environment and to twenty-four of our thirty committees: Agricultural and Forest Meteorology, Air-Sea Interaction, Applied Climatology, Atmospheric and Oceanic Fluid Dynamics, Atmospheric Chemistry, Atmospheric Electricity, Atmospheric Radiation, Aviation, Range, and Aerospace Meteorology, Climate Variability and Change, Cloud Physics, Hydrology, Laser Atmospheric Studies, Measurements, Meteorological Aspects of Air Pollution, Middle Atmosphere, Mountain Meteorology, Planned and Inadvertent Weather Modification, Polar Meteorology and Oceanography, Probability and Statistics, Radar Meteorology, Satellite Meteorology, Oceanography, and Climatology, Severe Local Storms, Tropical Meteorology and Tropical Cyclones, and Weather Analysis and Forecasting! All of these B/C's have at least one and several two or three student members.

- Please send your requests for changes in membership to your Commissioner by 1 November! - Bruce, Dave, and Genene

Best Practices Document: The **Best Practices** document has been updated, so please take a quick read and let us know if you have any questions. The most noteworthy updates are in paragraphs 3c, 4, 5, and 9.

Invite AMS Award Winners to Talk at your Conferences: AMS 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. Invitations to give invited talks can be extended even after the official abstract submission deadline. Please review the list of AMS award winners and new Fellows and see if any would be an appropriate speaker for your conference or symposium. AMS will waive the abstract submission fee for these talks and the cost will not come out of the conference program chair funds. Note payment by PO with "Awardee/NewFellow" as the PO number.

A summary of the 23rd Conference on Applied Climatology is now available online.