American Meteorological Society (AMS)

Scientific and Technological Activities Commission (STAC)

August 2024 STAC Newsletter

STAC Incoming Commissioner Call for Applications: We are accepting applications through September 1 for the next STAC Incoming Commissioner! The STAC Incoming Commissioner's primary roles are to approve B/C membership updates, participate in B/C chairs meetings, review STAC award nominations, and contribute to the STAC newsletter. They are also invited to participate as a non-voting member at AMS Council meetings.

To apply, please submit a letter of interest and a copy of your current CV through the application form. Candidates will be evaluated based on their demonstrated ability to equitably lead complex groups; demonstrated ability to effectively communicate and collaborate; understanding of STAC, including a vision for its future; and evidence of prior AMS leadership, preferentially including leading a STAC B/C or subcommittee.

AMS Elections: Voting for the 2025 AMS President-Elect and AMS Council opens September 10. For further details, please see AMS Election Information.

STAC-Level Award Call for Nominations: As a reminder, consider submitting a nomination for a STAC Level Awards. Additional details and lists of prior winners are at this link. This year, the STAC commissioners have created a nomination form for you to use: https://forms.gle/6L9Wx3LTQGj3nbug7 . The form has two parts and several required questions. A copy of the form can be found on AMS Community for STAC chairs. We hope this new form will clarify and improve the nomination process, but please reach out if you encounter any problems or if you have any questions.

There are three types of awards for which each Board/Committee can submit a nomination:

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

When considering a candidate for a STAC award, consider whether an AMS-level award might be more appropriate. The nomination must be received by the STAC Commissioners no later than October 1, 2024.

May 2024 STAC Chairs Meeting Recording: On the AMS Community page for STAC Chairs and Vice-Chairs, you can find slides and recording from our May 17 telecon.

BAMS Focus Group: AMS is looking for volunteers for a focus group to explore improvements to BAMS. If interested, contact Brian Papa (bpapa@ametsoc.org). Note this is not about the BAMS peer-reviewed content that is available on the AMS Journals Online site. There will be a group of volunteers serving in an advisory role to help with this effort. AMS will periodically ask for feedback and input as they move forward with different aspects of evaluating member communication needs and the BAMS magazine. Expect the time commitment of 1 or 2 hours per month.

DEI Inventory: We have a request from Melissa Burt, chair of the AMS Culture and Inclusion Cabinet, and Kati Putsavage, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, for data on your boards/committees' work/activities that support diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. Please assist AMS with this process by adding your board's or committee's DEI activities to this DEI Inventory Google Sheet. There is a tab for STAC, 5th tab from the left.

Examples could include, but are not limited to, creating DEI sub-committees, new initiatives that support

diverse or underrepresented audiences, bias trainings for committees, awards, best practices on inclusive meetings, opportunities to increase diversity of membership. They are also interested in learning what resources (e.g. financially or subject matter expertise) have been helpful to make these activities successful OR what resources may be needed to keep things going.

2025 AMS Annual Meeting: The 105th AMS, Annual Meeting with a theme of "Towards a Thriving Planet: Charting the Course Across Scales", is scheduled for New Orleans, LA for 12-16 January 2025. You can view all the conferences and symposia set for that week here. The abstract deadline for most conferences is August 29. Hotel blocks information is here. The program will be posted and registration will open in mid-October. For additional tips and more information on planning for your health and safety at the 105th Annual Meeting, please click here. The meeting will be fully hybrid, where you can present and attend in-person, virtually, or a mix of both.

STAC Annual Meeting: We are tentatively planning to have our STAC B/C Chair Meeting on Sunday, January 12 midday in New Orleans, including virtual participation options. We request all Chairs and Vice Chairs plan to attend, or if you cannot, please ensure that a member of your B/C is there to represent your concerns. Please let the STAC Commissioners know of any ideas or topics you have for this meeting! AMS Meetings will conduct a training session immediately preceding our meeting that is specifically designed for those who are (or would like to be) Conference/Symposium Program Chairs.

STAC Board and Committee Meetings: If you are planning to hold an in-person meeting for your committee or board during the 105th Annual Meeting in New Orleans, please fill out this form to reserve a room. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Jen Ives at jives@ametsoc.org.

Invite AMS Award Winners to Speak at your Conferences: If you are hosting a conference or symposium at the AMS Annual Meeting in January 2025 (or during the coming year), consider including AMS Award Recipients and new Fellows in your conference schedules either as presenters or in panel discussions. The 2025 AMS award recipients and Fellows are listed here.

Specialty Meetings: Thank you all who have helped organize one of our 2024 specialty meetings. Without the involvement of yourselves, your committee, and your program committee, these meetings would not have taken place or been as successful as they have. All of the meetings were offered or will be offered as hybrid and you can see a status update on them here. Planning is well underway for most of our 2025 specialty meetings. Lead planners will be setting up kickoff calls with program chairs soon.

2026 AMS Annual Meeting: Planning is underway for the **American Meteorological Society's 106th Annual Meeting, to be held 25-29 January 2026 in Houston.** The theme is "Fast and Slow Thinking: The Human Factor in a Rapidly Changing World." Confirm your committee's intent to organize a conference/symposia or sessions (even if you usually meet at the Annual Meeting) by **31 October 2024** in this form. You are welcome to plan joint sessions with any of the existing conferences and symposia as well instead of hosting your own sessions.

Membership Nominations and Renewals: September is a good time to begin recruiting new members and reviewing whether those members completing their initial 3-year term (2-year for student members) wish to be extended for a second term. If nominating a new member, please send the nomination form and CV to your Commissioner point of contact. If renewing members, you can just note that in the same message—no documentation is required for renewing members.

AMS Volunteer portal: Board and committee opportunities will be displayed here through September 13 of this year. In September, completed applications will be emailed to you for your review and selection of new volunteers. If you need to fill a vacancy prior to September, please reach out to communityengagement@ametsoc.org to receive any applications that have been submitted.

Board and Committee Leadership: If you are Chair of a STAC Board or Committee and will be rotating off in January, you should be in the process of identifying your successor. Identifying a new Chair at the last minute leaves the successor with little opportunity to learn the many responsibilities, therefore we suggest beginning the process now. Often a logical successor is the Vice Chair, which is why we encourage every board and committee to have a Vice Chair as a way of training the next Chair. There is not a set succession protocol, however, and you have flexibility in how your B/C goes through the process. Regardless of the approach you take, please be thoughtful in developing a succession plan if you are stepping down as Chair in 2025.

AMS Webinars: Consider organizing a webinar around a topic of interest to the AMS community. Speaking of webinars, did you know AMS has dozens of recorded webinars available in the webinar directory?

Best Practices Document: The STAC Best Practices document is always your go-to for best information on practices and policies. Please check it out for useful information and guidance for your committee or board.

Upcoming STAC Conference Call: After the September Council meeting, we will host our second conference call of the year. Details will follow soon.

Past Commissioner: Ankur Desai
Commissioner: Kristie Franz
Future Commissioner: Clark Evans