AMS STAC Newsletter - March 2026

Hello STAC Boards and Committees!

Welcome to the first quarterly newsletter of 2026 for the AMS Scientific and Technological Activities Commission. This newsletter provides quick how-to guide for running Committees and Boards in STAC. It is primarily targeted at new Board and Committee Chairs, but we encourage all Chairs to review it as well because some information has changed since last year.

Where to get help

Point of contact: STAC has three commissioners (current: Clark Evans outgoing: Kristie Franz, incoming: Stephen Bieda). Each of the 36 committees and boards is assigned one of us as your main point of contact, as noted here:

Clark Evans	Kristie Franz	Stephen Bieda
Board on Open Science, Data, & Software	Board on Environmental Information Processing Technologies	Comm. on Artificial Intelligence Applications to Environmental Science
Board on Atmospheric Biogeosciences	Board on the Urban Environment	Comm. on Agricultural & Forest Meteorology
Board on Environment & Health	Comm. on Air-Sea Interaction	Comm. on Atmospheric Chemistry
Board on Societal Impacts	Comm. on Aviation, Range, & Aerospace Meteorology	Comm. on Atmospheric Chemistry
Comm. on Applied Climatology	Comm. on Hydrology	Comm. on Atmospheric Radiation
Comm. on Climate Variability & Change	Comm. on Measurements	Comm. on Boundary Layers & Turbulence
Comm. on Meteorological Aspects of Air Pollution	Comm. on Mesoscale Processes	Comm. on Cloud Physics
Comm. on Polar Meteorology & Oceanography	Comm. on Meteorology & Oceanography of the Southern Hemisphere	Comm. on Coastal Environment
Comm. on Probability & Statistics	Comm. on Mountain Meteorology	Comm. on Laser Atmospheric Studies
Comm. on Atmospheric & Oceanic Fluid Dynamics	Comm. on Satellite Meteorology, Oceanography, & Climatology	Comm. on Middle Atmosphere
Comm. on Space Weather	Comm. on Severe Local Storms	Comm. on Planned & Inadvertent Weather Modification
Comm. on Weather Analysis & Forecasting	Comm. on Tropical Meteorology & Tropical Cyclones	Comm. on Radar Meteorology

The vast majority of time, a question you have, membership renewal, etc… should go by email to your point of contact.

AMS Community: All Chairs need to follow communication on AMS Community: https://community.ametsoc.org/home. In particular, all group communication to STAC Chairs or Members (such as this newsletter) goes through the AMS Community. In particular, there is one Community for STAC Board and Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs and one for all STAC members. If you are not on these, please let your Commissioner point of contact know. There is also one for your Committee or Board that you can use to send and archive communications and store files/minutes.

For each of these, please go to the "Settings" gear icon next to the name of the committee and select: Email Notifications -> Real Time. This will make sure you receive messages directly as they are posted. Chairs that have failed to do this have sometimes missed important meetings, deadlines, and opportunities.

It is also important for you to notify us of any membership or leadership changes for your Board or Committee, as AMS uses these rosters to populate each Community and thus ensure you and your members are in a position to receive these messages!

STAC website: Bookmark this page: https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/stac/chair-member-information/ which has details on just about everything one needs to do as a Chair or Member of a Committee/Board in STAC.

Best Practices: On the STAC page you just bookmarked is the other most important document, our "best practices" document, which is basically the detailed version of this newsletter: https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/stac/chair-member-information/stac-board-committee-best-practices1/ There will be a quiz!

Annual Report to Council: Another useful source of information is our annual report to the AMS Council. Recent reports can be found at: https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/stac/news-reports/stac-reports-to-council-and-ec/. The 2025 Annual Report will be added shortly.

Things chairs need to do and when

MEET WITH THE COMMISSION, every 3-4 months: Attend or have a designee attend our annual STAC Chairs meeting held on the Sunday before the start of the AMS annual meeting, in-person, with zoom and recorded option available. If you missed the meeting in January 2026, the slides for that meeting will soon be available at https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/stac/news-reports/stac-annual-meeting-summaries/.

In addition, we hold two to three virtual meetings throughout the year, with May and October being the most-frequent months in which these are held. Please attend or have your Vice Chair attend. All STAC Chairs meetings will be announced through the STAC Board and Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs community, and slides from past meetings can be found on this same Community under "Library."

POPULATE AMS AWARD COMMITTEES, April: Several AMS level awards have review committees that require STAC committee or board representatives. The current commissioner will reach out to have you tell us the committee roster and AMS will reach out to organize access to nominations. Please respond promptly to these requests and pay close attention to deadlines, requirements for conflicts of interest, and terms of reference for each award.

NOMINATE STAC AWARDS, Summer, deadline to be announced at a later date: STAC has its own set of awards. Each committee or board can nominate in one of three categories in any one year, with a new deadline in 2026 TBD at the March STAC Chairs meeting. These nominations are submitted using an online survey form, following the procedure and requirements at: https://www.ametsoc.org/ams/about-ams/ams-awards-honors/stac-level-awards/. A link to the form will be sent to Chairs and Vice Chairs in late spring or early summer.

MAINTAINING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP, Continually, and especially in October: This is arguably the most important information in this document. Please read this section in full.

You keep your Board or Committee roster up to date by sending changes, additions, and deletions to your Commissioner point of contact. It usually takes one to two weeks for the website to update after you communicate to us. Your official membership list and expiration dates are automatically maintained on the membership page for your committee/board (from https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/stac/). If this list is not in line with your list, then contact your AMS Commissioner point of contact and let them know. Member names and titles are pulled from the AMS database to populate the online roster. If a member wants to change how their name is displayed, they can do that by logging into their AMS account and changing their profile information.

Most members rotate on/off in January, for a maximum of two 3-year terms (2-year for students). Every Committee or Board needs at least one student member and preferably one early career member. Every Committee or Board should also represent the breadth of the expertise associated with the Board or Committee, including sector and not over-relying on membership from a single institution or sector. **Adding a new member** requires filling out the membership nomination form found at: https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/stac/chair-member-information/membership/ and emailing that, along with a short CV, to the point of contact. Renewals, early departures, and role changes (e.g., member->chair, student member->member) can all be done by email to your Commissioner point of contact without the form.

Most Boards and Committees have their own processes for how to solicit, select, and onboard members, and you have flexibility in how you do so, including using the AMS Volunteer Portal or

social media. Reach out to us (or read the best practices) for ideas on how to best solicit nominations. Especially important is to keep an eye on the end of term for the Chair. If that term is not renewed, extended, or replaced before expiration, the Committee/Board will lack representation and communication. We will miss you.

RESPOND TO GOM, Continually: The AMS Glossary of Meteorology depends on STAC input on definition additions and revisions. The GOM Editor, Ward Seguin, appreciates prompt replies to requests for committee or board input. Please acknowledge receipt when contacted and work to assemble a subcommittee to review and respond within a few weeks.

REPORT ON YOUR MEETINGS, After they happen: Within two weeks of completing a conference or meeting, please have a member of your committee or board solicit feedback and fill out the "Conference/Symposium Summary Report Form" at https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/stac/chair-member-information/meetings/.

UPDATE YOUR WEBSITE, As needed: For the time being, the AMS's cybersecurity incident of ~5 years ago still prevents boards and committees from doing direct edits to pages. Email Peter Killelea <pkillelea@ametsoc.org> with your edits and they will be made promptly. Include the URL of the page to be edited and clear instructions of what you want done.

OTHER ACTIVITIES, As needed: Your Committee or Board may be involved in various activities including supporting program chairs in conference planning and award judging, selecting future meeting locations and partners, soliciting sponsors for those meetings, proposing a named session or symposium, organizing short courses and webinars, managing a social media presence, helping write/revise AMS statements, proposing new activities/awards/programs, reporting on highlights from recent meetings, or coordinating with our Committees, Boards, or Commissions on joint activities. Use regular meetings to keep your committee and board updated and assign roles across your members to spread the workload. Work with and email your Commissioner point of contact to help navigate AMS procedures and requests. Forms and processes for just about all of the above mentioned activities are discussed in the Best Practices and linked at: https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/stac/chair-member-information/. In particular, with meeting planning, start early, typically 2 years (for domestic conferences) to 3 years (for international conferences) in advance for specialty meetings that occur outside of the AMS Annual Meeting.