



December 2016
No 16 - 12

NWA NEWSLETTER

Inside

Sol Hirsch Education Grant Winners	2
January Webinar	2
Winter Hazards	2
President's Message	3
42nd Annual Meeting	3
Weather News FLASH	4
Q&A With Membership & Marketing Committee Chair	4
Diversity University	5
High Plains Chapter News	5
2016 Annual Meeting Survey Winners	6
NWA Staff Change	6
New JOM Article	6
Three New Seal Holders	7
Connect with NWA	7
New NWA Members	8
Professional Development and Other Events	8
Newsletter and NWA Contact Information	8

[Click for details](#)

*The NWA: Connecting
operational meteorologists
in pursuit of excellence
in weather forecasting,
communication and service.*

Thank You for Your Service

The National Weather Association thanks the officers and councilors on Council whose term is ending. We are grateful for their support, dedication and commitment to the NWA.

David Freeman*
President 2016

Dr. Elizabeth Page
Immediate Past President

Alan Gerard
Treasurer 2015-2016

John Gagan
Councilor 2014-2016

Mike Goldberg
Councilor 2014-2016

Chuck Graves
Councilor 2014-2016

Elise V. Schultz
Councilor 2014-2016

**We are grateful David will continue his NWA service on our Council as Immediate Past President.*



NWA 2015 Financial Report

Following is a summary of the NWA 2015 IRS 990 tax return. Total Assets at the end of 2015 were \$262,601. This includes cash and cash equivalents, investments held for scholarships and NWA operating reserves. Thanks to everyone who supports the NWA, its activities and mission.

Income

Dues	\$118,987
Program service revenue*	264,516
Contributions	25,487
Investment income	2,511
Other income	3,175
Total Revenue	\$414,676

**Program service revenue includes income from the Annual Meeting, Publications, Broadcast Certification, Scholarship and Grant contributions.*



Expenses

Salaries and wages	\$107,299
Payroll taxes	10,240
Professional fees	14,604
Advertising and marketing	5,377
Awards	2,001
Commissions and fees	18,765
Annual Meeting	156,257
Depreciation	1,886
Grants and scholarships	11,500
Insurance	3,101
Miscellaneous	11,231
Office rent	14,865
Office supplies	2,104
Other taxes	100
Postage and shipping	2,722
Printing and publications	5,833
Repairs and maintenance	248
Technical editing	3,528
Telephone and internet	6,372
Travel and meals	13,440
Typography	3,859
Total Expenses	\$395,332
Income over Expenses	\$19,344

Sol Hirsch Education Grant Winners

Each year the NWA Education Committee receives hundreds of applications for the Sol Hirsch Education Fund Grant. These grants (up to \$750) are awarded annually to teachers of grades K–12 to help improve the education of their students, school, or community in the science of meteorology. Typically, the grant monies are used to purchase scientific materials or equipment for the classroom, begin new school or community science outreach and education programs, enhance existing meteorology education programs, or attend accredited courses, workshops or conferences related to meteorology that will enhance their teaching activities. This year's winning applications encompass all of the above activities.



Andrew Carnes from Oak Mountain Elementary in Carrollton, Georgia, submitted an application to create a recurring weather balloon launching program. The grant money will go towards purchasing the first balloon kit for this project; the remainder of the program will be self-funded through the school. The goal is to continue balloon launches on an annual basis with teachers, students and parents being involved in the program.

There were two winners from Michigan this year: **Michelle Nichols** and **Jennifer Hollenbeck** from Huron Clinton Metroparks in the greater Detroit metropolitan area, and **Michelle Maust** of the For-Mar Nature Preserve and Arboretum in Burton, Michigan, near Flint. Both plan to enhance their existing educational outreach programs to include weather observations. The programs are designed to either take the science into schools whose districts are unable to fund field trips, or facilitate programs in low income areas and school districts by providing transportation to a facility to teach K–8 science. Both programs will use hands-on activities whether the children are outside observing nature or inside playing games to teach about seasonal climate differences. Grant monies will be spent on equipment and supplies for these programs and their meteorologically themed enhancements.

Jessica Nadeau from Nawayee Center School in Minneapolis, Minnesota, will use part of the grant money to finance sending a teacher to an educational program at the Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center. The teacher can then relay the lessons learned to other teachers and students. The remaining money will go to purchasing equipment in support of their newly established weather-related curriculum at the school.

From Bates Middle School in Sumter, South Carolina, **Cindy Seckel** plans to add a Starlab Weather Cylinder to their portable Starlab planetarium dome. This cylinder depicts the earth's atmospheric circulation patterns including jet streams and areas of high and low pressure.

Since 1993, the NWA has awarded 118 K–12 Sol Hirsch Education Fund Grants totaling over \$63,000 thanks to the generosity of Sol Hirsch and the many NWA members who donate to this program. Congratulations to all of the grant winners.

NWA JANUARY WEBINAR

January 11, 2017
2pm EST/1pm CST

MENTORING IN
THE ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES:
HELPING OTHERS WIN TOO

Winter Hazards

SNOW & ICE
COLD TEMPERATURES
FLOODS
WIND
FOG

Know your risk, & take action!



#WinterSafety

Final Thoughts

December President's Message By David Freeman, 2016 President



I know it sounds corny, but it really does seem amazing that it is time to write my last message to you as President of our National Weather Association. It feels like the year has flown by and that it can't really be December. But I have pitched my inning, and I see President-Elect Gail Hartfield warming up in the bullpen, ready for her first pitch as President in just a few days.

Hopefully, you have a sense this year that the National Weather Association has taken some important strides and that it is better positioned to serve the operational meteorology community. I sure have that sense having watched the progress.

Externally, the NWA helped advocate and educate about operational meteorology concerns such as the GOES spectrum issues. The NWA's voice helped remind decision-makers that the best weather information in the world does no good unless it is fast and rock-solid reliable. The NWA leadership, professional and elected, will stay on top of this issue and watch carefully for other issues that require our attention.

The NWA was approached by National Weather Service leadership to provide input on a plan to better achieve its mission in the coming years. The Council was briefed on the Operations and Workforce Analysis at its mid-year meeting and a special session was scheduled at our Annual Meeting. This was topped off by an unprecedented meeting between NOAA leadership and the NWA Council. (See the November President's Message in the Newsletter.)

Our WeatherReady Fest, held in conjunction with our very successful Annual Meeting in Norfolk, was the largest public outreach event in NWA history. Thousands of people turned out to learn about the many facets of meteorology and preparedness. And, I must say, it was heart-warming to see the army of NWA volunteers who turned out early to help set up and staff the event. Vice President Bill Murray and his team deserve our gratitude.

Internally, seeds that were planted during President Elizabeth Page's term came to fruition with the establishment of the National Weather Association Foundation. This new 501(c)(3)

non-profit corporation provides the opportunity for tax-deductible donations to support students and teachers in atmospheric science. Donations are already coming in—just [go to the Foundation's website](http://nwafoundation.org) and click Donate! I believe the Foundation will make it possible for all of us to “pay it forward” and help the next generation of operational meteorologists.



The NWA also rolled out a new website using contracted professional services. In so doing, the Council gave special recognition to the volunteers who brought us through the years to this point. We stand on their shoulders and our gratitude was expressed at the Awards Banquet.

The Council has continued to look at the NWA's committee structure to ensure that the Association is positioned well to serve the evolving needs of the community. Everyone realizes that it is important to be alert to changing conditions in our field, and adapt to keep the NWA relevant and attractive to new members. I have been so impressed with the forward-thinking consultations we have had!

I would also like to share with the members that there has been a strong effort to develop the functioning of our elected and professional leadership. Last January, I met with Executive Director Janice Bunting to chart the coming year and one of the goals we adopted was to raise the level of functioning of the NWA, and the understanding of the roles of the elected and professional leadership. Janice has been a great partner in this. She continues to work hard to bring our business operations into compliance with current best-practices, always with an eye toward providing top-level customer service to our members. My year as President would not be complete unless I took the opportunity to recognize her contribution, and thank her for her outstanding leadership.

And now my friends, I come to the end, where I must express my gratitude to all of you for allowing me this opportunity to serve. I love the National Weather Association and it has been a very high privilege to serve you in this office. Thank you all for giving me that opportunity, and for making this a wonderful and memorable year.



The 42nd NWA Annual Meeting

September 16 - 21, 2017

*Hyatt Regency Orange County
Garden Grove, California*

*Abstract Deadline:
March 9*

*See future newsletters for
submission instructions!*



WEATHER NEWS FLASH



A monthly look at interesting news factoids and stories from around the globe. Click titles for details!

[Frigid Cold -30s and -40s Descend Into Alaska Despite a Record Warm Year-to-Date](#)

If you're dreading the cold arriving this week, consider the frigid cold now enveloping Alaska and expected to last through much of the week in our 49th state.

[Hawaii's Big Island Peaks See Heavy Early December Snow](#)

Yes, it has snowed in Hawaii in recent days, but don't rush to cancel your vacation if you're looking to escape colder weather. This snow fell over the peaks of the Big Island of Hawaii, including Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa.

[How to Stay Safe While Shoveling Snow](#)

With winter weather quickly approaching, snow shovels are starting to become a necessity in many households.

[Madrid's Christmas Present To Itself: A Car Ban](#)

Madrid just gave its citizens a present for the holidays. The city closed the entire city center to most cars, turning the urban core into a de facto pedestrian zone.

[Sky Over Antarctica Glowing Electric Blue from Ice Clouds](#)

Something weird happened recently in the skies over Antarctica: sparkling blue flashes pulsing around the dark South Pole like an electrified iris around a pupil.

Q&A with Cathy Zopato, Membership & Marketing Committee Co-Chair

Grant Tosterud, NWA Student Intern

What does the Membership & Marketing (M&M) Committee do, and what are the different aspects roles of your committee?

The mission of the M&M Committee is to promote the National Weather Association and increase its membership. A strong NWA membership is key to the health of the organization. Our committee works to foster ways for operational meteorologists to become more involved and realize the benefits that come with membership.

What are the committee's goals?

The M&M committee has several goals. Here are just a few that our committee has prioritized:

- Retain members and encourage renewals
- Facilitate website improvements
- Plan, organize and execute a local chapter breakfast at annual meetings
- Provide resources and encourage the growth of local chapters
- Support the Annual Meeting by procuring SWAG (stuff we get everywhere; promotional items) and producing social media messages
- Provide local chapters with a speaker's bureau—speakers that are willing to talk about a particular subject.



What is the biggest project your committee is working on?

Our committee is working on the goals described above and we are most excited about our involvement with local chapters and providing them with resources. New resources in the form of a speaker's bureau, improvements to the web page, and working with the NWA leadership to provide standardized bylaws and guidelines for operating a current local chapter or forming new chapters.

What is the biggest challenge your committee faces?

We have two big challenges. The first challenge is that our membership database and local chapter database need constant updating. Our memberships renew annually and local chapter officers change each year too, so it is difficult to keep track of people as officers change, our members move around the country, or students leave their universities and enter new professions.

The second challenge is that our committee has many new members. There is a lot to learn, especially for first-time committee members. This is a good challenge to have. Our members are active in their professions and devoted to the NWA with a lot of talent to put into action.

What is the greatest strength of your committee?

The diversity, enthusiasm, experience, creativity, and dedication of our committee are its strengths.

What have you learned serving as a committee chair?

As a committee chair, I've learned that we have some of the most talented people in our profession as members of the NWA. It has been a very rewarding opportunity to meet so many people I never would have crossed paths with during my regular professional job, and it has expanded my appreciation for the field of operational meteorology. I've also learned that to get the most out of an organization you need to be involved. Whether it is as a student organizer, helping with Weatherfest, attending a local conference or annual meeting, being a local chapter officer, or volunteering to be a committee member; the more you are involved, the more gratitude you have for being a part of the meteorological community.

Diversity University

NWA Diversity Committee, Jennifer Hogan, Chair

This time of the year allows for reflection of the past year's events and how they have influenced our perceptions. The holiday season reminds us that the gift of giving and gratitude are not limited to the last few weeks of the year, but should be celebrated and practiced throughout the year. In the U.S., with such a diverse population and its cultural influences, it is interesting to see how homogeneous holiday celebrations can be across the country, likely due to pop culture influencing traditions. Think about this, most of the meteorological field understands that having a white Christmas is actually statistically small (a white Christmas being defined as one inch of snow on the ground).

There are only about a dozen places across the U.S. with 100 percent probability of having snow on Christmas Day.

Snowflakes decorate homes of people who celebrate the season in warm climate areas like Florida where the probability of snow is close to zero percent. And think of those in the Southern Hemisphere where it's summer! Their December days aren't filled with "chestnuts roasting on an open fire" or "Jack Frost nipping at their nose," though it's been said that some of the words in popular holiday songs are changed to be applicable to the region. If you have a conversation with an Australian, they will tell you their holidays are spent at the beach "grilling on the barbie." In fact, they have tropical cyclones during this time of the year. In 1974, Cyclone Tracy infamously hit Darwin on Christmas Day.

There are other holidays this time of year, and someone you know or work with might be celebrating a holiday other than Christmas. Dictionary.com's word of the year for 2016 is "xenophobia": the fear of people who seem strange or foreign to us based on cultural traits that are different than our own. As we turn the corner into 2017, perhaps a resolution to make is to take time to get to know others and their traditions. Asking questions of curiosity (e.g., What is this holiday _____ about?) or even giving a compliment to someone can lead to meaningful and enlightening conversation. This further understanding can bridge the gap of misunderstandings and likely reveal more of our similarities as humans rather than any differences.

Happy holidays and best wishes for a prosperous new year!

Information for this article came from the following websites:

<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/news/historical-probability-of-white-christmas>

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyclone_Tracy

<http://blog.dictionary.com/xenophobia/>

HIGH PLAINS AMS/NWA CHAPTER NEWS

William Taylor, President ~ Wesley Hovorka, Secretary

The High Plains Chapter of the AMS and NWA held an in-person meeting on November 8, at the community library in Norton, Kansas, with 13 chapter members.

William Taylor and Jeremy Wesely will be stepping down as president and vice president next year. Members were asked to inform Bill or Jeremy if they are interested in either of these positions. An election will be held at the next meeting or possibly via e-mail.

John Stoppkotte, Science Operations Officer for North Platte, told us that NWS offices in the northern Plains want to start a chapter similar to ours, and would like to know if we could have a joint conference with them in the future. Everyone at the meeting was excited for this to happen. The 2017 High Plains Conference will be held in Dodge City, Kansas, and the 2018 Conference will be held in Hastings, Nebraska. The conference in Hastings may be a good opportunity for a joint conference given Hastings proximity to the northern Plains offices. John will ask them to write a down ideas of what they want to do. John will also add some ideas from our chapter.

Next, Aaron Johnson gave an update on the 2017 High Plains Conference to be held in Dodge City. Wesley Hovorka and Laren Reynolds have selected dates and booked venues for the

www.highplains-amsnwa.org

conference. The dates are August 9-10. The day portion of the conference will be held at the Dodge City Community College Theater and the banquet will be held at the

Boot Hill Conference Center. We have a block of 40 rooms at the Hampton Inn next to the Conference Center. The block of hotel rooms is available until May 2, so attendees need to book their rooms before that date. NWS group travel request must be in by May 11. Likely keynote speakers for the event include Chris Strager (NWS Central Region Director), Karen Kosiba (CSWR), and Mike Coniglio (NSSL). Steve Miller (CIRA) has been invited to speak. Aaron then suggested forgoing the student presentation competition at our next conference due to low turnout at previous conferences. We will determine if a chapter vote is needed to not have the competition at the conference.

A short presentation was then given by Jeremy Martin, Science Operations Officer in Goodland, about a snow storm that occurred on I-70. Only one to two inches of snow fell that day, but multiple accidents were reported on the westbound lane. This was due to people driving from an area where rain was falling to an area where snow and slick roads were present. No accidents were reported in the eastbound lanes where drivers were coming from an area with hazardous road conditions.

2016

ANNUAL MEETING

Survey

WINNERS

Receiving \$200 off their
2017 Annual Meeting
Registration are

Shelton Robinson
Brad Panovich
Morgan Barry
Minh Phan

Thank you to all who
took the survey, it
will help us in
planning the 2017
Annual Meeting!

Hailey Wilson, our Member Services Specialist, has decided to leave the NWA and be a Pilates instructor full-time. We wish her all the best. She is already a successful Pilates instructor with a schedule that is getting filled quickly. She definitely will be missed, and we are grateful for all she has done to improve NWA programs. Tanya Schoor is taking her place, and has already started work. Hailey is helping train Tanya.

Tanya is a graduate of Ohio State with a bachelor's degree in geography-atmospheric science and coursework in communications, marketing and advertising. She has been working with NSSL and OU CIMMS in various roles, such as coordinating with NOAA and OAR regarding NSSL and CIMMS research, updating NSSL fact sheets used to brief U.S. Congress members and staffers, writing "Hot Items" (important news stories) describing NSSL research and activities, creating and managing social media strategies for both groups, providing website updates, participating in outreach activities, and fielding media calls to assist the NOAA Public Affairs Officer.



Tanya Schoor

She has experience as a freelance writer, broadcaster, NWS summer intern, and worked as an Ocean Analyst and Satellite Collection Planner. She comes with excellent customer service recommendations. Tanya grew up in a military family and was born in Belgium. She and her husband Greg moved to Norman a year ago from Washington DC; he works for the NWS in the National Weather Center. They have a dog named Boomer.

I know she will carry on with the exceptional customer service and work skills displayed by all the NWA staff.

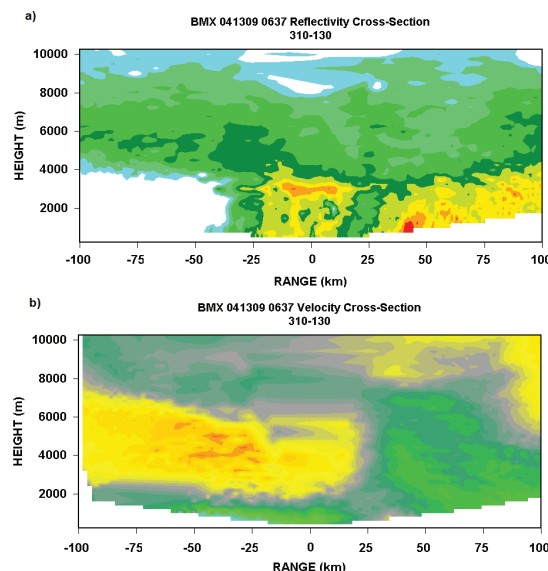
Please join me in wishing Hailey all the best and giving a big welcome to Tanya!

Executive Director
Janice Bunting

New Article in the Journal of Operational Meteorology

One article has been published in the NWA's JOM since the last update in September.

JOM 2016-15 (Article): Review and Case Studies of Non-Traditional Severe Local Windstorms, by Timothy A. Coleman and Kevin R. Knupp.



The JOM publishes submissions in four categories: Article, Short Contribution, Images of Note and Commentary. The JOM is a peer-reviewed, all-electronic journal with an international scope, providing authors with the benefits of economical publication costs and rapid publication following acceptance.

[Click here for author information if you are interested in submitting a paper to the JOM.](#)

Thank you to the JOM authors, reviewers and editors for continuing to make JOM a success!

Figure 5 from JOM 2016-15: Cross section along the 310 to 130 azimuth of reflectivity (top, dBZ) and the wave-parallel component of the radial velocity (bottom, m/s) at 0637 UTC on April 13, 2009, from the Birmingham, Alabama, WSR-88D (KBMX).

Three New NWA seal holders

We congratulate these individuals on achieving their seal. [Click for more information on the seal of approval.](#)



Marla Branson is the weekday morning meteorologist at WMBF in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. After growing up in a small farming community in Arkansas, she set out for a career in journalism and enrolled at Ole Miss. But it was trying out for an anchor gig with the school's live newscast that she found a love for weather. Doing weather for the newscast opened her eyes to the skies and prompted her to pursue a master's degree in meteorology at Mississippi State, where she helped the school win the collegiate weather forecasting challenge championship. When she's not working, she enjoys making the most of living near the ocean, playing golf, and spending time with her husband and son.



Isaac Williams has been fascinated with the weather since he was 6-years-old, but it wasn't until recently he decided to pursue his meteorology career in front of the camera. He is the morning and midday meteorologist with WCBI in Columbus, Mississippi. Prior to that, he worked at WAAY in Huntsville and WVUA in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Williams is an honors graduate of the University of Alabama and holds a master's degree in geosciences from Mississippi State University, where he was a graduate teaching assistant in their broadcast meteorology program. He has been published in the NWA's Journal of Operational Meteorology. Outside of work, he enjoys playing piano and guitar as well as spending time with family.



Ted Phaeton is a native New Yorker now living in the South. He's the weekend meteorologist at Fox Carolina in Greenville, South Carolina, where he's getting buzz for more than his weather forecasting skills. He invited a friend to join him on the weather wall, where they cut loose and did a little dancing. Their first video garnered hundreds of thousands of views on Facebook. They said it was important for kids to see you can have fun and remain professional and classy. He told the Huffington Post, "to be able to dance and be myself and show that I am an authority and know my stuff when it comes to the weather. It's not ignoring what's going on, but it's combating it with positivity." Prior to Fox Carolina, he worked for WNEM-TV in Saginaw, Michigan, and interned for Your News Now in Albany, New York. He holds a degree in broadcast meteorology with a minor in geography from SUNY Albany. When Ted isn't at work, he enjoys cooking, rock climbing, snowboarding, and watching movies.



You're On Social Media... So Are We!



NEW NWA MEMBERS

Please welcome these members who joined the NWA in November 2016!

Regular Members:

Laura Bannon
Taylor Grenda
Lara Pagano
David Schaffer
Cam Tran
John Viscuso
Dorrell Wenninger

Student Members:

Kristopher Boone
Kimberly Frauhammer
Sherilyn Graham
Robert Haynes
Anthony Macari III
Grace Oconnell
Brendan Schaper
Bret Walts

Newsletter Submissions



We welcome articles from members. Send to: nwanewsletter@nwas.org by the 15th of the month for publication in the following month's edition at the earliest. Newsletter info and a link to author guidelines can be found at: nwas.org/newsletter/instructions-for-authors/.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NWA Sponsored Meetings, Conferences & Special Events in 2017

(Click titles for more information)

[March 10-12: 42nd Northeastern Storm Conference](#)

Saratoga Springs, New York

[March 30-April 1: 21st Severe Storms & Doppler Radar Conference](#)

Ankeny, Iowa

[Spring: Southeast Severe Storm Symposium](#)

Starkville, Mississippi

[September 16-21: NWA 42 Annual Meeting](#)

Garden Grove, California

[October 25-27: FLASH Annual Conference](#)

Atlanta, Georgia

Other Meetings, Conferences & Special Events in 2017

[January 21: AMS Short Course: Experiencing JPSS Capabilities](#)

Seattle, Washington

[January 22-26: AMS 97th Annual Meeting*](#)

Seattle, Washington

* NWA members who are not AMS members can register at a "Cosponsoring Society Member Rate" to receive a discounted registration.

[February 13: Disaster Symposium](#)

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

[February 14-15: National Tornado Summit](#)

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

[February 17-19: ChaserCon](#)

Denver, Colorado

[April 5-9: National Tropical Weather Conference](#)

South Padre Island, Texas

[April 17-20: National Hurricane Conference](#)

New Orleans, LA

[Click for more events and professional development opportunities.](#)

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Editor and Publisher:

Janice Bunting, NWA Executive Director

Communications Coordinator:

Hulda Johannsdottir, NWA

Technical Editor: Winnie Crawford

Assistant Editor: Brett Borchardt

Student Intern: Grant Tosterud

Design/Layout: Mollie Doll,

[Treefrog Resources](#)

Published monthly by the National Weather Association, 3100 Monitor Drive, Suite 123, Norman OK 73072
phone: (405) 701-5167;
exdir@nwas.org; www.nwas.org.

Submit newsletter items to nwanewsletter@nwas.org using the Instruction for Authors at: nwas.org/newsletter/instructions-for-authors/.

Members receive the Apex award-winning Newsletter online and access to an online portal which includes the Journal of Operational Meteorology as part of their regular, student or corporate membership privileges.

Address, phone number, email and affiliation changes can now be made online: member.nwas.org.

