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

## Important Dates

- **March 15:** Deadline for submitting abstracts to the 41st Annual Meeting (see page 6)
- **March 31-April 2:** 20th Annual Severe Storms & Doppler Radar Conference
- **Sept. 10-15:** 41st NWA Annual Meeting (see page 6)

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

## Scholarship/Grant opportunities from NWA Chapters

- President's Message
- Special Volunteers
- February Webinar
- Student Presentation Award Winners
- JOM Update
- Chapter News
- Call for Abstracts and General 41st Annual Meeting Info
- Annual Meeting Hotel Info
- Newsletter Writers Needed
- Meteorological Satellite Applications Awards Grant
- New NWA Members
- NWA Committee Chairs
- Professional Development and Events
- Survey Prize Winners

## NWA Annual Awards Program

We invite you to nominate individuals, teams or organizations whose outstanding efforts in operational meteorology and related sciences deserve special recognition.

Nominations are now being accepted through June 13 for the 2016 NWA Annual Awards. (Please note that the deadline is earlier this year than previous years).

Click for the Award Nomination Form

The bylaw proposal passed making the Vice President position a two-year term.

## Election Results

Congratulations to the new officers and councilors, and thanks to all the candidates!
The National Weather Association is proud to introduce our newest NWA Seal holders: Felicia Combs and Belen de Leon.

Felicia Combs is making an exciting move back to her home state of Florida in January after providing forecasts, fun and frivolity each morning for the Ozarks region of Missouri. Beginning in 2016 she will be part of the morning team on WPTV/WSLX in West Palm Beach.

Felicia has most recently served as the morning meteorologist at KYTV in Springfield, Missouri. Prior to that she worked for 2 1/2 years in Macon, Georgia, as the weekday morning weather anchor.

Felicia is now a proud holder of the NWA Broadcast Seal of Approval. She earned her degree in broadcast journalism from the University of Central Florida and a degree in meteorology from Mississippi State University. While in college in Orlando, Felicia interned at some of the top stations in the city.

Belen De Leon is the weekend meteorologist at KUSA in Denver, Colorado. She grew up in the small border town of Roma in South Texas and was a performer at an early age, participating in band, choir, drama, and mariachi. Right out of high school, she joined a regional Mexican band named La Onda and signed a record deal with Capital EMI. The group recorded four albums and traveled the U.S., Mexico, and even South America performing to sold-out crowds.

Belen made a dramatic career change in August 2007, accepting the position as a weather forecaster for the local Univision and Fox affiliates. She later joined KUSA in February 2012 as the weekend forecaster. She’s been nominated as one of America’s Favorite Weather Forecasters through Weatherist. One of her biggest accomplishments while in Denver has been becoming a certified meteorologist through Mississippi State University in August 2013. And now she has earned the NWA Broadcast Seal of Approval.

Belen is also a wife and mom. She’s always looking for a good trail to hike with her husband and enjoys dance parties in the living room with her three young boys. But on air, if viewers are lucky, she might spontaneously belt out a song during her forecasts.

Hearty congratulations to these two newest Seal holders. Their dedication to excellence is herein recognized as they enter a company of professionals who hold the highest standards of broadcast meteorology. It is a mark of distinction and credibility that sets them apart from others.

Scholarship/Grant Opportunities from NWA Chapters

The Central Iowa NWA Chapter offers the Annual Pam Daale Memorial Scholarship
- The scholarship amount is $1750.
- The deadline is in February.

The Memphis, Tennessee, Chapter of the AMS/NWA
- For Memphis area students.
- The scholarship amount is $500.
- The deadline is in May.

The NWA would like to sincerely thank everyone for their generous contributions in the year 2015.

These donations help support the general operations of the NWA along with supporting our grant and scholarship programs.

The NWA also thanks attendees at the 40th Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City for their participation in the golf outing, forecast contest and other contributions that directly benefited the scholarship funds.
President’s Message
By Dave Freeman

"The only thing harder than predicting the atmosphere is predicting humans!" was my frequent reminder to my oldest son as he earned a master’s degree in economics. But the joke was on good ol’ Dad: it turns out that the American weather enterprise is having to give greater and greater attention to the human factor in warnings and forecasts. It is no longer enough for us to sit on the mountaintop dispensing meteorological wisdom. For our service to be effective, we have to learn more about the science of communication.

So this is my invitation and challenge to all of us who make up the National Weather Association in 2016: Better Science, Better Communication, Better Results. The foundation, of course, is the NWA’s long history of encouraging research that is operationally oriented. The NWA is the place where the rubber meets the road, where operational forecasters research the problems and challenges they encounter in daily work, and where they share their learning to help others provide better service. I can’t tell you how many times I have come away from the NWA Annual Meeting and immediately put new ideas and knowledge to use in my work.

But one thing many of us have learned is that the best warning, or the best forecast, in the world does no good if it is not understood and acted upon by the people we serve. The NWA has been at the forefront of welcoming colleagues from the social sciences into our big tent. Just as our knowledge of atmospheric processes is constantly expanding, we need to exhibit the same spirit of learning in effective communication. There are some major initiatives underway right now that demonstrate this commitment, including the National Weather Service’s Hazard Simplification program. I firmly believe that this is the time for meteorologists to model the spirit of collaboration with our social science colleagues, each learning from the other.

A wise person once suggested at an NWA Annual Meeting that the effectiveness of any warning, in the end, is measured by whether people got the message and took appropriate action. That’s where Better Results come in. Most operational meteorologists I know take it personally to some degree when a weather disaster takes lives. We know we can’t save every person, every time, and we don’t like it. But if we rise to the challenge of constantly improving our understanding of the science of meteorology, while incorporating the social sciences, we can achieve Better Results for the people we serve.

Welcome to another exciting year of learning, collaboration and progress in the National Weather Association.
The winners of the best student presentations were announced at the NWA Awards Luncheon during the 40th Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, October 21, 2015.

**First Place Undergraduate Student Poster Presentation**

**Lynnette E. Grant**
Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana

The Color Conundrum: The Many Variations of One Watch or Warning

**Second Place Undergraduate Student Poster Presentation**

**Brett Borchardt**
University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma

Operational Uses of Spectrum Width to Improve Warnings for Quasi-Linear Convection in the Western Great Lakes

**Third Place Undergraduate Student Poster Presentation**

**Benjamin C. Trabing**
University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma

Lightning Activity in 2014 Atlantic Tropical Cyclones

**Best Undergraduate Student Oral Presentation**

**Matthew J. Bolton**
Pasco-Hernando State College, Dade City, Florida

Learning Disorders and the Meteorological Community: Implications for Communication and Education

**First Place Graduate Student Poster Presentation**

**Robert A. Clark III**
University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma

Towards Hazard Services Recommenders for Flash Flood Forecasting

**Second Place Graduate Student Poster Presentation**

**Galateia Terti**
University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma

Target the Warnings: Probabilistic Flash Flood Casualties Prediction

**Third Place Graduate Student Poster Presentation**

**William G. Blumberg**
University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma

Insights Regarding the Use of Ground-Based Spectral Infrared Thermo-dynamic Sounders in Forecasting Deep Convection

**Best Graduate Student Oral Presentation**

**Katie A. Bowden**
University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma

Eye-Tracking During the Forecaster Warning Decision Process: A Pilot Experiment
This month marks the three-year anniversary of the JOM. In January 2013 the NWA Digest and the NWA EJOM merged into the all-electronic journal. Articles are available free of charge. Published by the NWA, JOM covers topics relevant to all aspects of operational meteorology on a range of time and space scales.

During these three years the JOM has had a total of 58 publications. The JOM transitioned to an open access journal earlier this year. As such, all articles are available free of charge. Published by the NWA, JOM covers topics relevant to all aspects of operational meteorology on a range of time and space scales.

There are four categories of JOM publications: Article, Short Contribution, Images of Note and Commentary.

Suitable topics include new or improved forecasting and warning techniques, verification studies, applications of observations and models to improve forecasts and warnings, and case studies of major weather events. Climatological studies, interdisciplinary studies, and studies documenting education and training practices also will be considered if relevant to operational meteorology. In addition, the editors welcome submissions that present strategies for the creation and dissemination of forecasts and warnings that maximize the protection of life and property.

JOM is a peer-reviewed journal with an international scope, providing authors with the benefits of economical publication costs and rapid publication following acceptance.

Thank you to the JOM authors, reviewers and editors for continuing to make JOM a success. Visit the JOM page for more information about JOM and instructions on how to submit articles.

The NWA High Plains Chapter had 20 members teleconference Dec. 9. The brief meeting began with a business discussion with no new information on the High Plains Conference for next year in North Platte, but a few ideas have been discussed and committees have been established. We submitted applications for chapter of the year to the AMS and NWA. No other new or old business was discussed.

This month’s presentation was from Greg Carbin, the Warning Coordination Meteorologist of the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma. His presentation was on his top 10 weather events of 2015. A few days before the meeting, Greg informed the chapter that he would be working midnights during the time he was going to present and decided to record a YouTube presentation for us to watch at our leisure. Each office, and other participants, watched the presentation after the meeting was adjourned.

The events, not in any particular order, consisted of the following.

1. The Boston winter snowstorm, Jan. 26-28
2. The low number of watches issued during the winter months January-March
3. Did El Nino affect the amount of severe storms during April-July?
4. The Fairdale, Illinois, EF4 tornado April 9
5. May, the wettest month on record
6. The Western U.S. continued heat and drought
7. The Western U.S. wild fires due to heat and drought
8. Deadly flash flooding in southern Utah, Sept. 14
9. Hurricane Joaquin and rainfall across South Carolina in early October
10. High Plains tornado outbreak Nov. 16

The next meeting is scheduled for early February.
Location: Norfolk, Virginia

41st NWA Annual Meeting Venue and Hotel:
Norfolk Waterside Marriott, 235 East Main Street, Norfolk, VA 23510

Theme: Better Science, Better Communication, Better Results

Operational meteorologists constantly strive to improve the science behind
the forecast. We also want to make sure the people we serve receive,
understand and then act on the information that we provide. If we utilize
the best possible science and are effective communicators, lives will be
saved and impacts to the economy minimized. Join the National Weather
Association in Norfolk and help the weather enterprise advance on this path
of service.

Important Dates in 2016

- Abstract Submission Deadline: March 15
- Oral and Poster Presenters Notified: April 15
- Preliminary Agenda Posted On-line: July 1
- 2016 NWA Annual Meeting: September 10-15

Schedule of Events

- Broadcast Meteorology Workshop: Sunday, September 11
- Ninth Annual Student Session including Speed Mentoring: Sunday,
  September 11
- General Sessions: Monday-Thursday, September 12-15
- NWA Annual Awards Luncheon: Wednesday, September 14

Abstract Submission

Submit abstracts for oral and poster presentations by March 15, 2016

In addition to the traditional sessions on severe weather, weather and
forecasting, etc., the Program Committee is specifically soliciting abstracts
which relate to one of the following sub-themes:

- Coastal Flooding, Storm Surge and Sea Level Rise
- Integration of New Technology (Dual-pol, GOES-R/JPSS, MYRORSS,
  Proving Ground, FACETS)
- Advances in Numerical Weather Prediction (Warn-on-Forecast,
  Storm-Scale Ensembles)
- Innovations in Communicating High-Impact Weather Events (Social
  Media, Commercial Services, Simplification)
- Case Studies of High-Impact Events
- Weather Support for the Armed Forces

Abstracts should be sent via the on-line form on the NWA website at: 2016
NWA Annual Meeting Abstract Submission Form. If you are unable to submit
your abstract via the on-line form, please contact the NWA office at 405-701-5167 or e-mail: nwahelp@nwas.org.

The Program Committee will notify presenters, via e-mail, regarding the
disposition of their abstracts by April 15. A preliminary agenda will be
posted on the NWA website by early July for presenters to review.

Students, please complete the abstract submission form section regarding
student awards. If you concur, your presentations will be reviewed by the
NWA Weather Analysis and Forecasting Committee members. Monetary
awards will be presented to the best oral presentations and posters in
undergraduate and graduate student categories.

The Annual Meeting Program Committee
Co-Chairs are:

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annualmeeting2016@nwas.org

Mike Vescio
NOAA National Weather Service
Pendleton, OR 97801
annualmeeting2016@nwas.org

The Broadcaster Workshop Program Chair:

Mike Goldberg
WTVR-TV
Richmond, VA 23230
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Additional Information

For more information on exhibits, special
accommodations, registration and the overall
meeting program, keep checking the 2016
Annual Meeting Page and its links, or contact
the NWA office: 405-701-5167 or nwahelp@nwas.org.

NWA will provide updates on this Web page,
on the NWA Facebook Page, Twitter and
other social media. Please use the hashtag
#NWAS16 for any tweets associated with the
2016 Annual Meeting.
41st NWA Annual Meeting,
Hotel Details

Meeting Venue and Hotel: Norfolk Waterside Marriott, 235 East Main Street, Norfolk, VA 23510

(Reprinted from the Marriott website: http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/orfws-norfolk-waterside-marriott/)

Reservations may be made online or by call 1-800-874-0264 and tell you’re attending the National Weather Association meeting.

The room block is open until August 17, 2016, or until the NWA block is full.

Hotel rates are as follows:
Number of Guests 1-4
Nightly Rate Before Tax: $87.00

- Prices listed are per night and do not include tax or fees. The current tax rate is 14% and/or $2.00 per room night occupied. Rates are subject to change.

- When requesting the room, they will ask how many will occupy the room. This will enable them to provide the correct type of room for the number of guests. (i.e., one bed vs. two beds). Rooms with two double beds cannot be guaranteed in advance unless this request appears as confirmed on your reservation.

- All reservation requests will require a credit card or a one night deposit, to guarantee the room. Any deposits will be refunded for rooms canceled more than 72 hours prior to scheduled arrival. If you do not check into the hotel on your scheduled arrival date and do not cancel more than 72 hours in advance, one (1) room night cost will be charged to the credit card used to guarantee the room.

- Name changes to room reservations may be made up to one day prior to arrival.

- Check-in is available after 4 p.m. on arrival day; check-out is at 11 a.m.

- Complimentary Internet in all NWA attendee guest rooms.

- The hotel has a smoke-free policy.

Additional Information

- Reduced overnight Self-Parking of $14 (Main Street garage only). A 6% tax will apply.

- Valet parking is available for $26/day for hotel guests.

- Taxi rides between the airport and hotel average around $30. The hotel does not provide shuttle service.

The meeting sessions will be held at the hotel. Visit Norfolk has more info restaurants, transportation and activities in the Norfolk area.
NEW NWA MEMBERS

Please welcome these members who joined the NWA in December 2015!

Commissioner of Committees:
(non-voting, appointed member of the NWA Council)
Kenneth (Ken) Carey

2016 Annual Meeting Program Co-Chairs:
Kenneth (Ken) Carey
Michael Vescio

Aviation Meteorology Committee:
Jim Reynolds

Awards Committee:
Jeffry Evans

Broadcast Meteorology Committee:
Nate Johnson

Seal Committee Chair:
Josh Rubenstein

Digital Seal Evaluation Board members:
John Hart
Mike Mogil
Bill Murray
Larry Rice
Dr. Bohumi Svoma

Seal Evaluation Board members:
Spencer Adkins
Justin Chambers
Corey Christiansen
James Paul Dice
Crystal Egger
Fidel “Phil” Ferro
Jose M. Garcia Jr.
Rob Haswell

Seal Evaluation Board members continued:
Jason Nicholas
Byron Morton
Morgan Palmer
Mike Rawlins
Dr. Scott Rochette
Josh Rubenstein
Ben Schott
Tim Simpson
Benjamin E. Smith
Roland Steadham
Keith Stellman
Tammie Souza
Chris Tomer
John Toohey-Morales
Ken Waters
Mike Witcher
Jennifer Zeppelin

Seal Recertification Chair:
Shawn Cable

Seal Testing Chair:
Dr. Pat Market

Seal Public Relations Chair:
Betsy Kling

Broadcast Meteorology Workshop Chair:
Mike Goldberg

Diversity Committee:
Faith Borden
Jennifer Hogan

Education Committee:
Jeffrey S. Tongue

Membership and Marketing Committee:
Shelby Hoppens
Bruce Jones

Nominating Committee:
Gail Hartfield

Professional Development Committee:
Trisha Palmer

Publications Committee:
Dr. Patrick Marsh

Remote Sensing Committee:
Dan Satterfield

Social Media Committee:
Trevor Boucher

Societal Impacts of Weather and Climate Committee:
Jen Henderson

Specialized Operational Services Committee:
Richard Okulski

Strategic Planning Committee:
Nezette Rydell

Weather Analysis and Forecasting Committee:
Dan Gallagher

Chairs’ contact info is at www.nwas.org/committees
We welcome Newsletter article submissions from members. Send articles by the 15th of each month to nwanewsletter@nwas.org for publication in the following month’s edition at the earliest. Information about the Newsletter and a link to author guidelines can be found at www.nwas.org/newsletters/.

NWA Sponsored Meetings, Conferences & Special Events in 2016

41st Annual Northeastern Storm Conference (NESC): March 4 - 6
To be at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs, New York.

21st TESSA National Storm Conference: March 5
Hosted by the Texas Severe Storms Association (TESSA) and co-supported by the North Texas Chapter of the AMS & NWA, presentations will include the December 2015 North Texas tornadoes, new generation above-ground storm shelters and Super Storm Spotter training. Free and open to the public, it will be in Colleyville, Texas.

20th Annual Severe Storms & Doppler Radar Conference: March 31-April 2
It will be in Ankeny, Iowa, at the Courtyard by Marriott.

41st NWA Annual Meeting: September 10-15
“Better Science, Better Communication, Better Results” is the theme of the 2016 Annual Meeting being held in Norfolk, Virginia. Operational meteorologists constantly strive to improve the science behind the forecast. We also want to make sure the people we serve receive, understand and then act on the information that we provide. If we utilize the best possible science and are effective communicators, lives will be saved and impacts to the economy minimized. Join the National Weather Association in Norfolk and help the weather enterprise advance on this path of service. Please see pages 6 & 7.

Other Meetings, Conferences & Special Events

National Weatherperson’s Day: February 5

National Tornado Summit: March 1-2
Held in downtown Oklahoma City, the National Tornado Summit improves disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery in order to save lives and property in the U.S. In addition, the summit serves as a national forum for insurance professionals and regulators as well as international, national and state experts to exchange ideas and recommend new policies to improve emergency management.

2016 National Earthquake Conference: May 4-6, 2016, Hilton Long Beach, California
Presentation ideas on preparedness, response, recovery, resilient communities and risk communication are being requested by Jan. 29.

Here are the randomly picked winners who took our Annual Meeting Survey:

Receiving $100 off of the registration fee to the 41st NWA Annual Meeting in Norfolk, Virginia:
Nina Jackson
Kevin Phelps
Damon Matson
Bernard Meisner
Chelsea Kryston
Zac Schweizer
Brooks Garner
Stephan Konarik

Receiving an NWA shirt:
Doug Meyers
Steven Fieegel
Patrick Burke
Mike Schichtel
Robert Clark

Receiving an NWA 40th Anniversary Mug:
Michael Eckert
David Pearson
Wendy Abshire
Matt Alto
John Troutman

NWA Newsletter
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Submit newsletter items to nwanewsletter@nwas.org using the Instruction for Authors at www.nwas.org/newsletters/newsletter_instructions.php.

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.

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