



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

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Newsletter SEPTEMBER

2013

Janice Bunting to Succeed Executive Director Steve Harned

The NWA Council has selected Janice Bunting to assume the executive director position when Steve Harned retires on March 1, 2014. She stated, "I am very honored and excited to serve the NWA in this role. I will work with the Council and members to ensure the NWA mission is met and that the association stays relevant for years to come."

A long-time member of the NWA, she is serving her second term as a Councilor and is a member of the Membership and Marketing (M&M) and Strategic Planning Committees. She is the facilitator for the NWA Communications Group and is a former member of the Publications Committee. From 2004-2011, Janice was the NWA Newsletter editor and contributing editor. As a member of M&M, she led efforts to promote NWA membership at several events.

A 1986 graduate of the University of Oklahoma with a bachelor's degree in meteorology, Janice began her career as a forecaster in the private sector first at Universal Weather and Aviation in White Plains, N.Y., and then at WeatherData, Inc., now AccuWeather Enterprise Solutions, Inc. in Wichita, Kan. In 1990 she started an 11-year National Weather Service (NWS) career as an intern at the NWS offices in Oklahoma City and Norman. From there she transferred to NWS Central Region Headquarters (CRH) and gained experience working with many of the program managers. While at CRH, she was promoted to the Environmental Support Meteorologist position overseeing the satellite and climate programs for the Region. In 1997, she became the Data Acquisition Program Manager at NWS Pleasant Hill/Kansas City, Mo. During the past decade, Janice stayed connected to meteorology and colleagues by working with other NWA members to complete projects for the NWA. She and her husband Bill reside in Norman with their dog Accas.



NWA Transitioning to a Permanent Home in Norman

Since the NWA was established in 1975, the tradition has been to move the NWA office to the hometown, and in some cases the home, of the executive director. Steve Harned's vision was to establish a store front for the office. This came to fruition when the NWA moved to an office building in Raleigh, N.C., in 2007. Since then, Steve, Assistant Executive Director Ruth Aiken and Administrative Assistant Margaret Baron have ably managed NWA business functions from Raleigh. Primarily through the vision and efforts of Ruth, many advancements

in operations and member services have been implemented since 2007. Most activities are now automated making it easier for members to pay dues, apply for scholarships, submit award nominations, and apply for the NWA Broadcaster's Seal of Approval.

When Steve announced his planned retirement to the NWA Council last year, several council members thought that this would be a good time to explore a permanent home for the NWA. As President Bruce Thomas announced in the August NWA Newsletter, the Council voted in June to pursue Norman, Okla., as that home. Negotiations are currently underway to secure office space in Norman and the location of the new office will likely be announced during the NWA 38th Annual Meeting in Charleston next month.

Starting in October, Steve, Ruth and Margaret will spend the next few months training Janice Bunting and other Norman staff on NWA business tasks. The Raleigh office will remain as the primary office into the spring of 2014. Even though Steve is retiring on March 1, 2014 (see the July NWA Newsletter), Ruth and Margaret will stay on for a few months until all functions are transferred to Norman.

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Central Alabama NWA Chapter Report

<http://groupspaces.com/CentralAlabamaNWChapter>

June Meeting

Mississippi State meteorology student Rachelle Thomason from Excelsior Spring, Mo., was one of four students who shadowed Bill Read during his June visit to speak to the Central Alabama NWA Chapter.

As a senior meteorology student, I was thrilled to learn that I would have the opportunity to journey around Alabama with the retired National Hurricane Center Director, Bill Read, on June 20, 2013. I had the pleasure of seeing his presentation given multiple times throughout the day to diverse groups of people. While his presentations were given to students, weather enthusiasts, broadcast meteorologists, emergency management officials, and NWS meteorologists, they all had the same message. His presentations highlighted past hurricanes, what he did as a director of NHC, and a list of some coastal cities that could experience their own version of Hurricane Sandy.

Bill talked about denial and decision-making when it came to major events such as Katrina and Sandy. He chose to highlight a few locations that could be impacted by such an event and also explained how coastal residents should be prepared. A few of the cities



Chapter President Tara Golden making announcements.



Bill Read speaking to the regular chapter meeting.

that Bill mentioned were Savannah, Ga., Charleston, S.C., and Jacksonville, Fla. If Savannah and Charleston experienced another Hugo, or an even larger storm, residents could face another storm surge of 20 feet or more. He also mentioned that locations in the Lower Rio Grande Valley and on the coast of Virginia are places that are at a high risk of being impacted by a significant storm.

In all of Bill's presentations, he stressed that in order to prevent another event such as Sandy from happening, the public needs to be educated and prepared for the worst. Residents need to know their risk based on their location and to be aware of past storms that have impacted their area as well. By providing a user-friendly storm risk assessment to a home or land purchaser, they will be aware of the potential dangers that could occur in the event of a large storm. As scientists, we also need to change the mindset of coastal residents that a storm such as Sandy has never happened before. The public needs to be educated about past storms and their effects on the areas in which they live.

With the majority of the U.S. population clustered along the coasts, we all need to be aware, educated and prepared about our next large storm potential.

If we make residents aware of their risk then we can educate them about

Social Event

The Central Alabama Chapter held a social at the Birmingham Barons baseball game on July 23, 2013. Twenty-four members attended along with a couple of guests. After an all-day rain, the weather cleared and it was a beautiful night in America's newest ballpark.

President's Message: North to Alaska –A Grand Adventure

There are a few times in your life that a grand adventure comes your way. My recent trip to Alaska for the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) annual meeting in Anchorage was just such an event. Let me take you back a few decades to the mid-1990s when a student from Texas A&M named Eddie called me to ask about visiting the station at KCEN TV6 in Temple, Texas, where I worked as the chief meteorologist. I agreed to his request and, after his visit, he started interning at the station when he was home on college breaks. During his visits we often spoke of the career fields available to meteorology graduates working at that time either in the broadcasting meteorology field, National Weather Service (NWS) or in military weather operations. During Eddie's sophomore year, the NWS advertised a paid summer internship program in the Alaskan Region and I encouraged Eddie to apply. He did and was accepted. This was a big step for a 20-year-old from Texas to travel alone to Alaska for the summer. Eddie found Alaska's rugged beauty really fit him well and went back each summer until his graduation. A hiring freeze was in place across the NWS, as it is today, when Eddie graduated from Texas A&M. But, because of his paid summer internships, he was already on the books as an NWS employee, so an exception was made and a fulltime position with the NWS in Alaska was offered and accepted. Eddie drove his old college car to Seattle, put it on a ferry and moved to Alaska. He joined a church, met a beautiful girl working in the church nursery and eventually married, realizing his American dream in Alaska.

Programs like the Government's Pathways Program, formerly the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP), and other internship programs are so very important to college



A view of the Knik Glacier from the plane on my recent trip to Alaska.

students that want to get their foot in the door for employment opportunities in their chosen career field. Going the extra mile, and in Eddie's case 4,000 miles between Central Texas and Alaska, really paid off for him. He and his wife now have a beautiful family, living and working in Alaska. This is why I greatly encourage students to attend our NWA Annual Meetings and find a mentor to help open up these opportunities and adventures that so many recent graduates are struggling to find. Don't wait until your senior year. Sign up for the speed mentoring session in Charleston and get started on your own life's adventure.

All the Best, and we hope to see you in Charleston!

Bruce Thomas, NWA President

High Plains AMS/NWA Chapter News

Bill Taylor, President

The High Plains Chapter of the American Meteorological Society (AMS)/NWA held a teleconference on Monday, July 15, at 2:30 p.m. There were 15 members dialed into this teleconference. The meeting was called to order and a short business meeting followed. After the meeting, a webinar presentation was given by Jeremy Wesely from the Hastings, Neb., NWS office. Jeremy's presentation was titled "Experimental Warning Program, What Does It Mean to the WFO?" Jeremy also shared some pictures from the Moore, Okla., EF5 tornado damage, taken from the damage survey he was invited to join while in Norman, Okla., for the Experimental Warning Program.

Rick Ewald, the Science Operations Officer at the Hastings, Neb., NWS office, shared that since the new NWS Director, Dr. Louis Uccellini, has indicated he will be promoting

Tim Burke, Secretary

more science sharing within the NWS, this may be a good sign for the Hastings NWS office to host the High Plains Conference next year. Also, future funding may support more face-to-face local meetings. Treasurer Scott Bryant of the Hastings, Neb., NWS office gave the chapter financial report and the balance of the Jim Johnson Scholarship fund. There was one payout of \$500 to the winner of Jim Johnson scholarship since the last meeting.

President William Taylor of the North Platte, Neb., NWS office, reminded everyone to pay their 2013 dues by the end of July by sending them to Treasurer Scott Bryant at the Hastings, Neb., NWS office. The next meeting will likely be in September.

<http://www.highplains-amsnwa.org/>

NWA Awards Seal of Approval to Nine recipients

The National Weather Association is now approaching its 40th year in existence. For most of that time, weather broadcasters who demonstrate superior ability on-air have had an opportunity to be recognized for excellence by being awarded the NWA Broadcaster's Seal of Approval. Chris Dunn, NWA Seal Chair, has presided over a number of applications since he took over the evaluation process in January. Not all candidates pass the rigorous exam and on-air scrutiny of five panelists, but many have.



This year's parade of excellent weather broadcasters started with **Justin Rudicel** in January, who became the 936th awardee since the NWA first honored seal holders in the summer of 1982. Justin works at KSWO in Lawton, Okla. He received his B.S. in meteorology from Ball State University. Justin is an amateur radio operator and has now produced five seasons of his hour-long severe weather documentaries. Good work.



Jason Engle provides weather coverage at News 12 networks on Long Island, N.Y., and received his NWA Seal in January as well. Jay has been around the block, with over a decade of service in the Number 1 media market. He received his B.S. in atmospheric science from Rutgers University and particularly enjoys winter weather in the Northeast. Keep an eye to the sky this winter.



Ellen Bacca is a May recipient of the NWA Seal. She works at WCTI serving Greenville, New Bern and Jacksonville, N.C. Ellen earned her B.S. in meteorology from Valparaiso University. She participated in a storm chasing class while in college and organized a regional meteorology conference. While working in Helena, Mont., she forecast the weather for 12 cities across the region. Today she enjoys forecasting in one of the most active weather regions of the country, eastern North Carolina. All storm tracks seem to converge on Ellen; it is a meteorologist's dream!



Alan Holt earned his NWA Seal in February this year and works in Corpus Christi, Texas at KIII-TV. Alan received a master's degree in broadcast meteorology from Mississippi State University. He has worked in San Antonio, and went to Casper, Wyo., before coming back south to Texas. He enjoys many community activities such as co-hosting the MDA Telethon and serving as a judge for the Miss Wyoming Pageant. He is very connected.

Sergio Gonzalez is a Spanish language broadcaster at Telemundo in Orlando, Fla. Sergio was born and raised in Bogotá, Colombia. He expressed interest in the arts from an early age and began to develop skills in the field of music, theater and media. Sergio started presenting weather in Orlando in 2005, also reporting on tsunamis, El Nino, global warming, tornadoes, hurricanes, solar storms, and more. He received the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association Media Award in 2011. Congratulations Sergio.

Ken Weathers was born with the perfect name for what he does, and now holds the NWA Seal of Approval. Ken has been with WATE in Knoxville, Tenn., for eight years. Ken earned his B.S. in atmospheric science from the University of North Carolina Asheville many years ago. He has extensive experience in severe weather coverage and documentary weather specials. Ken spent several years in Oklahoma City and was there for the first Moore, Okla., F-5 tornado in 1999. He has also worked with the Weather Channel radio network and freelanced at other Tennessee and North Carolina TV stations. Ken is a seasoned professional on which the viewers in Knoxville can depend.



Vicki Graf hails from WSOC in Charlotte, N.C., and has been in the business for five years. Originally earning her B.S. in applied meteorology from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, she quickly ascended to Chief Meteorologist at WDHN in Dothan, Ala.. Vicki would next spend 2 ½ years in Augusta, Ga. She is frequently involved in community activities, school visits, and public appearances. Today, in Charlotte, she is committed to educating children about weather and severe weather safety.

Frank Waugh does weather in South Bend, Ind., at WNDU. He received his NWA Seal in May and holds a B.S. degree in atmospheric science from the University of Kansas. Frank won the Program of the Year award for his “Tornado Warning” special that aired in 2009. He also won the Indiana AP Outstanding Weather Operation Award in 2010 and again in 2011. Plus all of that, he was an Eagle Scout. Quite a guy!



Finally, **Lissette Gonzalez** recently earned her NWA Seal in July. Lissette graduated from the University of Miami with a double major in broadcast journalism and music. She completed the three-year Broadcast Meteorology program at Mississippi State University, making straight-A's and passing the exam with honors. Today, she is the morning and noon weathercaster at WFOR in Miami. Prior to that, Lissette was the evening weathercaster at KTLA in Los Angeles. “Her bright smile, charismatic personality, and ease in delivering the weather in a simple yet thorough manner make it easy for Gonzalez to connect with her viewers,” said the Miami New Times as she won Best Meteorologist of 2013. A success story to be sure.

It is a great pleasure to welcome each of these fine broadcasters into the company of NWA members who have crafted a professional weather presentation through diligence and hard work. Today, they are part of an august group of men and women who illustrate the benchmark of excellence by their example.

New NWA Members in July & August 2013

Regular/Military/Retired

Mark Baden
Christopher F. Blossom
Chris Bradley
Joseph Dames
Brandon M. Drake
Lauren Fahrenkrug
William A. Gallus
Petrit J. Hasa
Bouchillou Jean-Pierre
Reuben Kast
Alana M. Nehring
Carlos G. Nieves
Theodore Richard Pea
Tony Rice
Walt Robinson
Damon Singleton
Gerald D. Sullivan
Sean P. Terry
Chris White

Students

Alyssa Bates
Patrick J. Blust
Stephanie A. Bonney
David M. Caulfield
Austin Fernandes
Alexander Forbes
Chelsae Fullilove
Christopher A. Gerlach
Nicholas S. Grondin
Tyler Heckstall
Molly Herm
Rob Howlett
Aaron Kaulfus
Rachael Kroot
Noah Lock
Haili J. Matlock
David S. Nevius
Nathan Owen
Kathryn A. Shawkey
Erik Taylor
Isaac Williams
Cameron Young

Continuing the Salute to Sol: Twenty Years of the NWA Sol Hirsch Education Fund Grants

By: Eleanor Vallier-Talbot
Co-Chair, NWA Education Committee

An article in the April NWA Newsletter described the background and accomplishments of the man behind our education grants: Sol Hirsch. This article continues by describing these grants and the benefits they have provided to educators across the country. Since the first grant was awarded to an educator from Sam Houston High School in Lake Charles, La., in 1993, the NWA has continued a wonderful tradition of awarding Sol Hirsch Education Fund grants to weather educators across the U.S. From the multitude of school systems to education efforts at institutions like the Punxsutawney Weather Museum in Pennsylvania and the Pink Palace Museum in Tennessee, the goal is the same. The mission of these grants is to bring weather education to our next generation of scientists and meteorologists through programs geared toward young students. So far, the NWA Sol Hirsch Education Fund Grants have been awarded to 109 schools and educational institutions in 31 states and the Northern Mariana Islands since 1993, totaling \$59,500. All these funds, 100 percent, are funded by you, the NWA membership, through your generous donations to the grant program.

As we learned in the April NWA Newsletter article, Sol dedicated his life and career to meteorology. He was a founding member of the NWA and was one of two presenters at the very first NWA Annual Meeting, held at Andrews Air Force Base in 1976. Sol's interest in the NWA remained strong after retiring from the workforce and, when acting Executive Director Randy Racer was ready to retire from this position, Sol became the first full-time Executive Director in 1981. During Sol's 12-year tenure, he vigorously stressed public education through various awareness and training programs so that the citizenry could be weather wise, as well as continuing education for operational

meteorologists. He was also the long serving NWA Education Committee Chairman, and continues as Education Committee Chair Emeritus. When Sol decided to retire in 1993, the Council and Executive Board wanted to honor his many years of service to the NWA. They felt it was fitting to establish an education grant, specifically targeted toward K-12 education, named after Sol. This is how the NWA Sol Hirsch Education Fund Grants were born.

It has been my honor and privilege to contact the recipients each year as NWA Education Committee Co-Chair, once they are determined by the committee members' review of applications each year. Over the six years that I have contacted each recipient by phone, one theme is abundantly clear. They are grateful that this program exists to provide assistance to bring weather education to the classrooms and educational institutions across the country. More so, they give their heartfelt thanks to the NWA membership for their continued financial support of this program.

Sol Hirsch Education Fund Grant trivia:

Of the 109 recipients, Florida has received the most with 15, including three schools in Jacksonville. California is in second place with 10 recipients, followed by North Carolina (9), New York (8) and Pennsylvania (7). Our 49th and 50th states both had their first recipients in 2009, in Gustavus, Alaska, and Lihue, Hawaii.

(The author would like to thank NWA Executive Director Steve Harned and NWA Executive Director Emeritus Kevin Lavin for their assistance in writing this article.)

COMET News

Wendy Schreiber-Abshire, COMET Senior Project Manager/Meteorologist

New MetEd publications this quarter span many topic areas, including aviation, satellite meteorology, tropical meteorology, forecasting, and tools and dynamics. Please visit www.meted.ucar.edu for more information about each release or click the title below.

Aviation:

- Weather Decision Support for the National Airspace System
- Regional Study Guide: Review for Aeronautical Forecasters in Africa

Satellite Meteorology:

Inferring Three Dimensions for Water Vapour Imagery

Tropical Meteorology:

- Tropical Mesoscale Convective Systems
- Tropical Synoptic Meteorology Curriculum Package

Forecasting/Climatology:

Climatology for the Operational Forecaster

Tools and Dynamics:

- Tephigram Mastery
- Nighttime Radiation and Cooling of the Lower Atmosphere
[This is not a module, it is an interactive learning object]

These modules are now updated:

- Monitoring the Wildland Fire Cycle, 2nd Ed.
- Advanced Satellite Sounding: The Benefits of Hyperspectral Observation
- 2nd Ed. RGB Products Explained

High-Impact Weather Communications: Finding Calm in the Eye of the Storm

NWA 38th Annual Meeting: October 12-17, 2013, in Charleston, S.C.

It's less than a month away! Register now for the meeting at <http://nwas.org/meetings/nwa2013/> and pay at the meeting (walk-in registrations will also be accepted). Don't miss the professional development, science-sharing and networking opportunities including these planned events (a full list is at the above site):

- o Broadcast Meteorology Workshop & DVD Swap
- o Student Session with Speed Mentoring & DVD Swap
- o Panel discussions: "Advancing NOAA Climate Science and Services" and "Storm Chasing: Do the Rewards Outweigh the Risks?"
- o Social Media Workshop
- o Professional Development Session – "Building Trust"
- o Exhibit Hall
- o Women's Luncheon
- o NWA Annual Awards Presentations at the Awards Luncheon
- o Golf Outing to raise funds for NWA scholarships (see page 8)

Platinum Sponsor



Annual Meeting Social Media Sites:
<https://www.facebook.com/NWAS2013>
<https://twitter.com/nwas13> (#nwas13)
<http://nwa2013blog.nwas.org/>



There was great participation at the 2012 interactive session (pictured). Lots of exciting exchanges and dialogue!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2013 NWA sponsored Annual Meetings, Conferences and Special Events

Oct. 12-17: The 38th NWA Annual Meeting

Will be held in Charleston, S.C. at the North Charleston South Carolina Convention Center with the meeting hotel being the Embassy Suites located next door. <http://www.nwas.org/meetings/nwa2013/>

Oct. 28-29: Eight Annual Northern Plains Winter Storm Conference (2013NPWSC)

It will be held at St. Cloud State University in Saint Cloud, Minn. Abstracts are due 4 October. The Central Minnesota NWA Chapter at SCSU is a sponsor. <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/ahs/npwsc/default.asp>

Other Meetings, Conferences and Special Events in 2013

Oct. 22-23: 14th Northeast Regional Operational Workshop (NROW)

It will be at the CSTEM Auditorium, on the University at Albany Campus. Co-sponsored by the National Weather Service Office at Albany, New York, and the Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences (DAES), University at Albany. <http://www.weather.gov/aly/NROW14>

Feb. 2-6, 2014: 94th AMS Annual Meeting

The theme of the 2014 AMS Annual Meeting is "Extreme Weather—Climate and the Built Environment: New Perspectives Opportunities and Tools." <http://annual.ametsoc.org/2014/index.cfm/programs-and-events/theme/>

Feb. 8, 2014: 2014 National Storm Conference

A full day of presentations from some of the top severe weather experts in the country. Storm spotters, chasers, forecasters, researchers, emergency managers and others gather at the conference for a day of learning and fun. It's free and open to the public, so come and join us for the biggest event in Tornado Alley! <http://www.tessa.org/meeting.html>

Newsletter Submissions

We welcome Newsletter article submissions from members. Send articles to nwanewsletter@nwas.org by the 25th of the month for publication in the following month's edition at the earliest. Information about the Newsletter and a link to author guidelines is below.

<http://www.nwas.org/newsletters/>



Please join us for the

11th Annual

NWA

Scholarship Golf Outing

Saturday, October 12
Noon BBQ Lunch
1PM Shotgun start

Legend Oaks Golf Club
Summerville, SC

\$85 per player
Includes: BBQ lunch, greens fees,
cart & donation to scholarship fund

Reserve your individual or team spot -
email: betsytding@wkyc.com

Presented by:

BARON



IMPORTANT DATES

Oct. 12-17
38th NWA Annual Meeting
Charleston, S.C.

Oct 28-29
Northern Plains Winter Storm Conference
St. Cloud, Minn.

See page 7 for additional dates and professional development opportunities!

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Members receive the Newsletter on-line and access to an on-line 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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