

American Meteorological Society (AMS) - St. Louis Chapter Meeting

Thursday, November 19th, 2009

Location: Lotawata Creek Southern Grill, Fairview Heights, IL

Call-to-Order: 8:00 pm

Members in Attendance: 31

Board Members in Attendance:

Dr. Charles Graves – President

Allison Wreath – Treasurer

Benjamin Sipprell – Secretary

Chad Gravelle – Webmaster

Introductions - Dr. Charles Graves

Introductions and welcome to the AMS November Meeting

Treasurer's Report – Allison Wreath

Savings:	\$464.92 (\$2.70 dividend)		
Checking:	\$737.91		
		Deductions:	\$630.00 (Favazza's Dinner)
		Deposits:	\$675.00 (Dinner reimbursement and dues)
	\$782.91		
Grand Total:	\$839.91 (note: 1 new member added)		

Treasurer Notes:

Tax exempt status filed with Missouri and Illinois

Old Business

Dues for the year are \$20 for all members, \$5 for students

NWA Conference on October 7th

Conference in Norfolk, VA

Several SLU students and professors in attendance

Chad Gravelle awarded best oral presentation

Another graduate student, Ruth, won 2nd in the poster presentation

NWA conference next year will be in the first week of October in Tuscon, AZ

Coupled with SLS conference during the last week of October in Denver, CO

Winter Weather Workshop held on November 7th

Coordination between NWS LSX Forecast Office and SLU

Around 40 people in attendance

New Business

Vice President position remains open

Andy Kron, a SLU Masters student, has volunteered for the position

Members voted, all approved of the measure of accepting Andy as the new Vice President

Next Meeting: December 15th

Steve Drewes – Vice President and Senior Forecaster

Works for insurance company that insures insurers for weather disasters

Conducts damage surveys and will be presenting results

Conflicts exist between NOAA and the AMS concerning the choosing of speakers
Unclear on the issue ... needs to be resolved

Chris Higgins

Not so sure about visiting the TV studio with the AMS group as both Fox and CW11 share the same studio
Feels that Saturday night would be the best opportunity

Speaker – Mike Squires

Development of new snowstorm indices
Bridging the gap of weather, science and societal impacts

Northeast Snowfall Impact Scale (NESIS)
Area of snow, amount and population taken into consideration
Getting at the societal impacts

Quality control ... exploratory data analysis
Reliable, robust, reputable data (eliminating the bad data)
All data is considered correct until proven otherwise

Thresholds made in summation equation of area and population
Different between the Northeast and Southeast, for example

Indices based on population, which is based on Census data
Indexes developed give weight to snowstorms
Driven by snow amounts
Relative contributions to index (higher snowfall amounts, higher index)

Objective: moving from Regional index to National
Again, societal impacts, historical perspectives, local effects taken into account
How well was the event forecast?
Was it in the middle of the night, or during rush hour?

Goal: the use of other researchers, policy makers, and the general public
Hope is to apply snowfall amount impacts to interstates, railroads, etc.
Puts value and weight to importance and impact of snow storm

Great for planning and understanding risk
Having a relational database from the data for queries
E.g., "Number of Hospitals Affected by Snowfall Above a Specific Threshold"

Issues: looking for other users and interested parties
Making a permanent dataset
Archiving media reports

Goal with SLU: linking analogs to societal impacts

Meeting Adjourned: 9:32 pm