

Celebrating a Century of Success - AMS

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In mid-January 2020, the American Meteorological Society celebrated its centennial and also hosted the IFMS Global Meeting #6 (IGM-06). Over 5,000 people attended the AMS' grand celebration which had a nice amalgamation of science through presentations and celebration with a number of grand parties.

I would like to congratulate AMS for its awesome progress over the past century growing from 600 members to over 13,000 members and more than 70 staff. Here are some of my observations. AMS did not become such a strong organization just by wishing it; it happened with meticulous planning, open mindedness, and adjusting itself to grow with the need of time.

Today, AMS is the strongest National Meteorological Society and an envy of all Meteorological Societies of the world. With its stewardship of science through conferences, journals, bulletins, special topical meetings, etc. it has been able to grow strongly and make a valuable contribution to the Global Weather Enterprise. Its strength, in my view, comes from the strong contribution it makes to the profession, support it receives from Public, Academic and Private sectors and its willingness to adopt to emerging situations. Knowing that government funding is not increasing much despite Global Warming and its adverse effects and the private sector is developing very fast, certainly in the US and also in many other countries, AMS works hard in promoting PPA Collaboration implicitly and explicitly. Whereas, before the "Fair Weather Report" in 2003, there was a strong conflict between the three sectors, thereafter, the three sectors are collaborating with each other and AMS has been providing the neutral forum to them to resolve any conflicts.



Whereas, most of the other National Meteorological Services are reluctant to adopt to this new reality, the Director of NWS, Dr. Louis Uccellini, is promoting PPA collaboration in various forums and enunciating its benefits. Due to its strength and visibility, AMS attracts high quality volunteers and we had the benefit of having two of the best, Dr. Timothy Spangler and Dr. Walter Dabberdt, give presentations in IGM-06 on the Global Campus and Volunteerism, respectively.

AMS has already set a course for its second century which can be found at the following site:

<https://www.livingontherealworld.org/ams-second-century-countdown-five-new-starts/>

They plan to enhance and strengthen their existing programs to make a greater impact. Here is a summary of their second century initiatives extracted from the above site.

Assistance in Career enhancement & advancement of its members - a key benefit of membership in a professional society is access to **knowledge and opportunities for learning and networking**. *The AMS will also renew and extend its partnerships with academic institutions, other professional societies, and the industry, whilst encouraging an agile mindset of lifelong learning from its members.*

Local-collaboration networks. AMS recognizes that one way to greatly grow its impact is by emphasizing local activities. Local assets start with AMS local chapters but also encompass universities, NWS offices, broadcasters, companies, high schools, active retirees, and more. *Effective local networking brings substantial benefit to each organization; in doing so, it expands AMS impact, builds value for AMS members, and potentially grows membership.*

AMS Volunteering Program (AMSVP) to offer opportunities for AMS members to apply their expertise and knowledge to the solution and mitigation of serious problems that confront worldwide communities and populations. *The purpose of the AMSVP is to promote opportunities for AMS members to make their expertise and experience available to non-profit and academic organizations worldwide and to facilitate service for the greater good.*

Partner-Organization Web. Expanded partnering helps AMS leverage its resources and grow its impact through organizational collaboration. The goal of the Centennial's Expanded Partnering initiative is to build AMS's partnering capacity in two ways:

- Greatly amplify the depth of collaboration possible with AMS' core partnerships;
- Significantly grow the number of partner organizations.

AMS can effectively interact with partner organizations at all levels of collaboration, leveraging technology to accomplish this efficiently. AMS benefits from the collaborations and from its international leadership in building the underlying platform technology.

Historical Research Network. The AMS Historical Research Network (HRN), coordinated by AMS, is a virtual and scalable network of historical information and resources linking multiple institutions that bridge the historical and meteorological communities. *AMS proactively supports projects that document and interpret the contributions of women and minorities. They also aim to identify issues of social relevance, preserve the historical record, and coordinate with educational and public outreach programs to reach new generations.*

A documentary showing the journey of AMS through the past 100 years is available on the following website:

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fkQOPESj4CE>).

Acknowledgement of some of those who have played a big role in the development of AMS

AMS acknowledged the contribution of Dr. Bill Gail (and his entire Centennial Committee and their extended network) for all their work in getting them to this 2020-moment. In addition, AMS recognized the great contribution made by their Executive Directors to bring them to where they are today:

- Dr. [Ken Spengler](#) (AMS executive director from 1946-1988; died 2010).
- Dr. [Richard Hallgren](#) (1988-1999)
- Mr. [Ronald McPherson](#) (1999-2004)
- Dr. [Keith Seitter](#) (2004- present).

Acknowledgement of Assistance to IFMS

AMS has been the strongest supporter and benefactor of IFMS for which we are sincerely thankful. AMS has hosted three IFMS Global Meetings out of 6 held till today:

1. The original one in 2008 in Atlanta where IFMS was conceived when Dr. Walter Dabberdt was the President,
2. The second one in 2015 in New Orleans in cooperation with CMOS where it was decided to formalize IFMS by incorporating it and creating a Council when Dr. Alexander E. MacDonald was the President,
3. The third one is the current one (2020) in Boston when Dr. Jenni L. Evans was completing her term as President and Dr. Mary M. Glackin was beginning her term.

We hope that AMS will keep supporting IFMS even after IFMS is able to support itself financially. AMS can jointly lead some of the Programs IFMS is interested in.