

AMS/NWA MEMPHIS CHAPTER 24 SEP 2019 MEETING MINUTES

1. A welcome to everyone for attending the first meeting of the 2019-2020 school year.
2. An introduction of officers was given, Tom Salem the President, Ned Savage the Vice-President and James Branda the Secretary/Treasurer.
3. The treasurer's report was read. This year's dues \$10.00 adults and \$5.00 students.
4. AMS yearly (national) membership dues for this year has changed based on your reported income with a minimum of \$35.00. See Tom for further details.
5. A quick recap of the recent NWA Conference in Huntsville, AL was discussed.
6. A vote was taken for the approval of \$120.00 towards the two-year subscription website renewal. All members voted yes.
7. The guest speaker was Dave Scholtzauer a hydrologist from the Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center (LMRFC) located in Slidell, LA. His presentation was titled "Connecting Hydrology with Meteorology- Forecasting a River." Dave first gave his background, earning an undergraduate degree in Bio-Engineering in Rolla, Missouri and then later going back to school after working a number of years with Emergency Management in Louisiana for his Master's in Meteorology at Mississippi State. Dave started his NWS hydrology career at the LMRFC in 2012. Dave stated that the general public doesn't always realize the hydrology component to meteorology, because most people think of storms to chase with large hail, high winds and tornadoes. But Dave sees rainfall in these intense storm systems and how it can turn into disastrous flooding. Just this year alone there had been extensive flooding on the Lower Mississippi River from April through July. He displayed historical rainfall from Hurricane Harvey and how rainfall not only affects people but the economy as well. Dave reminded folks of how important the hydrological cycle is in capturing river basin rainfall. Dave also showed a U.S. map breakdown of 13 different River Forecast Center's (RFC) and where the LMRFC fits in. The LMRFC responsibility covers areas from the Appalachian Mountains to the Arkansas and Red Rivers closer to home - 220,000 square miles covering 12 states. Their specific job is to issue precipitation, river stage and flood guidance based on hydrologic and hydraulic models. Their area has over 3000 gages with 240 forecast points. Just in the past year they have had over half of the 3000 gages in flood. Some unique flooding to the Mississippi River occurs when a tropical cyclone storm surge pushes north, sometimes as far as a hundred miles up the river from lack of elevation. He stated that with the Mississippi River being so large it needs a hydraulic model to forecast the height because there are so many variables besides just rainfall. Dave showed a few of their map products and explained how useful their 28-day outlook has become for the public, Coast Guard and Corps of Engineers. He stated that out in the western RFCs, satellite data is needed to supplement gage and radar data for an accurate forecast. Finally, they use 24 hour forecasted precipitation amounts for tributary river stages in their area of responsibility and 48 hour amounts for the Mississippi River.
8. The president thanked everyone for attending. Look for an announcement for the October/Fall lunch and the next meeting which is scheduled for 12 November.

Approved,
Tom Salem, President