

AMS/NWA MEMPHIS CHAPTER 14 NOV 2017 MEETING MINUTES

1. The president welcomed everyone for the second meeting of the 2017-2018 year.
2. The treasurer's report was given with total funds of \$1,212.97.
3. The president announced that if you haven't paid dues, please see the treasurer.
4. The president announced that our chapter is officially a Weather Ready Nation (WRN) Ambassador, which is defined as sharing weather information, promoting weather, and the use of the National Weather Service to receive weather.
5. The president stated that Mississippi State will be holding their 2018 Severe Weather Symposium the weekend of March 25-26 for all interested parties.
6. The president introduced the evening's guest speaker Zachery Maye. Zach is a meteorologist working at the NWS Memphis office. His presentation was titled "Drought Reporting and Mid-South Snow Intervals." Zach talked about the use of a new app called Drought Reporting Information, or DRI. The app was designed by the NWS and Mississippi State to monitor drought conditions and trends in the region. The information loaded into the app is also used by the Climate Prediction Center (CPC), other NOAA departments, the USDA, and the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC). Farmers benefit from the new data when seeking federal funding during severe drought conditions. Observers, many them area farmers and weather enthusiasts, provide location, photos, and a category of 1-5 when reporting drought conditions, along with a brief statement on whether conditions have stayed the same, improved or worsened. Zach plans on taking the app to the upcoming AMS national conference in Jan 2018. Zach went on to show snowfall return rates for the four largest cities in the Mid-South, to include Memphis, Tupelo, Jackson, and Jonesboro. He stated that the Memphis airport only sees a 10 inch or greater snowstorm every 47.3 years, and that the last one was in 1963 so they're overdue. Finally, Zach finished his presentation by showing the latest winter outlook with regards to temperature and precipitation due to the 65 to 75 percent chance of La Nina occurring. The Mid-South is likely to see above normal temperatures and has an equal chance on seeing above or below normal precipitation from December through February. A couple of questions were asked, with one being "How does the DRI app work in the southwest U.S. or on the drier High Plains?"
7. The president gave a final thanks to Zach and for those who attended, and wished everyone Happy Holidays. He stated the next meeting will be in mid-January.

Jim Branda, Secretary

Approved,

Tom Salem, President