

AMS-NWA Memphis Chapter

Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2023

Opening

The September business meeting of the AMS-NWA Memphis Chapter was called to order at 7:00pm on September 19, 2023 by President Dorian Burnette.

New Business

- Chapter officers for 2023-2024 were introduced: President Dorian Burnette, Vice President Mike Johnson, and Secretary/Treasurer Erik Proseus.
- The Treasurer's Report was given by Erik Proseus. As of August 31, the scholarship fund balance was \$604.01. The general checking account balance was \$1,138.46. Dues can be paid and scholarship donations made on our website (www.amsmemphis.org). Expenses included a scholarship check to Kristina Balentine of Palestine, AR and, after a membership vote of approval, website expenses for 2023-2025.

Presentation

Our speaker for the evening was Mike Johnson, Science and Operations Officer at NWS-Memphis. His presentation focused on this past summer's multiple rounds of severe weather and potential ties to El Niño. Mike showed how this summer, with a few episodes of severe wind storms that resulted in hundreds of thousands without power, was one of the busiest since 2011. 253 warnings for severe thunderstorms, tornados and flash flooding were issued by the MEG office, though most damage was from wind with more hail than usual in the summertime as well. This was driven by a pattern that features persistent troughing over the eastern U.S., putting the Mid-South in northwest flow more typical of the upper Midwest in summer. Mike reviewed the basics of the overall atmospheric patterns of El Niño/La Niña. He then compared this summer to 2009 and 2018, when La Niña was also transitioning to El Niño, and found that the warning count was elevated in each of those summers. A brief overview of the fall and winter months for each of those analog years, but it was determined that predictability for the coming months was low, other than potentially a depressed signal for severe weather. Finally, Mike recapped each of the four severe weather events from this summer, which included multiple MCS's with 70-90 mph wind that affected nearly all of Shelby County at one point or another.

Adjournment

After a question-and-answer period, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm by President Dorian Burnette.

Minutes submitted by: Erik Proseus, Secretary

Approved by: Dorian Burnette, President