

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Steve Weiss

As I begin my year as NWA President, I first of all sincerely thank all members for the opportunity to serve in this premier professional organization devoted to operational meteorology. Our membership spans all sectors of the weather and climate community including weather support services in government, military, private and academia; students and teachers; weather support users and weather enthusiasts. It is a sincere honor and privilege to be able to work with so many dedicated individuals interested in the same goals – the improvement of weather forecasting services and communication of critical information to enhance public safety, national security, growth of the national economy, and for quality of life.

I have been associated with the NOAA/NWS/NCEP Storm Prediction Center (formerly the National Severe Storms Forecast Center) for more than 30 years. In that capacity, I have witnessed numerous times the impacts of hazardous weather on the lives and well being of the citizens of this country. This experience has also allowed me to better understand how all parts of the integrated forecast and warning program, that includes public and private forecasters, broadcasters, and emergency managers and other major users, must work together effectively to ensure critical information reaches the public and weather sensitive industries in time for proper responses to occur. The NWA is truly a microcosm of this larger world, where our members represent various sectors of the weather and public safety communities, and our association serves as a bridge to help all components work together collectively to promote excellence in operational meteorology and related activities.

I thank my predecessor, Paul Croft, for his outstanding leadership and accomplishments as President in 2004. I am grateful that he will remain on the governing Council as immediate Past-President and continue to offer judicious advice. Over the past years, the NWA has continued to make notable strides, including the development of a viable strategic plan that serves to guide our activities and goals, the proactive agendas of our many energetic committees that serve the needs of members and the general public, as well as specialized groups such as aviation interests and broadcasters, and

our renewed emphasis on succession planning and a more efficient organizational structure that includes the selection in 2004 of Assistant Executive Director, Cynthia Nelson. Cynthia and Executive Director, Kevin Lavin, are appointed by the Council to carry out the day-to-day administrative responsibilities of the association and as usual for non-profit associations they work many more hours than they are remunerated for.

I also thank all members who volunteered to run for NWA Council positions this year. We had a great slate of candidates and a number of voters remarked, "they wished they could vote all candidates in." I congratulate and thank our volunteer elected Officers and Councilors who serve as representatives of the membership in furthering the mission of the association. We are most fortunate for the energy, creativity, dedication, and wisdom they provide, which is enhanced by the diverse professional backgrounds and experiences they bring to the NWA. You will find a list of the new Officers and Councilors on page 3, and we encourage you to contact any of us with your ideas and suggestions – and to volunteer to be candidates for election to positions on the NWA Council in years to come.

As the NWA celebrates its 30th year we have much to be proud of, but we also have a number of challenges to face. In some ways, these are no different than the individual challenges we all face in our daily lives, in that they are new opportunities for improvement and growth. For example, membership retention and expansion in the various employment and student sectors remain issues of concern. Although it seems that we should have natural constituencies to always draw from, we find that the NWA is similar to professional societies in other fields where it can no longer be taken for granted that students and workers in the early stages of their careers feel it is important to become members of professional associations in order to advance in their careers. Accordingly, we need to make sure that our activities and services are increasingly relevant to the needs of a changing meteorology workforce that spans a wide variety of public and private enterprises. We need to reach out to potential members in new ways. Along these lines, our membership committee is being revamped and we are exploring ways to better market the NWA to increase our visibility and appeal, especially among under-represented groups such as military forecasters. We are also putting considerable

effort into improving and coordinating our multiple media and communication forums through the establishment of a Publications Committee, which will have broad oversight for the Newsletter, *National Weather Digest*, *Electronic Journal of Operational Meteorology*, and Web page content. Considerable attention has been devoted to addressing the timeliness and publication process problems faced by the *Digest*, and steps are being taken to once again provide a forum for the reliable and timely dissemination of operationally oriented papers. Of course, the entire subject of journal publications, including the increasing costs of hard copy publishing and mailing, long-term archival of scientific journals, and the more recent impact of the Internet and online publishing is a topic of concern for all professional societies, and the NWA will be addressing these issues over the next several years through the leadership of the Publications Committee.

Finally, I want to reiterate that the NWA is an association run by volunteers, ranging from committee members, meeting organizers, reviewers and editors of our communication forums, to the Officers and Councilors who are elected as representatives of our members. As a volunteer association, we are a unique entity in operational meteorology whose sole purpose is to serve the needs of our members, and all of you have the opportunity to help determine the priorities, actions, and future paths the NWA will take. There are numerous ways for you to participate in and contribute to the vibrancy of the NWA. For example, we encourage you to volunteer to serve on committees that focus on your areas of interest and expertise (refer to www.nwas.org committee pages for more information), to attend and participate in NWA Meetings such as NWA Local Chapter sponsored regional meetings (as noted on page 4) and the Annual Meeting that will be held in Saint Louis in October, to participate in local chapter activities, and by offering your insights and ideas on how the NWA can better serve your professional needs. We are relatively small in size by professional association standards, and this means that an ongoing dialogue among members is not only very feasible, but it is essential to ensure that all members have a sense of shared ownership of the association. In closing, I encourage you to contact me or other Officers and Councilors and continue this dialogue with us. We look forward to hearing from you.

*Sincerely, Steve Weiss
president@nwas.org*

MEMBER NEWS

Krista Villarreal has moved from KXAS/NBC 5 in Dallas/Fort Worth to be the meteorologist for Severe Weather Team 11 on weekday mornings at WPXI-TV in Pittsburgh, PA. The North Texas Chapter of the AMS/NWA will miss her great participation. She served as the Vice President the last three years. Krista is involved in the AMS, NWA and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. She also announces that she is engaged to be married in June!

Frances (Parmenter) Holt, a charter member of the NWA, retired on 31 December 2004 from NOAA's National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NOAA/NESDIS).

Over her 41 years of government service she was responsible for developing meteorological satellite applications and training hundreds of NWS and international meteorologists – and gave many presentations and workshops at universities, to groups of teachers, and at NWA Annual Meetings. Most recently she served as the Chief of the Office of Research and Applications' Atmospheric Research and Applications Division, and Director of its Cooperative Research Program. She enjoyed a great reunion of friends and coworkers in the weather satellite field at her retirement party, including Vince Oliver who hired her 41 years ago.



At Fran's retirement party (l to r): Marie Colton, Jim Purdom, Fran, Ralph Anderson, Vince Oliver and Krishna Rao.

Fran has been a very active member of the NWA since it began. She was the first editor of the *National Weather Digest* (1976-79) and was the first recipient of the NWA Member of the Year Award. In recent years, she has served as a Councilor (2000-01) and Chair of the NWA Remote Sensing Committee, and is currently on the NWA Strategic Planning Committee. She also initiated and sponsors the annual Meteorological Satellite Applications Award for undergraduate students to stimulate interest and foster the study and use of satellite remote sensing data in research and in weather analysis and forecasting.

Rob Eicher, meteorologist at Central Florida News 13 in Orlando, Florida and **Dr. Chris Herbster**, Associate Professor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, have teamed up to design and teach an "Introduction to TV Weathercasting" course at Embry-Riddle this semester. The course is not only the first of its kind at Embry-Riddle, but one of very few like it among the nation's universities. Although in its infant stages this semester, plans are already underway to expand it into the fall. Rob Eicher has a master's degree in meteorology from the University of Maryland and holds the NWA Seal of Approval. Dr. Chris Herbster has extensive teaching experience at Embry-Riddle and is the Director of the university's Weather Center. The two met at the 2003 NWA Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, Florida.

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MEETINGS OF INTEREST

• **National Severe Weather Workshop 2005 will be held at the Reed Center in Midwest City, OK, 3 - 5 March 2005.** It is sponsored by many local NOAA offices, the Oklahoma Emergency Management Association and the Central Oklahoma Chapter of the AMS/NWA. It will feature the nation's premier severe weather experts discussing their latest research and forecasting techniques. Designed for emergency managers, storm spotters, and other weather enthusiasts, the workshop offers a unique opportunity to learn about the National Weather Service's outlook, watch and warning process, severe weather preparedness and safety, StormReady, EMWIN, severe storm risks, lightning effects, wind damage effects and new ways to get radar data. Spotter training will be offered in conjunction with the workshop. More information is at Web site: www.norman.noaa.gov/nsww2005/.

• **The Fourth Southeast Severe Storms Symposium will be held 4 - 6 March 2005 at Mississippi State University.** The East Mississippi NWA & AMS Chapter sponsors it. **This year they will highlight a Broadcasters Workshop.** Featured speakers are Dr. Charles A. Doswell III currently a Senior Research Scientist with the Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies, Dr. Richard Knabb Science and Operations Officer at the NWS Tropical Prediction Center, Rich Apuzzo chief meteorologist at WXIX-TV Cincinnati, Jon Davies private meteorologist, and Keith Westerlage VP of the On-Camera Meteorology Department at The Weather Channel. See Web site: www.msstate.edu/org/nwa/symposium.htm.

• **The 30th Northeastern Storm Conference will be held from 18 - 20 March 2005 in Burlington, Vermont.** The Lyndon State College AMS & NWA Chapter sponsors it. The conference will be held at the Sheraton Hotel. Featured speakers are Meteorologists Jim Cantore and Paul Kocin (Winter Weather Expert) from The Weather Channel, and author Bill Chittick. For more information, please go to the chapter's Web site: apollo.lsc.vsc.edu/ams/index.html.

• **The 27th Annual National Hurricane Conference will be held 21 - 25 March 2005 at the Hilton Riverside Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana.** For more information, see Web site: www.HurricaneMeeting.com or call Lisa Tait at 850-906-9224.

• **The Ninth Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference will be held 31 March - 2 April 2005 in West Des Moines, Iowa at the Marriott Hotel.** The Central Iowa NWA chapter sponsors it. Speakers this year include Paul Markowski, Professor, Penn State University; Paul Kocin, Meteorologist, The Weather Channel; Tim Samaras, Storm Chaser; and, Allen Strum of WEAR-TV3, Pensacola, FL, who will talk about Hurricane Ivan, John MacLaughlin, from KCCI-TV and Daryl Herzmann from Iowa State will conduct a radar workshop, and Brian Smith and Van DeWald from the NWS office in Omaha will discuss the Hallam, NE tornado. More information and registration details can be found at Web site: www.iowa-nwa.com.

• **The Third Annual Great Lakes Meteorology Conference will be held on 9 April 2005 at the Heston Hills Banquet Center in LaPorte, Indiana.** The conference is being organized by the Northwest Indiana NWA Chapter at Valparaiso University. **Abstracts for presentations or posters are due by 11 March 2005.** The deadline to register for the conference is 19 March 2005. Registration and abstract submission forms, as well as more information regarding the conference can be found at Web site: www.valpo.edu/geomet/met/nwa/conference.html. Questions should be directed to the chapter president Adam French at adam.french@valpo.edu.

• **AIR-MASS 2005 Mid-America Storm Symposium will be held 14 - 15 April 2005 in Wichita, Kansas.** The Wichita AMS & NWA Chapter sponsors it. The conference will be held at the historic Radisson Broadview Hotel. In addition to the science-sharing presentations, a couple of special events are planned including a commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Udall, Kansas, tornado. The invited guest speakers are Don Burgess, renowned radar expert and retired assistant director of NSSL; Dr. Hugh Christian, lightning research team head at the Global Hydrology and Climate Center; Mike Looney, chief, Meteorological Services Division at NWS Central Region Headquarters; Mike Smith, CEO, WeatherData, Inc.; Dave Freeman, chief meteorologist at KSNW-TV; and Steve Weiss, science and operations officer at the Storm Prediction Center. See Web site: wichita-amsnwa.org/index.php for more details.

• **The NWA's 30th Annual Meeting will be held at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Saint Louis, Missouri, 15 - 20 October 2005.** Watch the NWA Web site: www.nwas.org for details. Notify the NWA office at 434-296-9966 or natweaasoc@aol.com if you would like to help in organizing this special 30th anniversary event.

National Weather Association supporting and promoting excellence in operational meteorology and related activities since 1975

CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

Welcome New Corporate members!!!

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Tel: 413-577-2213; Fax: 413-577-1995

Internet: www.casa.umass.edu

POC: Brenda Philips e-mail: bphilips@ecs.umass.edu

ANNOUNCING: The Arthur C. Pike Scholarship in Meteorology

Thanks to a generous donation from the estate of the late Dr. Arthur C. Pike, the National Weather Association Council members established a college scholarship fund in the year 2000. This is the fifth year it is being offered.

Offering: One scholarship per year of \$1000.

Administration: The NWA Education Committee will administer the scholarship selection. **Applications close 15 April 2005** and the scholarship designee will be notified by mid-May.

Eligibility: Undergraduate and/or Graduate students. Undergraduates must be classified at least as a junior for the semester beginning in September 2005. This will allow second semester sophomores to apply for the scholarship. If the student is classified as a senior they must either have one more fall (Sep. - Dec.) semester to complete after the scholarship is awarded or document that they have been accepted into graduate school.

Award Criteria: The scholarship will be based on:
a) official college transcripts (academic achievement),
b) two letters of recommendation (at least one from a current or former meteorology professor), and
c) a letter (not longer than one page) from the applicant describing their involvement/interest in meteorology.

Logistics: Scholarship money will be transferred following the financial guidelines of the college or university involved.

Applications for the NWA Arthur C. Pike Scholarship in Meteorology to be awarded in 2005 must be submitted to the NWA office by 15 April 2005. The office address is on the application form. The application form is available to copy from the NWA Web site at: www.nwas.org/scholarship_app.html or it can be obtained from the NWA office (434) 296-9966.

LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS

The **Kean University Chapter of the AMS & NWA** recently became a NWA Local Chapter. The officers for 2004-2005 are President Michael Stroz, Vice-President Belkys Melendez, Treasurer Michael Dangolovich, Secretary Mike Favetta, and P.R. Director Karyn Whitehurst. *Congratulations and welcome to the NWA!*

The **Central Iowa Chapter of the NWA** continues to prepare for their 2005 Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference to be held 31 March – 2 April 2005. See page 4 for more details.

To learn more about these and other Local Chapters, go to NWA Web site: www.nwas.org/chapters.html.

ANNOUNCING: The David Sankey Minority Scholarship in Meteorology

To increase diversity and the numbers of students from underrepresented ethnic groups pursuing studies in meteorology, the National Weather Association Council established a college scholarship fund in 2002. This is the third year this scholarship is being offered. Funds are generated from the golf outings and raffles at the Annual Meetings. Prizes in support of those activities are donated by many of the NWA Corporate members.

Offering: One scholarship per year of \$1000.

Administration: The NWA Education Committee will administer the scholarship selection. **Applications close 15 April 2005** and the scholarship designee will be notified by mid-May.

Eligibility: Any minority undergraduate or graduate student going into their sophomore year or higher grade and majoring in meteorology may apply. If the undergraduate student is classified as a senior they must either have one more fall (Sep. - Dec.) semester to complete after the scholarship is awarded, or they must document that they have been accepted to graduate school. Ethnic minorities are defined on the application form.

Award Criteria:
The scholarship will be awarded based on:
a) official college transcripts (academic achievement),
b) two letters of recommendation (at least one from a current or former meteorology professor), and
c) a letter (not longer than one page) from the applicant describing their involvement/interest in meteorology.

Logistics: Scholarship money will be transferred following the financial guidelines of the college or university involved. If there aren't any financial guidelines from the school, NWA will make the \$1,000 check payable to both the student and the education institution at the beginning of the September - December school term.

Applications for the NWA David Sankey Minority Scholarship in Meteorology to be awarded in 2005 must be submitted to the NWA office by 15 April 2005. The office address is on the application form. The application form is available to copy from the NWA Web site at: www.nwas.org/dsscholarshipform.html or it can be obtained from the NWA office (434) 296-9966.

Publications committee is looking for

ideas

for new designs

for the Newsletter and *Digest*.

If you have any, please e-mail them in to
natweasoc@aol.com

NWA 2004 MEMBERSHIP SURVEY RESULTS

Compiled by Cynthia A. Nelson, NWA Asst. Exec. Director

Continuing from the December newsletter, this is the second part of the Survey results. It includes the overall response results to question 4 and specific results to questions 4 A and B. More specific results to questions 4 D, F and G will be published in the next newsletter.

To reiterate, by mid 2004, the total number of members responding to the NWA Survey was 1,546. This represents about 50% of the membership. The Survey questionnaire was included as part of the 2004 annual dues statement that was mailed near the end of 2003. The survey question is *in italics* and is followed by the compilation of the responses, which may include a figure. The actual number of responses on a question, or part of a question, is included in parentheses, as appropriate.

4. What issues should NWA members be concerned with over the next two years?

- A. Continuing to support the profession by promoting excellence, job availability, and other
- B. The need for continual modernization of weather (WX) services increase data quality and/or increase NWP
- C. Increasing operational applications of new research/technology
- D. Training and education for members for the public for children
- E. climate change topics
- F. the need for more comprehensive weather information getting to the public through TV Internet, radio
- G. Other(s) Please specify: _____

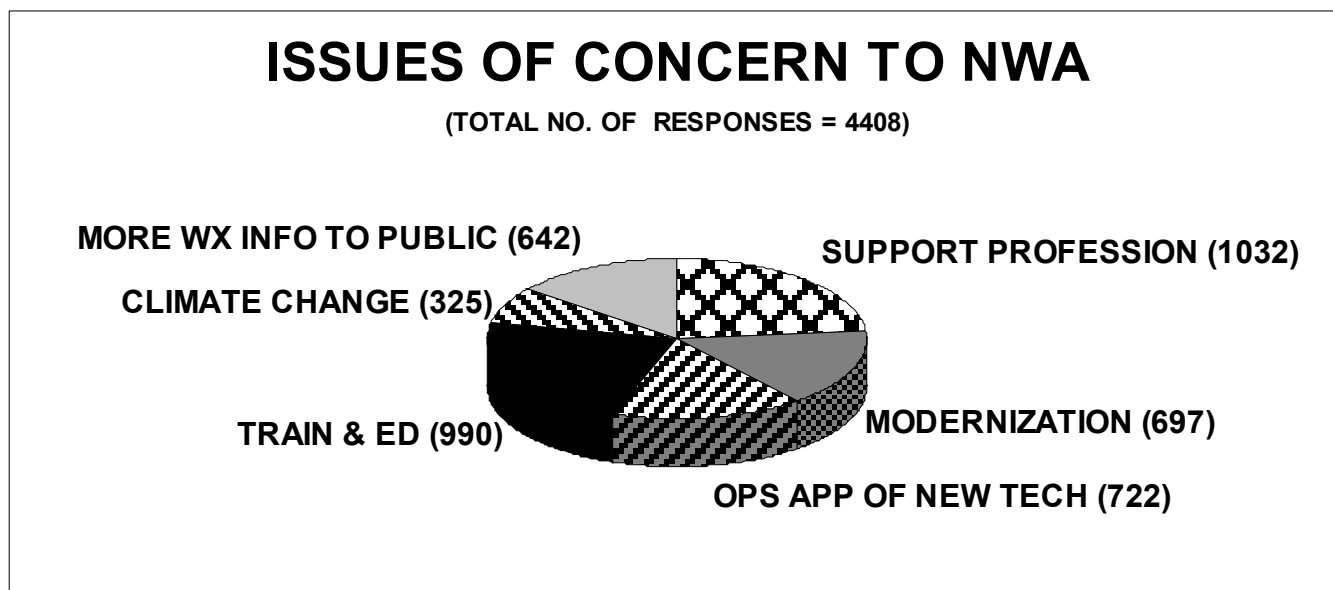


Figure 3. The overall summary of the issues of concern to the membership. The most important issue was support of the profession (question 4a), with training and education (question 4d) a close second. Three other issues were also considered important but with slightly less responses: increasing operational applications of new research/technology (4c), need for continual modernization (4b), and the need for more weather information to the public (4f). Please note that members could choose more than one issue, therefore, the number of responses were greater than the number of surveys turned in.

4A. ___ Continuing to support the profession by promoting ___ excellence, ___ job availability (JOB AVAIL), and/or ___ OTHER (specifics follow Figure 3a).

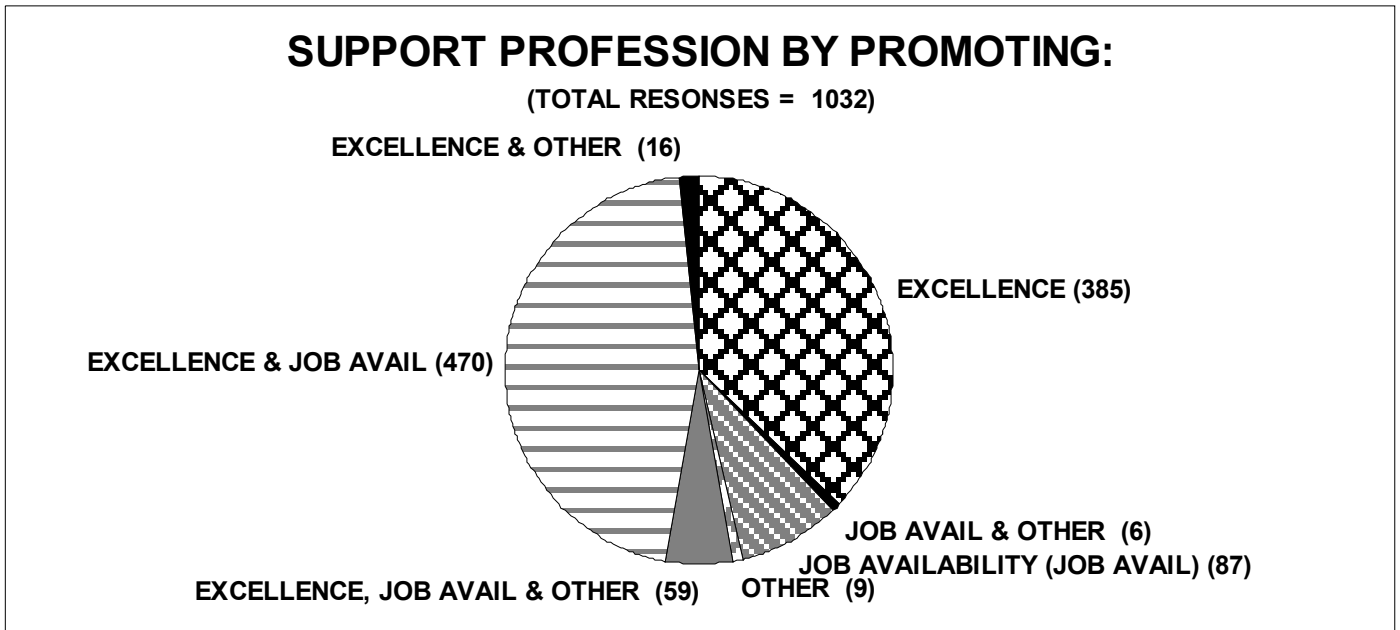


Figure 3 a. Responses to the question on supporting the profession. The majority of responses were concerned with supporting the profession by a combination of promoting excellence and job availability.

OTHER responses (below) were grouped by similarity of response (bold type) with any comments included. If appropriate, the number of the same or similar comments is listed in parentheses.

Education (22); Cooperation (11) - government/university, government/private, interaction of all fields, diversity, outreach, science sharing; **Improved Forecasts (10)** - forecast accuracy, forecasting applications, less reliance on computers & numbers, use of latest meteorological knowledge; **Job related items (7)** - advancement, benefits, career ladders and trends, employment announcements, increased salaries, location, placement, and security; **Communications (4); Research (4); Private sector (3)** - protect private sector; **Science/techniques (3); Community/public Service (2); Broadcasting (2); and Other suggestions** - funding, image, integrity, compliance in practices, open network, promotion of NWS/owned by taxpayer, proper utilization of technology & paraprofessional personnel.

4B. ___ The need for continual modernization of weather services ___ increase data quality and/or ___ increase Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP)

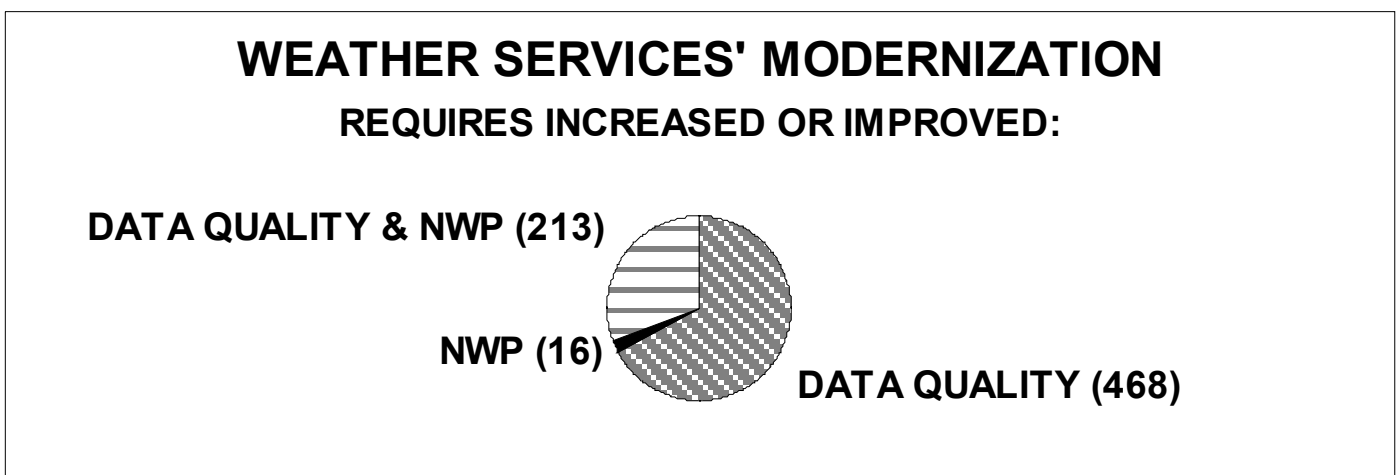


Figure 3 b. Responses to the question on the need for continual modernization. Most responses were for continual increase in data quality.

DECEMBER TSUNAMI ANIMATION

The massive tsunami triggered by an undersea earthquake in the Indian Ocean literally rippled around the world. NOAA scientist Vasily Titov, using seismic data, rendered an animation showing how the tsunami waves propagated across the Earth's Oceans. Some of the waves reached the United States and many other coastal nations outside the Indian Ocean.

Titov used the numerical model called Method of Splitting Tsunami, or MOST. He used this model hours after the tsunami first struck showing the quake's epicenter and how the tsunami moved across the Indian Ocean. **An animation which quickly covers a period of 44 hours and 27 minutes of tsunami propagation can be viewed at Web site: www.pmel.noaa.gov/tsunami/Mov/indo_g12.mov.**

The tsunami reached the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of the United States about the same time — some 28 hours after the earthquake struck on 26 December 2004, at 00:59 UTC or 7:59 p.m. EST. The MOST model also was used to interpret the data for the tsunami's wave height from four satellites.

More information on this topic can be found on the NOAA/PMEL Tsunami Research Program Web site at www.pmel.noaa.gov/tsunami/indo_1204.html, and data on specific tsunami wave heights recorded at U.S. and other sites can be found on the NOAA/NWS West Coast/Alaska Tsunami Warning Center Web site at wcatwc.arh.noaa.gov/IndianOSite/IndianO12-26-04.htm.

- NOAA Public Affairs

JOB CORNER

The NWA posts jobs from equal opportunity employers at no cost, for the benefit of NWA members. Please see the Job section on the NWA Web site (www.nwas.org) for the complete announcements and job links. Members who do not have Internet capability may request announcements from the NWA office at (434) 296-9966. Employers should send job announcements via e-mail to NatWeaAsoc@aol.com.

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Submit newsletter items directly to: Editor NWA Newsletter, at nwanewsletter@nwas.org or to the NWA office. Material received by the 5th will be considered for that month's issue. If submissions are not received, the Newsletter may be delayed.

Members receive the monthly NWA Newsletter and *National Weather Digest* as part of their regular, student or corporate membership privileges. Newsletter subscriptions are available at \$18.00 per year plus extra shipping costs outside USA. Single copies are \$1.50.

Contact the NWA Executive Director's office (listed above) with **address changes** by phone, regular mail or e-mail.

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

- 3-5 March** – National Severe Weather Workshop, Midwest City, Oklahoma
- 4-6 March** – Fourth Southeast Severe Storm Symposium, Mississippi State University
- 18-20 March** – 30th Northeastern Storm Conference, Burlington, Vermont
- 21-25 March** – 27th National Hurricane Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana
- 23 March** – World Meteorological Day
- 9 April** – Third Great Lakes Meteorology Conference, LaPorte, Indiana
- 15 April** – NWA Scholarship applications due (pg 5)
- 15-20 October** – NWA Annual Meeting, Saint Louis, MO

Please see **MEETINGS** on page 4 for additional dates

Also check www.nwas.org/meetings/meetings.html

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