



National Weather Service Employees Organization

~~IMPORTANT OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ELECTIONS~~

May 1, 2015

Dear NWSEO Member,

This letter is your notification of nomination and election procedures for the 2015 NWSEO elections. It also contains information about the 40th Annual NWSEO Convention. The Union will post this letter on our website: <http://nwseo.org/convention.php>.

You are invited to attend the 40th Annual NWSEO Convention at the Hilton Alexandria Old Town on Saturday and Sunday, September 26-27, 2015. The Hilton Alexandria Old Town is located at 1767 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

All NWSEO members are invited to attend the convention and attendance is free. Transportation, lodging, and most meals are at your own expense. NWSEO will provide lunch on both days of the convention and a banquet dinner on Saturday evening. **Please note:** NWSEO will pay reasonable airfare* and hotel room for the nights of the convention for any member who recruits at least two new members by payroll deduction using form SF-1187, between the dates August 1, 2014 and July 31, 2015. The new member must write the name of their recruiter on the SF-1187 for recruitment credit to be validated and recognized.

** In order for airfare to be reimbursed, you must be able to provide documentation that it is the lowest available rate. Printed copies of airfares from Expedia or other travel sites will serve as documentation.*

Hotel Reservations: If you plan to attend the convention, you are responsible for making your hotel room reservation. NWSEO has successfully negotiated a room rate starting at \$119 per night plus taxes. Room reservations must be made by August 25, 2015. They can be booked directly with Hilton by calling (888) 370-0980 or using [Hilton's online reservation site](#). Please mention that you are a NWSEO member and attending the convention in order to get the negotiated room rate.

Each NWSEO Branch is required to elect a delegate and an alternate delegate to the convention. A convention delegate votes on issues that are placed on the agenda for the convention, such as the annual budget for NWSEO. A delegate holds one vote for each NWSEO member in the branch(es) represented. If you are elected as a delegate, but cannot attend the convention, then the alternate delegate will cast the votes in your place.

You do not have to be elected as a delegate or an alternate delegate to attend the convention. Any member may attend, participate in the discussions, and vote. If you attend the convention and are not a delegate, you will cast your own vote and the delegate elected for your branch will have one less vote to cast on behalf of your branch.

2015 ELECTIONS

The procedures to nominate NWSEO members for NWSEO national office positions, branch positions and convention delegate positions, and to participate in elections are set forth below. If more than one member is nominated for branch NWSEO steward, vice-steward, convention delegate or alternate delegate, then **branch elections for that position** must be conducted by secret ballot.

1. NOMINATION PROCEDURES – If you wish to nominate yourself or someone else as branch steward or vice-steward, convention delegate or alternate delegate, you must notify your current local branch steward AND regional chair in writing no later than Friday, May 29, 2015. Email nominations are acceptable.

A. Branch Steward/Vice Steward Nominations – Due in writing by Friday, May 29, 2015

If you are a member in good standing of a branch, you may nominate yourself or any other member in good standing **from your local branch** for the position of branch steward or vice steward.

B. Delegate/Alternate Delegate Nominations – Due in writing by Friday, May 29, 2015

If you are a member in good standing of a branch, you may nominate yourself or any other NWSEO member **in your region** to serve as a convention delegate or alternate delegate *for your local branch*.

You may be elected as a delegate or alternate delegate from more than one branch within your region. You may nominate yourself or any other NWSEO member in your region to serve as a convention delegate or alternate delegate *for any other branch in your region*.

The names of branch stewards are listed on the NWSEO website at:

http://www.nwseo.org/Directory/dir_index.php.

You may also obtain the names and email addresses of current branch stewards by contacting Lisa Luciani, NWSEO Director of Communications: mediarelations@nwseo.org.

If you run as a delegate or alternate delegate, please plan to attend the convention.

NOMINEES FOR DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE DELEGATE SHOULD NOTIFY THE APPROPRIATE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE MEMBER LISTED ON PAGE 5 OF THIS LETTER. THIS WILL ENABLE THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE TO ENSURE THAT ALL NOMINEES APPEAR ON THE BALLOTS.

C. National Officer Nominations (President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer) – received in writing by September 12, 2015. If you have been a member of NWSEO since September 2014, you may nominate yourself to run as a candidate for any national office. Regardless of how long you have been a NWSEO member, you may nominate any other union member in your region as a candidate for national officer, provided that the person you nominate has been a member since September 2014. All national officer nominations must be in writing and delivered in person or by registered or certified mail. Mail nominations to:

Dan Sobien, President
National Weather Service Employees Organization
601 Pennsylvania Ave NW, South Building, Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20004

Nominations must be received no later than **Saturday, September 12, 2015.**

THESE ELECTIONS ARE NOT OPTIONAL.

THE BRANCH STEWARD MUST HOLD AN ELECTION IF THERE IS MORE THAN ONE NOMINEE. IF THIS IS NOT DONE, NWSEO MAY BE FOUND IN VIOLATION OF FEDERAL LAW AND COULD BE SUBJECT TO ENFORCEMENT ACTION BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

2. VOTING PROCEDURES - MAIL BALLOTS BY Friday, June 26, 2015.

Preparing the Ballot: If more than one member is nominated for any branch office (branch steward/vice steward, convention delegate/alternate delegate), then the current branch steward must prepare a ballot. The following steps should be followed when preparing the ballot:

- The steward **MUST** place the names of all nominees on the ballot. If this is not done, the branch votes may be invalidated.
- The names of the nominees must be listed individually, and instructions for voters to vote preferentially for each candidate (marking choices as “1”, “2”, or “3” for each office with “1” being the “first choice”).
- Ballots should include brief instructions telling voters not to sign or otherwise identify themselves on the ballot.
- The ballots must be mailed to each member of that branch at the member’s home address.

If you are a steward and you need help preparing this ballot or obtaining the home addresses for the members in your branch, contact the Credentials Committee representative for your region listed on page 5 of this letter. You may ask your vice-steward or any other NWSEO member in your branch to assist you with preparing and mailing the ballots. Do **NOT** do this on work time or with NWS equipment.

To ensure that the election is completed in an orderly and timely manner, ballots must be mailed no later than Friday, June 26, 2015.

Keep in mind: If there is only one nominee for any particular office, there is no need to hold an election for that office, and there is no need to include that position on the ballot. That person is automatically “elected.”

Please notify your Regional Chair and your Credentials Committee member by email immediately after nominations close on Friday, May 29, 2015, if you do not need to conduct an election because there is only one nominee for each branch office (branch steward/vice steward, convention delegate/alternate delegate).

Voting: The branch steward will establish a sealed box in which members will return their ballots no later than Friday, July 17, 2015. Although it is not required, it is recommended that the steward convene a local NWSEO meeting for the purpose of opening the ballot box and counting the ballots.

Each nominee has the right to have an observer at the polls and at the tallying of the votes per Article 8, Section 1. The counting of the ballots should take place as soon after Friday, July 17, 2015, as possible. Notification to the winning candidate of the results should be made **immediately** thereafter.

NWSEO By-Laws, Article IX, Section 2 states in part: “A newly elected branch officer will take over the position to which he/she was elected at the end of the meeting at which the election was held.”

3. NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS - It is the responsibility of the new branch steward to ensure that the notification of election results is made. The new branch steward must notify his/her regional chair of his/her name, home address, home phone number and personal email address.

There are four steps in reporting the election results:

1. Post the election results locally.
2. Complete the "Designation of Delegate" form. Be sure to have it signed by the newly elected Branch Steward and mail it along with the ballots to the appropriate Credentials Committee member listed on page 5 of this letter. Email notification of the convention delegate to the Credentials Committee is acceptable in lieu of a dated and signed "Designation of Delegate" form. If an election was held, the ballots must be sent to the Credentials Committee for certification of the results.
3. Provide a copy of the "Designation of Delegate" form to the delegate that you have elected.
4. Notify the current Regional Chairperson of the election results.

If you are the branch steward, you are responsible for counting the ballots. The elected steward is responsible for reporting the results. A branch steward may obtain the assistance of the vice-steward in counting the ballots and notifying all parties of the election results.

Campaign Rules

It is against the law to campaign for NWSEO office, to make nominations, or to solicit votes as a delegate from another branch using NWSEO stationery, postage, an NWSEO email account, or otherwise at any NWSEO expense. Do NOT campaign using NWS telephones, NWS stationery, or NWS email.

Use of government equipment is authorized for representational purposes only, and not for internal NWSEO business. It is permissible, however, for a steward to use NWSEO stationery, postage or telephone to conduct the local election; i.e., preparation or mailing of ballots, or notification of results. A steward may claim reimbursement for any election expenses that are incurred by submitting a request and appropriate receipts to John Werner at the NWSEO mailing address printed below. If you become aware of any NWSEO member campaigning at NWSEO expense, you should report the matter immediately to the Credentials Committee representative for your region listed on page 5 of this letter.

The procedures above are required by the NWSEO Constitution or By-laws or have otherwise been approved by NWSEO's National Council to ensure fair and democratic elections. If you become aware that any of these procedures are not being complied with, you should first discuss the matter with your local steward. If this does not correct the problem, please contact the Credentials Committee representative for your region listed on page 5 of this letter. They will be available to provide local branches with assistance needed to carry out local elections.

Very truly yours,
DeLyne Kirkham
Elections/Credentials Committee Co-Chair

NWSEO Mailing address:

National Weather Service Employees Organization
601 Pennsylvania Ave NW, South Building, Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20004

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

If an election was held, the ballots must be sent to the Credentials Committee for certification of the results.

(Email notification of the convention delegate to the appropriate Credentials Committee is acceptable in lieu of a dated and signed "Designation of Delegate" form.)

Copies of all nominations for delegate, "Designation of Delegate" forms and **hard copy** ballots must be mailed **no later than** Monday, August 10, 2015 to the following:

Credentials Committee Contact	Region	Regional Chairperson	Email
Jeanne Allen 8296 W Pomona Ct, Boise, Idaho 83704 Cell: 208-841-1925 Work: 208-334-9508 Email: jma.pegasus@yahoo.com	Central	Jim Sieveking	jimsieveking@gmail.com
	Pacific	Chris Jacobson	c.jacobson@nwseo.org
	Western	Suzanne Sims	s.sims@nwseo.org
Kevin Durfee 3075 Fairmont Drive, Hanford, CA 93230 Home: 559-583-0522 Cell: 559-904-1947 Work: 559-584-9051 Email: jasminkev@comcast.net	Alaska	Jim Brader	j.brader@nwseo.org
	Eastern	Dave Solano	d.solano@nwseo.org
	Southern	John Werner	srchair@nwseo.org
Martin Lee P.O. Box 3086, Duluth, MN 55803-3086 Cell: 218-206-4785 Work: 218-729-0645x381 Email: lee55803@gmail.com	Headquarters	Steve Pritchett	s.pritchett@nwseo.org
	NCEP	JoAnn Becker	joann.becker1@gmail.com
	NAG	Mitch MacDonald	m.macdonald@nwseo.org
	NESDIS	Hugh Sharkey	hughsharkey@yahoo.com
	AOML	Jay Harris (Vice Steward)	jayharris1@gmail.com
	AOC	Todd Richards	hurricanetech@verizon.net



National Weather
Service Employees
Organization

**DESIGNATION OF DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE DELEGATE
TO THE 2015 NWSEO CONVENTION**

I, _____ do certify that the members of Branch _____ elected, according to the rules of the National Weather Service Employees Organization's Constitution and Bylaws, the following delegate and alternate delegate to vote on any and all matters for the members of our branch, individually or collectively, that might come before the 40th Annual National Convention to be held in Alexandria, Virginia on September 26-27, 2015.

Delegate-Elect (Please Print): _____

Alternate Delegate-Elect (Please Print): _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Steward or Vice-Steward