



## National Weather Service Employees Organization

### ~~IMPORTANT OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ELECTIONS~~

May 1, 2020

Dear NWSEO Member,

This letter is your notification of Steward, Vice Steward, Convention Delegate, Alternate Delegate and Regional Officer nomination and election procedures for 2020. It also includes information about our 45th Annual NWSEO National Convention. NWSEO will post this letter on our website:

<http://nwseo.org/convention.php>.

You are invited to attend the 2020 NWSEO National Convention at Caesars Palace Las Vegas on October 12-13, 2020 (Monday-Tuesday event). Caesars Palace Las Vegas is located at 3570 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Las Vegas, NV 89109. As famous as Las Vegas itself, Caesars Palace is the best-known casino resort in the world.

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 Monday evening, October 12. All members are welcome to attend our open meetings that generally begin at 8:00 am and end around 5:00 pm each day. Tentative convention agenda topics are included at the end of this letter.

**Hotel Reservations:** If you plan to attend the convention, you are responsible for making your own hotel reservations. NWSEO has negotiated the room rate based on the Fiscal Year 2020 per diem rate (plus resort fee and taxes). The Fiscal Year 2020 per diem rate for Las Vegas is currently \$102/night. In addition to the daily cost of each room, there is a daily Resort Fee of \$45 per night, single or double occupancy. This fee includes unlimited local phone calls, two guest admissions per day to the Fitness Center and in-room internet access for 2 devices. **Room reservations must be made by September 11, 2020.** Hotel Reservations can be made by individual attendees directly by using this link: [2020 Convention](#). If you prefer to make your reservations by phone, call 1 (866) 227.5944 to secure a reservation under our group code: **SCNWS0**. *Please note there is an additional processing fee to make phone reservations.* There is a Recruitment Incentive available. Please refer to page 5 for details.

**Each NWSEO Branch is required to elect a delegate and an alternate delegate to the convention.** A NWSEO Branch refers to a recognized group of active members in good standing within a facility of the National Weather Service (NWS), the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS), NOAA Office of General Counsel, Aircraft Operations Center (AOC) and Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory (AOML).

Each delegate votes on all matters that come before the convention, with one vote for each NWSEO member in the Branch(es) which that delegate represents. If an elected delegate is not present at the convention for a vote, then the alternate delegate may cast the delegated votes.

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

## 2020 ELECTION INFORMATION

The procedures for elections are set forth below.

### 1. **Branch Steward, Vice Steward, Regional Officers, Convention Delegate and Alternate Delegate Elections**

#### A. **Nomination Procedures**

i. **Branch Steward/Vice Steward Nominations – Due by Friday, May 29, 2020.** If you are a member in good standing of a Branch, you may nominate yourself or any other member **from your local Branch** for your Branch’s Steward or Vice Steward positions.

Nominations must be in writing, dated and signed by the member making the nomination and sent to the local Branch Steward or designee, Regional Chairperson, and appropriate Credentials Committee member (see page 7 of this letter) by the deadline above. Email nominations are acceptable.

If more than one member is nominated for the same NWSEO Branch Steward or Vice Steward positions, then Branch elections for **that position** must be conducted by secret ballot.

ii. **Regional Officer Nominations – Due in writing by May 29, 2020.** If you have been a member in good standing of NWSEO since September 2019, you may nominate yourself to run as a candidate for any regional 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 Regional Officer, provided that the person you nominate has been a member in good standing since September 2019. If you nominate someone for Regional Chairperson/Vice Chairperson, please contact your nominee to ensure they accept the nomination.

All nominations for Regional Chairperson and Regional Vice Chairperson are to be sent via Certified or Registered Mail and postmarked by May 29, 2020 to:

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

Please note email nominations for Regional Officer positions are NOT acceptable.

Once received, NWSEO will contact nominees to verify they accept their Regional Chairperson/Vice Chairperson nomination. The election of the Regional Chairperson and other regional officers will be conducted by delegates at the national convention.

The newly elected Regional Officers will take office at the conclusion of the convention at which the election was held.

**iii. Convention Delegate/Alternate Delegate Nominations – Due by Friday, May 29, 2020.** If you are a member in good standing, you may nominate yourself or any other NWSEO member **within your NWS region; or for those NWSEO members in the AOC, AOML, NESDIS or NOAA Attorney’s Guild bargaining units, yourself or any other NWSEO member within your bargaining unit**, to serve as a convention delegate or alternate delegate for a Branch or Branches within your NWS region or NWSEO bargaining unit. Each NWS region consists of multiple NWSEO Branches. Other NWSEO bargaining units (AOC, AOML, NESDIS and NOAA Attorneys’ Guild) have their own Branches.

All nominations must be in writing, dated and signed by the member making the nomination and sent to the local Branch Steward or designee, Regional Chairperson and appropriate Credentials Committee member (see page 7 of this letter) by the deadline above. Email nominations are acceptable. You may be nominated for convention delegate or alternate convention delegate for more than one Branch within your region. If you are nominated or elected as a convention delegate or alternate convention delegate, please plan to attend the convention.

You may obtain the names and email addresses of current Branch Stewards by contacting Christy Fox, Director of Membership Services, via email at: [membership@nwseo.org](mailto:membership@nwseo.org), or go to the NWSEO website at: [http://www.nwseo.org/Directory/dir\\_index.php](http://www.nwseo.org/Directory/dir_index.php).

There is a Convention Delegate Incentive available. Please refer to page 6 for details.

#### **B. Ballot Preparation and Distribution Procedures**

If more than one member is nominated for any Branch office (Branch Steward/Vice Steward) or convention delegate or alternate delegate, the current Branch Steward must conduct a secret ballot by preparing a ballot for that position with the names of the nominees listed individually and mail the ballot to each member of that Branch at the member’s home address. **These ballots must be postmarked no later than Friday, July 3, 2020.**

The Steward **MUST** place the names of all nominees on the ballot. If this is not done, the Branch votes may be invalidated. If you are a Steward and you need help obtaining the home addresses for the members in your Branch, contact Christy Fox at [membership@nwseo.org](mailto:membership@nwseo.org).

Stewards may ask their Vice Steward or any other NWSEO member in your Branch to assist with preparing and mailing the ballots. This activity is NOT ALLOWED to be conducted during work time or with government equipment.

**ELECTIONS FOR CONTESTED OFFICES/POSITIONS 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.**

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

Stewards, please notify your Regional Chairperson and your Credentials Committee member by email immediately after nominations close on Friday, May 29, 2020, 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) and regional office.

If there are more than two nominees for any particular office on the ballot, then you should vote preferentially for each candidate. This means that you should designate your choices as “1”, “2”, “3”, etc. for each office or position. If you need help preparing the ballot or experience any difficulties, please contact the Credentials Committee member for your region listed on page 7 of this letter. **Also, please notify the Credentials Committee of your election results.**

### **DO NOT SIGN OR OTHERWISE IDENTIFY YOURSELF ON YOUR BALLOT.**

#### **C. Ballot Counting and Reporting Procedures**

The Branch Steward will establish a sealed box in which members will return their ballots no later than **Friday, July 24, 2020**. 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 of the NWSEO Constitution and Bylaws. **The counting of the ballots should take place as soon after Friday, July 24, 2020 as possible.** Notification to the winning candidate of the results should be made **immediately** thereafter.

*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.

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.” **It is the responsibility of the new Branch Steward to ensure that the notification of election results is made.**

#### **There are three steps for Stewards to follow in reporting the election results:**

1. Post the election results locally and notify the current Regional Chairperson and Credentials Committee member of the election results.
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 in the enclosure to 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.

## **Campaign Rules**

It is against the Department of Labor regulations to campaign for NWSEO office, to make nominations, or to solicit votes as a delegate from another branch using NWSEO stationery, NWSEO postage, a NWSEO email account, or otherwise at any NWSEO expense. It is a violation of Federal Law to campaign using any government property, including NWS or any other NOAA telephones, stationery, or email.

It is permissible for a Branch 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 NWSEO Secretary/Treasurer Dave Solano at the NWSEO mailing address. 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 7 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 7 of this letter. They will be available to provide local branches with assistance needed to carry out local elections.

Very truly yours,  
*Christy*

Christy Fox  
NWSEO Director of Membership

### **NWSEO Mailing Address:**

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

### **RECRUITMENT INCENTIVE**

For any NWSEO member who recruits two (2) or more new members to join NWSEO using the [Membership Form 1187](#) for payroll deduction (not by credit card) from August 1, 2019 to July 31, 2020, NWSEO will provide reasonable airfare, three (3) nights lodging, and approved group meals for the 2020 NWSEO Convention at Caesars Palace Las Vegas on October 12-13, 2020. The name of the recruiter must be on the submitted 1187 for them to receive recruitment credit.

*\* In order for airfare to be reimbursed, you must be able to provide documentation that it is the lowest available rate, purchased at least 21 days before the convention, unless approved otherwise. Printed copies of airfares from Expedia or other travel sites may serve as documentation.*

**CONVENTION DELEGATE INCENTIVE**

Any convention delegate who is certified as representing a minimum of 25 percent of the Region’s total available delegate votes, from at least two (2) Branches from Regions that have more than one Branch, is eligible for the Convention Delegate Incentive. NWSEO will reimburse reasonable airfare\*, 2-nights lodging at Caesars Palace Las Vegas, and approved group meals for attendance at the 2020 NWSEO Convention. The 25 percent threshold will be based on the certified 2019 total votes for each respective region.

*\*In order for airfare to be reimbursed, you must be able to provide documentation that it is the lowest available rate, purchased at least 21 days before the convention, unless approved otherwise. Printed copies of airfares from Expedia or other travel sites may serve as documentation.*

<b>Unit/NWS Region Name</b>	<b>2019 Delegate Votes</b>
Aircraft Operations Center	27 votes
Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory	10 votes
National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service	70 votes
NOAA Attorneys Guild	51 votes
NWS Alaska Region	87 votes
NWS Central Region	293 votes
NWS Eastern Region	239 votes
NWS Headquarters Region	110 votes
NWS National Centers for Environmental Prediction Region	136 votes
NWS Pacific Region	54 votes
NWS Southern Region	282 votes
NWS Western Region	202 votes

**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, 2020** to the following Credentials Committee Contact for your region:

Credentials Committee Contact	Region	Regional Chairperson	Email
Karleisa Rogacheski 721 5 <sup>th</sup> Apt 109 West Sacramento, CA 95605 Email: <a href="mailto:karleisa.rogacheski@gmail.com">karleisa.rogacheski@gmail.com</a> Cell: 414-379-1166	Western NCEP Pacific	Suzanne Sims Suru Saha Nathan Becker	<a href="mailto:s.sims@nwseo.org">s.sims@nwseo.org</a> <a href="mailto:Suru.saha@gmail.com">Suru.saha@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:n.becker@nwseo.org">n.becker@nwseo.org</a>
Jim Brader P.O. Box 74263 Fairbanks, AK 99707 Email: <a href="mailto:jimbrader@gmail.com">jimbrader@gmail.com</a> Cell: 907-687-2214 Work: 907-458-3700	AOC AOML Alaska	Todd Richards Jay Harris Mike Ottenweller	<a href="mailto:hurricanetech@verizon.net">hurricanetech@verizon.net</a> <a href="mailto:Jayharris1@gmail.com">Jayharris1@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:m.ottenweller@nwseo.org">m.ottenweller@nwseo.org</a>
Jason B. Wright 154 Boxwood Drive Franklin, TN 37069 Email: <a href="mailto:JasonBWrightP@yahoo.com">JasonBWrightP@yahoo.com</a> Cell: 615-878-4653	Eastern NESDIS Southern	Dave Solano Hugh Sharkey Chris Jacobson	<a href="mailto:hydrodave2@comcast.net">hydrodave2@comcast.net</a> <a href="mailto:hughsharkey@yahoo.com">hughsharkey@yahoo.com</a> <a href="mailto:c.jacobson@nwseo.org">c.jacobson@nwseo.org</a>
Gerry Claycomb 2050 Road 124 Cheyenne, WY 82009 Email: <a href="mailto:claycombge@gmail.com">claycombge@gmail.com</a> Cell: 417-379-5074 Work: 307-772-2468	Central NAG Headquarters	Jim Lee Mitch MacDonald Mike Dion	<a href="mailto:j.lee@nwseo.org">j.lee@nwseo.org</a> <a href="mailto:mitchmac2001@yahoo.com">mitchmac2001@yahoo.com</a> <a href="mailto:m.dion@nwseo.org">m.dion@nwseo.org</a>



**TENTATIVE CONVENTION AGENDA TOPICS:**

**Sunday, October 12, 2020**

Welcome  
NWSEO President and Executive Vice President Report  
Financial Report & 2020 Budget  
General Counsel Report  
Legislative Report  
Credentials Committee Report  
Constitution Committee Report

***6:30 - 9:00pm Banquet***

**Monday, October 13, 2020**

Media Relations/Membership/Recruitment Report  
NOAA Attorneys' Guild Report  
NESDIS Report  
2021 Convention Location  
New Business  
Committee Appointments

ALL OF THE ABOVE ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE





National Weather  
Service Employees  
Organization

**DESIGNATION OF DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE DELEGATE  
TO THE 2020 NWSEO CONVENTION**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ 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 45th Annual National Convention to be held in Las Vegas, NV on October 12-13, 2020.

Delegate-Elect (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Delegate-Elect (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Steward or Vice-Steward