



National Weather Service Employees Organization

~~IMPORTANT OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ELECTIONS~~

May 16, 2014

Dear NWSEO Member,

This letter serves as your official notification of nomination and election procedures for 2014. It also contains information about the 39th Annual NWSEO Convention. The Union will post this letter and all checklists on our website: <http://nwseo.org/convention.php>.

You are invited to attend the 2014 NWSEO Convention at the Kansas City Marriott Country Club Plaza on Sunday and Monday, October 26 - 27, 2014. The Kansas City Marriott Country Club Plaza is located at 4445 Main Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64111.

All NWSEO members are invited to attend the convention and attendance is free. However, 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 Sunday evening. *Please note: NWSEO will pay reasonable airfare* and lodging 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 September 24, 2013 and July 30, 2014. The new members must write the name of the member who recruited them on the SF-1187 for that member to receive credit for the recruitment.*

** 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.*

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 the Union. A delegate holds one vote for each NWSEO member in the branch(es) represented. If you are elected as a delegate, but cannot attend, 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 deliberations, 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.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

If you plan to attend the convention, you are responsible for making your room reservations. We have successfully negotiated a room rate starting at \$106 per night plus taxes and a \$1.74 city room fee. The rate includes complimentary self-parking and wireless guestroom internet. Room reservations must be made by September 27, 2014. They can be booked directly with Marriott by calling 800-810-3708. Please mention that you are an NWSEO member and attending the convention in order to get the negotiated room rate. If you prefer to make your reservations online, please visit the Convention News page: <http://nwseo.org/convention.php> or click: [Kansas City Marriott Country Club Plaza group rate: NWSEO.](#)

2014 ELECTIONS

The procedures to nominate NWSEO members for NWSEO branch offices, to nominate Regional Officers, and to participate in elections of branch officials are set forth below. If more than one member is nominated for any branch office, then elections of branch NWSEO steward, vice-steward, delegate and alternate delegate to the convention must be conducted by secret ballot.

NOMINATION PROCEDURES –

A. Branch Steward/Vice Steward Nominations – in writing by Friday, June 13, 2014.

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 – in writing by Friday, June 13, 2014.

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*.

Please Note:

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*.

If you wish to nominate yourself or someone else to be 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, June 13, 2014.** Email nominations are acceptable.

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 name and email addresses of a current branch steward by contacting Lisa Luciani, NWSEO Director of Communications via email at mediarelations@nwseo.org.

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

NOTE: NOMINEES FOR DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE DELEGATE SHOULD NOTIFY THE APPROPRIATE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE MEMBER AS LISTED IN THE ENCLOSURE TO THIS LETTER. THIS WILL ENABLE THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE TO ENSURE THAT ALL NOMINEES APPEAR ON THE BALLOTS.

C. Regional Chairperson and Regional Vice Chairperson Nominations –received in writing by Friday, October 10, 2014.

If you have been a member of NWSEO since October 2013, you may nominate yourself to run as a candidate for Regional Chairperson or Regional Vice Chairperson. 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 Chairperson or Regional Vice Chairperson, provided that the person you nominate has been a member since October 2013. All regional nominations must be in writing and must be sent registered or certified mail or delivered in person. 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 **Friday, October 10, 2014.**

VOTING PROCEDURES - MAIL BALLOTS BY Friday, July 11, 2014.

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 with the names of the nominees, and mail the ballot to each member of that branch at the member's home address.

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 preparing this ballot or obtaining the home addresses for the members in your branch, contact Peter Nuhn, Director of Membership Services, at 202-494-7859, or at peter@nwseo.org. 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 to each NWSEO member of the branch no later than Friday, July 11, 2014.

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.

HOWEVER, 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, June 13, 2014, if you do not need to conduct an election because there is only one nominee for a given election.

DO NOT SIGN OR OTHERWISE IDENTIFY YOURSELF ON YOUR BALLOT.

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. If you experience any difficulties, please contact Peter Nuhn for assistance.

The branch steward will establish a sealed box in which members will return their ballots no later than Friday, August 1, 2014. 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.

Counting the Ballots – Deadline: Friday, August 1, 2014 or as soon after as possible.

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, August 1, 2014, as possible**. Notification to the winning candidate and to the Regional Chairperson of the results should be made IMMEDIATELY thereafter.

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 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. **Important:** 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 current branch steward, you are responsible for counting the ballots.

A branch steward may obtain the assistance of the vice-steward in counting the ballots and notifying all parties of the election results.

The newly elected steward is responsible for reporting the results.

AS PROVIDED BY THE NWSEO BY-LAWS, ARTICLE IX, SECTION 3, NEWLY ELECTED BRANCH STEWARDS AND VICE-STEWARD TAKE OFFICE IMMEDIATELY. 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.

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 Peter Nuhn at the NWSEO mailing address. If you become aware of any NWSEO member campaigning at NWSEO expense, you should report the matter immediately to Mr. Nuhn at 202-494-7859, or at peter@nwseo.org.

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 Mr. Nuhn immediately at 202-494-7859, or peter@nwseo.org. He will be available to provide local branches with technical assistance needed to carry out local elections.

A checklist is included to assist branch stewards and delegates in meeting all of the requirements detailed in this notice of elections.

Very truly yours,

Peter J. Nuhn
Election Administrator

NWSEO OFFICE ADDRESS:

NWSEO
601 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 900
Washington, DC 20004

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Email notification of the convention delegate to the appropriate Credentials Committee is acceptable in lieu of a dated and signed "Designation of Delegate" form. However, if an election was held, the ballots must be sent to the Credentials Committee for certification of the results.

Copies of all nominations for delegate, "Designation of Delegate" forms and *hard copy* ballots must be mailed *no later than Monday, September 1, 2014* to the following:

For: NOAA Attorneys Guild (NAG), Atlantic Oceanographic & Meteorological Laboratory (AOML), Aircraft Operations Center (AOC), National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS), Wallops Command and Data Acquisition (Wallops CDA).

Mail to:

Scott Prorise

10875 Hilltop Lane

Columbia, MD 21044

Email: profour@verizon.net

Cell: 410-440-2343

Work: 301-683-1520

Send email notification of election results to the Regional Chair of your branch:

NAG Chairperson: Mitch MacDonald Email: mitchmac2001@yahoo.com

NESDIS Vice President: Hugh Sharkey Email: hughsharkey@yahoo.com

For: Eastern Region, Headquarters Region, and Southern Region:

Mail to:

Kevin Durfee

3075 Fairmont Drive

Hanford, CA 93230

Email: jasminkev@comcast.net

Home: 559-583-0522

Cell: 559-904-1947

Work: 559-584-9051

Send email notification of election results to the Regional Chair of your branch:

Eastern Region Chairperson: Dave Solano Email: d.solano@nwseo.org

Headquarters Region Chairperson: Steve Pritchett Email: s.pritchett@nwseo.org

Southern Region Chairperson: John Werner Email: srchair@nwseo.org

For: Western Region, Pacific Region, Central Region, and Alaska Region:

Mail to:

Jeanne Allen
8296 W. Pomona Court
Boise, ID 83704-5700
Email: jma.pegasus@yahoo.com
Cell: 208-841-1925
Work: 208-334-9508

Send email notification of election results to the Regional Chair of your branch:

Acting Western Region Chairperson: Suzanne Sims	Email: s.sims@nwseo.org
Pacific Region Chairperson: Barry Hirshorn	Email: b.hirshorn@nwseo.org
Central Region Chairperson: Martin Lee	Email: m.lee@nwseo.org
Alaska Region Chairperson: Jim Brader	Email: j.brader@nwseo.org

For: National Centers for Environmental Prediction Region (NCEP):

Mail to:

Robert Ebaugh
3375 N. Country Club Drive #305
Aventura, FL 33180
Email: ibebobe@gmail.com
Cell: 786-208-1959
Work: 305-229-4528

Send email notification of election results to the Regional Chair of your branch:

NCEP Chairperson: JoAnn Becker Email: joann.becker1@gmail.com

STEWARD'S ELECTIONS CHECKLIST

Step 1: Nominations Due
June 13, 2014

- Steward/Vice Steward/Convention Delegate/Alternate Delegate Nominations due.
- If there is only one nominee for each office, please notify the Regional Chair and Credentials Committee immediately after nomination period closes.
- That person is automatically "elected." -- Skip to Step 4.

Step 2: Prepare Ballots
Due July 11, 2014

- If there is more than one nomination for any office, a ballot must be prepared and mailed to each NWSEO member's home mailing address.
- All nominations are included on the ballot.
- Establish a sealed Ballot Box for returned ballots.

Step 3: Vote
through July 19, 2014

- Members cast their ballots and deposit in sealed Ballot Box.
- Members will vote preferentially by designating their "1", "2", "3" choices.

Step 4: Results
immediately after
August 1, 2014 (Due:
September 1, 2014)

- If there is an election, open the Ballot Box and count returned ballots. A local union meeting is recommended so an observer can be present.
- Nominees should be notified of the time, date, and location where the ballots will be counted.
- Send ALL **hard copy** voting ballots to Credentials Committee for certification of results.
- Post elections results locally.
- Send email notification of elections results to the Regional Chair and Credentials Committee.

Regional Chairperson and
Regional Vice Chairperson
nominations received
Due- October 10, 2014

- Written nominations for Regional Chairperson and Regional Vice Chairperson must be received by the NWSEO President by October 10, 2014.
- Nominees must be members for at least one year.



National Weather
Service Employees
Organization

**DESIGNATION OF DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE DELEGATE
TO THE 2014 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 39th Annual National Convention to be held in Kansas City, Missouri on October 26 - 27, 2014.

Delegate-Elect (Please Print): _____

Alternate Delegate-Elect (Please Print): _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Steward or Vice-Steward