



The Four Winds

National Weather Service Employees Organization

NWSEO MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Meet NWSEO Vice Steward Anita Silverman



(April 12, 2019) NWSEO continues to collect nominations for our “NWSEO Member Spotlight,” showcasing the work, dedication and talent of our members, inspiring others and connecting all of our union members.

Please meet NWSEO Vice Steward and Senior Forecaster, *Anita Silverman*, of WFO Blacksburg, Virginia.

Where are you from?

I was born in Washington, DC and raised in the Maryland suburbs.

What brought you to the NWS and NWSEO?

I have had a lifelong fascination with weather. I joined the NWS at National Center for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) as an intern just out of Penn State, then was an intern at Weather Forecast Office Columbia, Missouri, a general forecaster at the Weather Service Forecast Office St. Louis, Missouri, and am currently a senior forecaster at the Weather Forecast Office Blacksburg, VA.

I joined the NWSEO in the late 80s when I was at NCEP because I liked the idea of the field level staff being represented at higher levels of the agency and even higher up into the Department of Commerce and beyond. I also have a family background as union members/supporters (see links about my great uncle Joe).

https://dlg.usg.edu/record/gsu_uprising_87

<http://digitalcollections.library.gsu.edu/cdm/ref/collection/labor/id/3246>

<https://blog.library.gsu.edu/2010/05/19/joseph-jacobs-labor-scholarship-call-for-applicants/>

How did you first hear about NWSEO?

I don't remember. I think someone just came up and asked me if I wanted to join.

How long have you been working with NWS? What do you do specifically?

I have worked for the NWS for 31 years. I produce and help disseminate accurate and timely warnings and forecasts for the public, aviation, fire management, emergency managers and first responders. I have extensive experience with many types of weather forecasting including winter weather, thunderstorms, tropical weather, and hydrology.

What do you enjoy about your job? -about supporting NWSEO?

I enjoy the variety. Everyday offers a different challenge and focus. If you are in a wet weather pattern the focus may be on flooding or snowfall. In a dry period the emphasis may be on winds and fire management. Extreme weather events are exciting to forecast. I am grateful that my career has had constant opportunities for continued learning and training.

My support for the NWSEO is limited. I have served as vice steward for the union here at Blacksburg for the past few years but aside from helping maintain the planning and fixed work schedule, I have little other involvement.

Would you recommend joining NWSEO to others?

Yes, I would recommend others join the NWSEO. If for no other reason than a checks and balance mechanism at the local, regional and national levels.

Any favorite hobbies, extracurricular activities or something we don't know about you?

My hobbies including reading mysteries, baking, crocheting, and travel. I am an avid Washington Capitals fan, still basking in the 2018 Stanley Cup victory.

We are so appreciative for Anita's time and dedication to the work she and the members and employees of Eastern Region do every day and also, for participating in our *NWSEO Member Spotlight*. We hope this will be a communication tool for NWSEO Members to get to know each other, from across the nation, connect even more and, together, support each other in our work and in building our membership. **Please submit your *Member Spotlight*, suggestions, and comments to Christy Fox at mediarelations@nwseo.org.**

-NWSEO-

**No one cares more for National Weather Service employees than
National Weather Service employees.**

**No one works harder for National Weather Service employees than
National Weather Service employees.**

We are NWSEO.