



# The Four Winds

National Weather Service Employees Organization

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## Important Dates and Deadlines

(February 25, 2013) If you haven't turned in Forms A and B for the NWSEO negotiated National Weather Service Health Club and Wellness Services Fees Reimbursement Program, now is the time to take action. Forms A and B must be submitted by **Thursday, February 28, 2013**.

**Form A** must be submitted by February 28, 2013 to receive benefits for 2013.

**Form B** must be submitted by February 28, 2013 for reimbursement for the year 2012.

The program, which is open to all NWS employees, enables you may receive up to \$300 per year as a health club membership dues rebate. The rebate also covers certain weight loss and smoking cessation programs. In order to be eligible for the programs, it is important that the correct forms are submitted before the due dates.

Complete information on the [National Weather Service Health Club and Wellness Services Fees Reimbursement Program is available here](#).

Remember, this health club and wellness benefit is available to you solely because of the work of NWSEO. It is just one more way to demonstrate the strength and benefits your membership provides.

## NWSEO Dues Rebate for New Members

**March 1, 2013** is the deadline to receive the \$100 dues rebate for any new member joining NWSEO by [1187 form](#) for payroll deduction.

As members, you are NWSEO. Each one of us makes up this professional organization and our strength is from the work we do as a collective whole. Because your recruitment efforts strengthen NWSEO, any member who recruits two new members to join NWSEO using the 1187 for payroll deduction from November 14<sup>th</sup> 2012 through July 31, 2013, NWSEO will provide airfare, lodging, and group meals for the 2013 convention. The name of the recruiter must be on the 1187.

The 2013 annual convention will be held at the [Vinoy Renaissance Resort @ Golf Club](#) in St. Petersburg, Florida on Sunday and Monday, September 22 and 23, with steward training on Saturday, September 21.

## NWSEO Member Sharon Payne -Needs Medical Leave Donations

NWSEO member **Sharon Payne** is in need of donated medical leave time. Sharon has spent the last month and a half in intensive care unit and cardiac care unit as a result of complications from type two diabetes and pneumonia. She is currently recovering in the cardiac care unit from cardiac arrest.



Sharon is an **Information Technology Specialist for the National Weather Service Telecommunications Gateway Operations**. She has exhausted her leave and would be very grateful for any leave donations. Sharon extends her appreciation for your thoughtfulness and prayers.

NWSEO Members have always been generous with annual leave donations for co-workers in need. If you are interested in donating leave for Sharon, you may complete the 630A Form at this link:

[http://www.opm.gov/Forms/pdf\\_fill/opm630a.pdf](http://www.opm.gov/Forms/pdf_fill/opm630a.pdf)

Please make sure the form is signed by you and that Sharon Payne is named as the recipient and then submit it to your ASA.

**Here are a few facts about donated medical leave and the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program that you might find beneficial if you are considering donating leave or if you are in need of donated leave time:**

OPM regulates that only annual leave may be donated. You cannot donate sick leave. Leave donors can specify a member of the Leave Donor Program whom they'd like to receive their donated leave time by completing form complete form OPM-630A.

[http://www.opm.gov/FORMS/PDF\\_FILL/opm630a.pdf](http://www.opm.gov/FORMS/PDF_FILL/opm630a.pdf)

Any leave that is not used is returned back to the donor. A person does not have to wait until their leave is exhausted before applying to be a recipient of the Leave Transfer Program. They must present medical documentation showing they anticipate that they will be on unpaid status for at least 24 hours.

Before a person can accept any donated leave, they must complete the required paperwork, have it processed, and receive notification that they are accepted as a recipient of the Leave Transfer Program. It can take two weeks to process the paperwork, so applicants should apply as soon as they realize the condition is expected to exhaust their leave.

Department of Commerce leave rules come straight from OPM. There are no agency specific rules. If you would like to learn more about the Leave Transfer Program, including a full list of participants, visit: [http://www.wfm.noaa.gov/policies/leavedonor\\_info.html](http://www.wfm.noaa.gov/policies/leavedonor_info.html).

If you know of an NWSEO member in need of a medical leave donation and would like us to inform members on the NWSEO.org website, please have them contact NWSEO at [mediarelations@nwseo.org](mailto:mediarelations@nwseo.org). NWSEO thanks you for your generosity and care! For additional information, please visit:

[http://hr.commerce.gov/Practitioners/CompensationAndLeave/DEV01\\_006149](http://hr.commerce.gov/Practitioners/CompensationAndLeave/DEV01_006149)

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