



National Weather Service Employees Organization

~~IMPORTANT OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ELECTIONS~~

June 9, 2010

Dear NWSEO Member:

This letter is your notification of nomination and election procedures for 2010. It also contains information about the 35th Annual NWSEO Convention. ***The Union will post this letter and all checklists on our website: www.nwseo.org.***

You are invited to attend the 2010 NWSEO Convention to be held at the Eden Roc Renaissance Hotel in Miami, FL on October 9-10, 2010. The Eden Roc Renaissance Miami Beach is located at 4525 Collins Avenue, Miami Beach, Florida, 33140.

All NWSEO members are invited to attend the convention. Attendance at the convention is free. However, transportation, lodging and meals other than lunch and the Saturday night banquet are at your own expense.

Please note that the union will pay the travel and hotel room expenses for any member who recruits at least two new members since the last convention and before August 1st. The new member must sign up by Standard Form 1187 and write who recruited them on the form to receive credit for the recruitment.

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 or branches 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 then 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

Reservations for the Eden Roc Renaissance Miami Beach can be made by calling 1-800-319-5354 or go to the NWSEO Convention Page on our website to make your reservations on-line. We have successfully negotiated a single/double room rate of \$129 per night per night plus an additional 10.1% for taxes. Room reservations must be made by September 8, 2010.

2010 ELECTIONS

The procedures which you need to know in order to nominate fellow NWSEO members for NWSEO offices, and to participate in elections for local officials, are set forth below. If more than one member is nominated for any branch office, then elections of local 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 – BY JULY 16, 2010

If you are a member in good standing of a branch, then you may nominate yourself or any other member in good standing from your local branch for the position of branch steward or vice steward. If you wish to nominate yourself or someone else to be branch steward or vice steward, then you must notify your current local branch steward and regional chair IN WRITING no later than Friday, July 16, 2010. E-mail nominations are acceptable.

B. Delegate/Alternate Delegate Nominations – BY JULY 16, 2010

If you are a member in good standing of a branch, then you may nominate yourself or any other NWSEO union member in your region to serve as a convention delegate or alternate delegate *for your local branch*. If you wish to nominate yourself or someone else to be a convention delegate or alternate delegate, you must notify your current branch steward IN WRITING no later than Friday, July 16, 2010. E-mail nominations are acceptable.

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 a convention delegate or alternate delegate for another branch, you must notify the current branch steward at the other branch IN WRITING no later than Friday, July 16, 2010. E-mail nominations are acceptable.

You may obtain the names and addresses of the current stewards at other branches by contacting Lisa Luciani, NWSEO Director of Communications, at 202-907-3036, or 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 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 Vice Chairperson Nominations – BY September 25, 2010

If you have been a member of NWSEO since October 9, 2009, you may nominate yourself to run as a candidate for Regional Chairperson or Vice Chairperson. Regardless of how long you have been an NWSEO member, you may nominate any other union member in your region as a candidate for Regional Chairperson or Vice Chairperson, provided that the person you nominate has been a member since October 9, 2009. If you wish to nominate yourself or another member as a candidate for Regional Chairperson or Vice Chairperson, you may do so by submitting the nomination in writing by delivering it in person or by registered or certified mail. Mail your nominations to:

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

Nominations for regional chair and vice chairs must be received by **September 25, 2010**.

VOTING PROCEDURES- MAIL BALLOTS BY JULY 30, 2010

As noted above, nominations for branch steward, vice steward, delegate and alternate delegate must be submitted to the local branch steward no later than Friday, July 16, 2010. If more than one member is nominated for any branch office, 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, then 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, then you should contact Peter Nuhn, Director of Membership Services, at 202-494-7859. You may ask your vice steward or any other NWSEO member in your branch to assist you with preparing and mailing the ballots. You are strongly advised **NOT** to do this on work time.

To ensure that the election is completed in an orderly and timely manner, this must be completed no later than Friday, July 30, 2010.

THESE ELECTIONS ARE NOT OPTIONAL.

THE BRANCH STEWARD MUST HOLD AN ELECTION IF THERE IS MORE THAN ONE NOMINEE. IF THIS IS NOT DONE, THEN 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, then there is no need to hold an election for that office, or to include that position on the ballot. That person is automatically “elected.”

Please notify your Regional Chair and your Credentials Committee member by e-mail immediately after nominations close on July 16, 2010, if you do not need to conduct an election because there was 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 August 13, 2010. Although it is not required, it is probably a good idea for the steward to 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. Article 8, Sec.1. The counting of the ballots should take place as soon after August 13, 2010 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.
3. Mail 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 and 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.

AS PROVIDED BY THE NWSEO BY-LAWS AT 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 e-mail account, or otherwise at any NWSEO expense. Similarly, we strongly recommend that you do NOT campaign using NWS telephones, stationery, or e-mail. 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, along with appropriate receipts, to Peter Nuhn at the NWSEO mailing address, which appears above. 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, then please contact Mr. Nuhn immediately at 202-494-7859, or at Peter@nwseo.org He will be available to provide local branches with technical assistance needed to carry out local elections.

Checklists and Delegate Form will be mailed to all Branch Stewards that will assist branch stewards and delegates in meeting all of the requirements detailed in this notice of election.

Very truly yours,
Peter J Nuhn
Election Administrator