



National Weather Service Employees Organization

~~IMPORTANT OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ELECTIONS~~

April 21, 2017

Dear NWSEO Member,

This letter is your notification of nomination and election procedures for 2017. It also contains information about the 42nd Annual NWSEO Convention. NWSEO will post this letter on our website:

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

You are invited to attend the 2017 NWSEO Convention at the beautiful [Vinoy Renaissance Resort & Golf Club, St. Petersburg, Florida](#) on September 18-19, 2017 (Monday-Tuesday event). The Vinoy Renaissance Resort is located at: 501 5th Avenue NE, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701. This iconic hotel overlooks Tampa Bay and features the ultimate luxurious retreat along Florida's West Coast.

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. **Please note the NWSEO Recruitment Incentive:** For any NWSEO member who recruits two or more new members to join NWSEO using the [1187 form for payroll deduction](#) (not by credit card) from August 1, 2016 to July 31, 2017, NWSEO will provide reasonable airfare*, 3-nights lodging, and approved group meals for the 2017 NWSEO Convention at the Vinoy Renaissance Resort. The name of the recruiter must be on the submitted 1187 in order 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. Printed copies of airfares from Expedia or other travel sites will serve as documentation.*

Hotel Reservations: If you plan to attend the convention, you are responsible for making your hotel reservations. NWSEO has successfully negotiated a room rate starting at \$114 per night plus taxes. Room reservations must be made by August 20, 2017. They can be booked directly with Vinoy Renaissance Resort & Golf Club by calling [1-888-789-3090](tel:1-888-789-3090) or using the link: [Reservations for the NWSEO 42ND Convention at the Vinoy Renaissance Resort](#). Please mention that you are an NWSEO member and attending the convention in order to get the negotiated room rate.

Each NWSEO Branch is required to elect a delegate and an alternate delegate to the convention. The delegate and alternate delegate vote on all matters that come before the 42nd Annual National Convention for a vote on September 18 and 19, 2017. 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 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.

New program starting 2017 for Convention Delegates:

Any member who accumulates a minimum of 25 percent of the Region's available delegate votes (which must include delegate votes from at least two branches from Regions that have more than one branch), NWSEO will reimburse reasonable airfare*, 2-nights lodging at the Convention hotel, and approved group meals for attendance at the 2017 NWSEO Convention at the Vinoy Renaissance Resort. The 25 percent threshold will be based on upon the certified 2016 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. Printed copies of airfares from Expedia or other travel sites will serve as documentation.*

2017 ELECTIONS

The procedures to nominate NWSEO members for NWSEO branch positions and convention delegate positions, and to participate in elections are set forth below. (There are no elections for regional office in 2017.) If more than one member is nominated for branch NWSEO steward, vice-steward, convention delegate and/or alternate delegate, then branch elections for that position must be conducted by secret ballot.

1. NOMINATION PROCEDURES – If you wish to nominate yourself or someone else as 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 2, 2017**. Email nominations are acceptable.

A. Branch Steward/Vice Steward Nominations – 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 – 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*. 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*.

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 names and email addresses of current branch stewards by contacting Christy Fox, Director of Membership Services via email at: membership@nwseo.org.

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

NOMINEES FOR DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE DELEGATE SHOULD NOTIFY THE APPROPRIATE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE MEMBER AS LISTED ON PAGE 5 OF THIS LETTER. THIS WILL ENABLE THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE TO ENSURE THAT ALL NOMINEES APPEAR ON THE BALLOTS.

2. VOTING PROCEDURES FOR BRANCH ELECTIONS– **Mail ballots by Friday, July 7, 2017**. If more than one member is nominated for any branch office (branch steward/vice steward) and/or convention delegate/alternate delegate, the current branch steward must prepare 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.

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.

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.

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 2, 2017, 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. If you need help preparing the ballot or experience any difficulties, please contact Credentials Committee member for your region listed on page 5 of this letter.

DO NOT SIGN OR OTHERWISE IDENTIFY YOURSELF ON YOUR BALLOT.

3. BALLOT COUNTING AND REPORTING - The branch steward will establish a sealed box in which members will return their ballots no later than **Friday, July 21, 2017**. 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. **The counting of the ballots should take place as soon after Friday, July 21, 2017 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. The new branch steward must notify his/her regional chair of his/her name, home address, home phone number and personal email address.

There are three steps 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 law to campaign for NWSEO office, to make nominations, or to solicit votes as a delegate from another branch using NWSEO stationery, NWSEO 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 Lisa Luciani 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 5 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 5 of this letter. They will be available to provide local branches with assistance needed to carry out local elections.

Very truly yours,

Delyne Kirkham Elections/Credentials Committee Chair

NWSEO Mailing address:

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

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 21, 2017 to the following Credentials Committee Contact for your region:

Credentials Committee Contact	Region	Regional Chairperson	Email
Martin Lee PO Box 3086 Duluth MN 55803-3086 Email: Lee55803@gmail.com Cell: 218-206-4785 Work: 218-729-0645 Ext. 2	Central	Jim Lee	j.lee@nwseo.org
	NCEP	JoAnn Becker	j.becker@nwseo.org
Kevin Durfee 3075 Fairmont Drive Hanford, CA 93230 Email: jasminkev@comcast.net Home: 559-583-0522 Cell: 559-904-1947 Work: 559-584-9051	Alaska	Jim Brader	jimbrader@gmail.com
	Eastern	David Solano	hydrodave2@comcast.net
	Pacific	Chris Jacobson	c.jacobson@nwseo.org
Angie Margrave 3609 Memory Lane Amarillo, TX 79109 Email: angela.margrave@gmail.com Cell: 806-640-7224 Work: 806-318-4624	AOC	Todd Richards	hurricanetech@verizon.net
	AOML	Vice Steward Jay Harris	jayharris1@gmail.com
	NESDIS	Hugh Sharkey	hughsharkey@yahoo.com
	Southern	John Werner	srchair@nwseo.org
Gerry Claycomb 2050 Road 124 Cheyenne, WY 82009 Email: claycombge@gmail.com Cell: 417-379-5074 Work: 307-772-2468	Headquarters	Mike Dion	m.dion@nwseo.org
	NAG	Mitch MacDonald	mitchmac2001@yahoo.com
	Western	Suzanne Sims	s.sims@nwseo.org



National Weather
Service Employees
Organization

**DESIGNATION OF DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE DELEGATE
TO THE 2017 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 42nd Annual National Convention to be held in St. Petersburg, Florida on September 18-19, 2017.

Delegate-Elect (Please Print): _____

Alternate Delegate-Elect (Please Print): _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Steward or Vice-Steward