

## [NWSEO Contract Connect](#)

### **NWS-NWSEO Contract Negotiations begin April 3.**

#### **[Contract Connect](#) brings Bargaining Table information straight to you.**

(March 13, 2017) Contract negotiations for the new Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) are scheduled to begin on Monday, April 3. The CBA is the contract that will shape the future of the National Weather Service, including employees' rights, schedules, and benefits. To keep bargaining unit employees informed of what's happening at the CBA bargaining table, NWSEO is going to issue a special monthly edition of the NWSEO Four Winds called, NWSEO [Contract Connect](#).

[Contract Connect](#) is your direct source for the latest CBA news from the negotiating table, brought **to bargaining unit employees from bargaining unit employees** directly involved in negotiations. The newsletter will be distributed via the NWSEO email system and employees will also be able to access [Contract Connect](#) from a new tab on the NWSEO home page at [www.nwseo.org](http://www.nwseo.org).

Negotiations include long days each month with a two week active negotiations process followed by a two week period for the negotiations teams to reevaluate and prepare for the next round. The monthly issue of Contract Connect will detail each active two week negotiation session to update you on current negotiations and the effects on your working conditions and work-life balance. NWSEO is 100 percent committed to developing, negotiating, and eventually ratifying a new Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) which promotes better working conditions, career promotions for NWS employees, and participation in collective bargaining.

The NWS opened the previous CBA and all Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) for negotiation in July 2015. Ground rules negotiations started in November 2015 and three times the NWS tried to declare impasse. The Federal Labor Relations Authority reviewed each case only to find each time that the parties were not at impasse. Ground rules negotiations were completed December 2016.

"It has been a long, arduous process just to get to the point of the actual negotiations," said NWSEO President Dan Sobien. "NWSEO is hopeful to efficiently and effectively bargain the best contract for NWS employees, including the addition of much needed quality of life issues, but the NWS's past stalling antics, is preparing us to be ready for what could be a lengthy process."

NWSEO is excited to begin the actual CBA negotiations next month, which can be a complicated process as both parties must agree to the final contract. The NWSEO negotiations team is using input collected from bargaining unit employees. You may recall the 2016 campaign to collect

NWSEO members' suggestions and ideas through the NWSEO Strong email account. Every suggestion was thoughtfully reviewed for inclusion into the bargaining process.

NWSEO is the exclusive labor organization and professional association that represents all bargaining unit employees in the NWS. NWSEO membership is the strength behind our professional organization. As members, you bring real life work scenarios, valuable ideas for improvement, and employee needs to the forefront of the negotiation process. Thank you for your membership support.

**Contract Connect**

***Your true source for negotiation updates:***

***From bargaining unit employees for bargaining unit employees.***

-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.**