



[NWSEO Contract Connect](#)

NWS-NWSEO Contract Negotiations begin April 3

Meet the NWSEO Negotiations Team

(March 28, 2017) Welcome to National Weather Service Employees Organization's [Contract Connect](#) the *negotiation newsletter for bargaining unit employees from bargaining unit employees*. [Contract Connect](#) is a special edition of the *NWSEO Four Winds*, distributed on a monthly basis, after each round of negotiations. 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.

When CBA negotiations begin on April 3, you will be represented by a team of dedicated NWSEO members and NWS employees who will represent the views of all bargaining unit employees. Your valued input and suggestions through the "2016 NWSEO Strong" email campaign was a tremendous help. Every suggestion was thoughtfully reviewed for inclusion in the bargaining process. NWSEO strives to keep you informed as negotiations move forward. Your membership and input are greatly appreciated as NWSEO works to represent you.

The NWSEO Negotiations Team

The NWSEO Negotiations Team consists of NWSEO Members-NWS employees dedicated to writing and negotiating the Union's proposal for the new CBA. NWSEO CBA articles are written by NWS non-supervisory employees who work at National, Regional, and Local offices and not by a team of NOAA lawyers. Plain and simple, the NWSEO Negotiation Team is comprised of NWS workers dedicated to the NWS mission and to the working conditions of NWS employees.

Meet your NWSEO core CBA negotiators:

1. Dan Sobien, NWSEO President, Meteorologist Tampa Bay Area, WFO (Ruskin), Florida
2. JoAnn Becker – NWSEO NCEP Regional Chair, Senior Aviation Meteorologist at the Aviation Weather Center, Kansas City, Missouri
3. David Solano – NWSEO Secretary Treasurer and Eastern Region Chair, Senior Hydro-Meteorologist Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center, State College, Pennsylvania
4. John Werner – NWSEO Southern Region Chair, Senior Meteorologist WFO Mobile, Alabama
5. Delyne Kirkham – Hydrometeorological Technician (HMT), Western Region Persons with Disabilities Special Emphasis Program Manager, WFO Elko Nevada

The NWSEO Negotiating Team is permitted a 6th alternate negotiator. This position will be filled on a rotational basis by the following NWSEO members who've been a part of the Negotiations Team since July 2015.

CBA 6th alternate negotiator team:

1. Suzanne Sims – NWSEO Western Region Chair, Senior Meteorologist, San Francisco Bay Area, WFO Monterey, California

2. Robert Ruehl – NWSEO Western Region Vice Chair, Observation Program Leader, WFO Eureka, California
3. Jonathan Fox – Senior Meteorologist, WFO Spokane, Washington
4. Nathan Becker PhD – Oceanographer, Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, Ewa Beach, Hawaii
5. Chris Jacobson – NWSEO Pacific Region Chair, Senior Meteorologist, WFO Honolulu, Hawaii
6. Mike Dion – Headquarters Chair, Meteorologist, Analyze, Forecast and Support Office, Silver Spring, Maryland

CBA Negotiations

CBA negotiations is a strategic process and, at times, can be a slow process. Patience is critical for a successful outcome. **NWSEO negotiating team, proposals, and strategies are developed specifically for the best possible outcome for NWS employees.** Negotiations will continue for two weeks every month unless changes are agreed upon by the chief negotiators for each side. NWSEO will issue a [Contract Connect](#) after each face-to-face negotiation session to provide direct communications from the negotiation's table.

NWS Management's CBA proposals are bare bones and remove many of the conditions of employment that NWS employees are accustomed to having under the current CBA. The NWS used tax dollars to hire a communications expert specifically to counter NWSEO's communications. Through the work of this communication expert and the vast reach of the Agency, management may attempt to sway bargaining unit employees into believing the Agency has your best interests in mind. Please keep in mind, it's the employees and members of NWSEO who truly have your interest in mind.

NWSEO members at the negotiations table, ranging from HMT, Hydrologist, Meteorologist, Aviation Meteorologist, Oceanographer, OPL, working side-by-side with the rest of the NWS employees - ASAs, ETs, ITOs, RAMs, FETs, Met Interns, and others, are dedicated to reach the best new Collective Bargaining Agreement possible for the nearly 4,000 employees represented by NWSEO. Just as your input in the "2016 NWSEO Strong" campaign was a top priority, your trust is appreciated and highly valued.

NWSEO will keep you informed on the latest news from the CBA negotiating table with [Contract Connect](#) *the negotiation newsletter for bargaining unit employees from 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.**