



# The Four Winds

National Weather Service Employees Organization

## NWSEO MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### **Congratulations to Huug van den Dool Recipient of the 2018 NOAA Distinguished Career Award**

(May 25, 2018) NWSEO congratulates Huug van den Dool, the 2018 recipient of the NOAA Distinguished Career Award. This award was presented by RDML Tim Gallaudet, Ph.D., USN Ret. at a ceremony held in Silver Spring, Maryland on May 22. The Distinguished Career Award is designed to recognize long-term achievement in advancing the goals and mission of NOAA.

Dr. Van den Dool is a long-time supporter and current Associate Member of NWSEO. He joined NWSEO in 2012, and served as a member and steward for NWS National Centers for Environmental Protection (NCEP) and Climate Prediction Center (CPC). Dr. Van den Dool is recognized for his work in the development of new prediction techniques forming the basis for, and establishment of, seasonal climate forecasts at the CPC.



Dr. Van den Dool stated, “Being from The Netherlands, where Unions are well respected in general, I had a positive attitude towards Unions when I came to this country in the early 1980's. However, I was in management (a Branch Chief) at the Climate Prediction Center for many years, and very few people at CPC were NWSEO members then. Around 2010, I was released from the management pool and returned to the BU. During 2012, due to several "management" issues in several centers at NCEP, EMC and CPC in particular, there was an increase in NWSEO membership. There had never been a shop steward in either EMC or CPC. So when the request came from NCEP Regional Chair JoAnn Becker, I stepped in as the CPC Steward. I encountered some support but mostly hostility from BU members who did not want to be unionized. However, many more members joined NWSEO and now the membership is over 50%, up from 10%. This is not so much my achievement, but the result of 'management issues.' I think all federal workers should join the union. Even if you like management NOW, there is zero guarantee that management will always be a benign partner. You ALWAYS need an organization like NWSEO, looking out for the interests of our incredible work force.”

**Please submit your *Member Spotlight*, suggestions, and comments to Christy Fox at [mediarelations@nwseo.org](mailto:mediarelations@nwseo.org).**

-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.**