



Contract Connect *Highlights*

- Abbreviated Remote Negotiations Session Brings Progress
- After Spirited Debate on Article 12 – Discipline, NWS and NWSEO Come to Tentative Agreement on Several Sub-Sections

(April 10, 2019) Negotiations for the new NWS-NWSEO Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) continued during a one-week remote session April 2nd through April 4th, 2019.

The Parties spent the entire session on Article 12, Discipline. Both Parties did a major re-write of this Article from the current Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). There were good discussions for most of the negotiation session as both sides laid out their positions, concerns and protections they each sought within the respective proposals. Numerous counter proposals were exchanged with each side making a good-faith effort to move closer to each other and to obtain some tentative agreements. It was refreshing to see some “give and take” from both sides. This led to NWSEO accepting nearly a dozen sub-sections in Article 12.

There was a sub-section that led to several questions, some of which could not be answered during the remote session. As a result, these were tabled by the NWS Chief Negotiator until a later date until further research can be done on the topic.

This one-week session was the most productive remote negotiations session to date, and it is hopeful that this spirit of true negotiation will continue during the next remote session which the Parties are working to schedule.

The NWSEO Negotiation Team for this session included:

1. Dan Sobien, NWSEO President & Chief Negotiator (2 days), Meteorologist, Tampa Bay Area, WFO (Ruskin), FL.
2. Mike Dion, NWSEO Headquarters Region Chair, Digital and Graphical Information Support Branch, NWS Headquarters, Silver Spring, MD.
3. Karleisa Rogacheski, Journey Forecaster, WFO Sacramento, CA (2 days).
4. Jon Fox, Lead Forecaster, WFO Spokane, WA (1 day).
5. JoAnn Becker, NWSEO NCEP Region Chair, Senior Aviation Meteorologist, NCEP/Aviation Weather Center, Kansas City, MO. (Chief Negotiator 1 day).

6. David Solano, NWSEO Secretary/Treasurer and Eastern Region Chair, Senior Hydro-Meteorologist, Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center, State College, PA.

The Agency/NWS Negotiation Team for this session included:

1. Kenneth Brown, J.D., NOAA Attorney, National Weather Service Chief Negotiator.
2. Mike Vescio, Meteorologist in Charge, WFO Pendleton, OR.
3. David Murray, NWS Labor-Management Relations (LMR) Liaison, Silver Spring, MD (2 days).
4. Sally Pavlow Johnson, Meteorologist in Charge, WFO St. Louis, MO (2 days).
5. Ken Harding, Deputy Director, NWS Central Region Headquarters, Kansas City, MO.
6. Sam Albanese, Meteorologist in Charge, WFO Anchorage, AK.

Contract Connect, the negotiation newsletter for bargaining unit employees from bargaining unit employees, brings the latest news from the negotiations table to you. It is distributed as quickly as possible after each CBA negotiation session.

-NWSEO-

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No one works harder for National Weather Service employees than National Weather Service employees.

We are NWSEO.