



# The Four Winds

National Weather Service Employees Organization

## NWSEO Leadership Visits the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory (AOML)



Photo: NWSEO President John Werner speaking with AOML staff taken pre-COVID19.

(April 9, 2020) NWSEO President John Werner and Secretary-Treasurer David Solano had the distinctive pleasure to visit AOML in early March. They were able to meet with the staff and tour the five-story research facility on Virginia Key, Florida. NOAA's AOML encompasses ocean, coastal, and atmospheric studies to deliver NOAA's future by transferring research results into operations and applications. The bargaining unit employees of AOML, who are represented by NWSEO, focus on improving the

prediction of hurricanes, learning about the ocean's role in climate and extreme weather events, and understanding the global impacts of ocean acidification and pollution on coastal ecosystems.

Many of the employees' concerns focused on the President's proposed FY 2021 budget which calls for the elimination of 20 AOML positions. The President's FY21 proposed budget decreases NOAA funding by \$5,057,000 and terminates funding for climate-related research and observations at AOML. It also cuts critical hurricane underwater glider research, development, and deployment efforts that are intended to enhance our understanding of air-sea interaction processes during hurricane force wind events. President Werner noted, "NWSEO will be lobbying the Hill to save employee jobs and to continue hurricane underwater glider research."

Many thanks to AOML Steward *Jay Harris* and AOML Vice Steward *Evan B. Forde* for coordinating this visit.

No one cares more for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) employees than NOAA employees.

No one works harder for NOAA employees than NOAA employees.

We are NOAA employees. We are NWSEO.



Pictured from left: AOML Steward Jay Harris, NWSEO Secretary Treasurer David Solano, NWSEO President John Werner and AOML Vice Steward Evan Forde taken pre-COVID19.