



The Four Winds

National Weather Service Employees Organization

NWSEO Leadership Visits the National Hurricane Center (NHC), Weather Forecast Office Miami (WFO MFL) and Center Weather Service Unit Miami (ZMA)

(April 9, 2020) NWSEO National President John Werner and Secretary-Treasurer David Solano visited NHC, WFO MFL, and ZMA in early March. John and David were enthusiastically greeted at each office, receiving tours of each facility and meeting with the staff.

At NHC, they learned about the day to day operations at the several units that make up the NHC: the Hurricane Specialist Unit; Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch; Technology and Science Branch, and the Storm Surge Unit. After visiting NHC, John and David walked across the hall to the WFO MFL where an informal question and answer session was held with the bargaining unit staff. John gave an all-encompassing overview of the NWSEO successes at the local, regional and national level, status of CBA negotiations and stressed to everyone in attendance the importance of NWSEO membership, especially now during tight budgetary times. As you can imagine there were plenty of questions regarding the Administrations FY21 budget proposal which again calls for staffing cuts (both Meteorologists and ITOs). There were also questions regarding the ongoing vacancies in the NWS. John said, *"The lobbying efforts of NWSEO will once again be brought to the Hill and we feel confident at this time these budget and employee cuts will be defeated."*

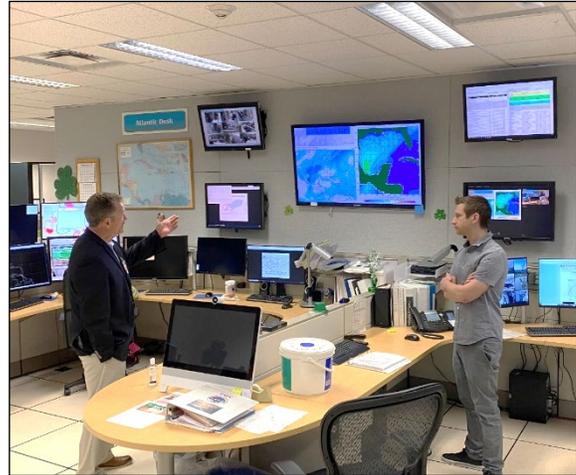


Photo: Stephen Konarik, Lead Forecaster giving NWSEO President John Werner a tour of the Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch taken pre-COVID19.



Photo: NWSEO President John Werner speaking to NHC & WFO MFL staff taken pre-COVID19.

After spending a day at NHC/WFO MFL, John and David spent the next morning at ZMA. They learned first-hand about the critical mission the CWSU performs in providing IDSS to FAA personnel at the air route traffic control centers. The CWSU meteorologists demonstrated expertise in providing meteorological consultation, forecasts, and advice on weather impactful to air traffic operations.

We greatly appreciate the feedback and input from the employees that we met.

It's their efforts that allow NWS to succeed in our mission of protecting life and property and enhancing the national economy.

Special thanks to NHC Steward and NCEP Vice Chair *Eric Blake*, WFO MFL Steward *Joe Maloney* and CWSU Steward *John Oleska* for their tremendous help in coordinating, organizing and hosting this visit.

Also, many thanks to the entire management team at the NHC, WFO MFL and ZMA for their courteous welcome and the tours they provided.

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.