



National Weather Service
Employees Organization

A Message from NWSEO President Werner

September 10, 2020

Dear NWSEO brothers and sisters,

I hope this message finds you safe, healthy and your spirits strong. Special thanks to all who are helping and assisting our NWS brothers and sisters in Lake Charles as they strive to get their lives and office back in order following the destruction wrought by Hurricane Laura! The intent of this message is to bring you up to date on Collective Bargaining Agreement negotiations/ issues and encourage you to participate in some important surveys you have or will be receiving.

Updates on Collective Bargaining Agreements

NWSEO leadership has remained busy working collective bargaining agreement (CBA) negotiations and issues over the past several months. The good news on the negotiations front is that the CBA between the NOAA, National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS), Office of Satellite and Product Operations (OSPO) and the NWSEO passed membership ratification, and was signed by both parties this week. The NESDIS/OSPO – NWSEO CBA is now undergoing agency head review. NWSEO would like to recognize NESDIS Chairperson *Hugh Sharkey, Kevin Turner (retired), Aaron Savage, Jake Cherrix, Stan Abney, Zach Dornhagen and Arla Tillman* for their contributions toward making this new CBA a reality. Congratulations to NESDIS/OSPO bargaining unit employees on their new contract!

On the other hand, the challenges over how to move forward with a new NWS - NWSEO CBA continue. When the tentative CBA failed to pass membership ratification, NWSEO requested the parties return to the table on November 3rd to begin renegotiating the contract. This would allow the parties time to review all the articles, craft new proposals and allow negotiations to begin closer to the end of this remarkably busy tropical cyclone and fire weather season. NWS again refused to renegotiate any articles other than the four which were agreed to prior to the Federal Service Impasses Panel (FSIP) assuming jurisdiction. NWSEO took this dispute to arbitration and the arbitration hearing was conducted on August 31, 2020 where both sides presented their arguments. The parties are now scheduled to file their written briefs by October 2, 2020 with their reply briefs due October 13, 2020. Once the reply briefs have been received, the arbitrator will have two months to render a decision on the matter, which puts a decision being made in the early to mid-December timeframe. **In the meantime, the 2001 NWS-NWSEO Negotiated Agreement remains in place.**

Important Surveys

I have become acutely aware over the past year of how important survey results are to management's decision-making process. To ensure your "voice is heard," I strongly encourage you to participate in the upcoming 2020 Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey (FEVS) slated for a September 14, 2020 release. NWS employees should also complete the [NWS Organizational Health Index \(OHI\) survey](#) which closes September 25. The responses to these surveys compared to previous year's survey statistics produce what is essentially a scorecard on how the agency is doing and the results frequently steer the future direction for NOAA and NWS. It is important that everyone's perspective is accounted for in these surveys.

Thank you for your support and service to our country! Please be safe and take care of yourselves, your families, and coworkers.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Werner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

John Werner
President, National Weather Employees Organization

NWSEO proudly represents more NOAA employees than any other Union. NWSEO serves bargaining unit employees of the National Weather Service, NESDIS Office of Satellite and Product Operations, Office of General Counsel, Aircraft Operations Center, and Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory.