



NWSEO Secures a GS-8 Upgrade for All Field Office ASAs

(November 14, 2010) NWSEO secured an agreement that upgrades to a GS-8 every Administrative Support Assistant at field offices around the country. The GS - 8 upgrade includes approximately one million dollars in extra pay and benefits to the lowest paid NWS employees each and every year from now on. The effective date of the promotion is February 1, 2011. Training for new responsibilities will begin soon.

“This accomplishment is a prime example of what can be done when people organize for a common goal,” said NWSEO President Dan Sobien. “The ASAs who belong to the union pushed this issue and encouraged others to become involved. It is proof of the power employees have when they organize and speak with one voice.” The dues to join NWSEO is only 10-percent of the pay raise each ASA will receive.

ASA Lisa Frantz and former ASA Delyne Kirkham were awarded the Kip Robinson Award at the NWSEO Annual Convention in October for their work with NWSEO on the ASA retention issue. This annual NWSEO award is given in recognition of members volunteering their time and talent to make NWSEO a stronger union. The Kip Robinson Award is named after a late lobbyist who worked diligently for NWSEO.

NWSEO has actively pursued this upgrade for ASAs since Frantz and Kirkham brought it to the union’s attention at the 2009 annual convention. “ASAs essentially do the work and have the responsibilities of much higher graded positions such as budgeting and property management,” said Sobien. “The GS-8 upgrade is imperative to retaining quality employees in these positions. This is an NWSEO success that will benefit the ASAs and NWS field offices as a whole.”

NWSEO is the only organization with the ability to lobby Congress and the Administration to preserve NWS jobs, promote better working conditions and career promotions for NWS, and participate in collective bargaining. There is strength in union membership.

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