



# The Four Winds

National Weather Service Employees Organization

## NWSEO MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### Meet NWSEO Central Region Chair Jim Lee



(March 13, 2019) NWSEO continues to collect nominations for our “NWSEO Member Spotlight,” showcasing the work, dedication and talent of our members, inspiring others and connecting all of our union members.

Meet Jim Lee, NWSEO Central Region Chair and Journeyman Forecaster in WFO Des Moines, IA.

#### **Where are you from? What brought you to the NWS and NWSEO?**

I grew up in Iowa City, IA and later graduated from the University of Oklahoma. I came to the NWS because I enjoy operational meteorology and I like helping people. I joined NWSEO because I wanted to support an organization that was fighting for my job and my interests, as well as an organization through which I could have a voice.

#### **How did you first hear about NWSEO?**

My local steward talked to me about the importance of NWSEO; that it is a valuable tool in protecting our jobs and our budget and also in charting the future of the agency. I looked at NWSEO membership as an investment in my future.

#### **How long have you been working with NWS? What do you do specifically?**

I joined the NWS at the end of 2002, so it's been 16 years already. I started out as a Meteorologist Intern at WFO Key West, FL and now I am a General Forecaster in WFO Des Moines, IA. I issue forecasts, warnings, advisories and other hazardous weather statements, engage with various partners and the general public to provide IDSS, and perform a variety of other meteorological and observational functions. I am also heavily involved in a number of local, regional, and national teams and projects.

#### **What do you enjoy about your job? -about supporting NWSEO?**

I love my job. It is constantly interesting, challenging, and surprising. I never get bored and I feel like no two days are the same. I also find it immensely satisfying to know that I am helping people, whether it's issuing warnings that could save lives, or just making their day a little better by providing weather information that saves them time or money.

My work with NWSEO provides much of the same satisfaction, except instead of helping our external partners I get to help our own employees; to enhance their job security, work environment, and professional opportunities.

**What accomplishments have you seen/experienced from the work of the NWSEO? Would you recommend joining NWSEO to others?**

NWSEO has been instrumental in leading change within the NWS. We help take the great ideas of field employees and turn them into reality by making improvements in operational processes and technologies, customer service tools and media, and working conditions across the agency. **I could not recommend highly enough to non-members that they join NWSEO.** What better way to have a say in changes that will affect your career? What better way to enhance your leadership skills and your professional experiences?

**Any favorite hobbies, extracurricular activities or something we don't know about you?**

In my free time I enjoy travel, movies, reading, and genealogy. My wife is from Thailand and I get over there to visit as often as I can!

**Any final words you'd like to share?**

I am so grateful to NWSEO for everything the organization has done for me and all the bargaining unit employees they represent. I am also grateful for the opportunity NWSEO provides me to make a difference in the lives of my fellow employees, and for all our members who support our important mission.



We are so appreciative for Jim's time and dedication to the work he and the members and employees of Central Region do every day and also, for participating in our *NWSEO Member Spotlight*. So many of you have already met Jim, perhaps at NWS New Hires Training and Orientation!

We hope this will be a communication tool for NWSEO Members to get to know each other, from across the nation, connect even more and, together, support each other in our work and in building our membership. **Please submit your *Member Spotlight*, suggestions, and comments to Christy Fox at [mediarelations@nwseo.org](mailto:mediarelations@nwseo.org).**

-NWSEO-

**No one cares more for National Weather Service employees than  
National Weather Service employees.**

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

**We are NWSEO.**