
NATCA National Executive Board Teleconference
February 22, 2008

The teleconference was called to order by President Patrick Forrey and the following individuals were in attendance:

Paul Rinaldi, Executive Vice President;
Ricky Thompson, Alaskan Regional Vice President;
Howard Blankenship, Central Regional Vice President;
Phil Barbarello, Eastern Regional Vice President;
Bryan Zilonis, Great Lakes Regional Vice President;
Mike Robicheau, New England Regional Vice President;
Scott Farrow, Northwest Mountain Regional Vice President;
Victor Santore, Southern Regional Vice President.

Also present was Adell Humphreys.

Philadelphia/New York Discipline Issue: Mr. Forrey has discussed this matter with Hank Krakowski. Mr. Krakowski stated that he has no control over the FAA's public affairs department, but he believes this issue will die down quickly. However, he agreed to investigate.

Second Drug Tests: There has been a lot of discussion on the bbs regarding second drug tests. There is a belief that if an employee tests positive, they should get a second test. Discussion ensued on whether there should be a national policy on this issue. Questions were raised as to whether the second test would be as valid as the first one (which is administered by the FAA). Mr. Forrey will ask NATCA's Labor Relations staff to draft a document that will be sent to NATCA reps with guidance on how to handle drug testing; the document will be reviewed by the NEB prior to distribution.

Dues Reimbursement: Mr. Rinaldi reported that the latest dues reimbursement checks (for the fourth quarter of 2007) will be mailed next week.

Budget Software: Bill Holtzman has offered to create a web-based/html based program that would enable NATCA's Regional Administrative Assistants to more accurately track their region's expenses. Mr. Blankenship will discuss this with Pam Wood and determine if there is interest in the program.

Presidential Endorsement: Discussion ensued on whether or not the union should endorse a Presidential candidate at this time. There is a strong belief that if Senator Clinton doesn't win the nomination, endorsing Sen. Obama would have a negative affect on our future relations with Senator Clinton and her staff. It was agreed that NATCA would not endorse a Presidential candidate at this time.

LWOP: Mr. Farrow reported that a ZSE controller with serious health issues has exhausted his sick leave and is now on LWOP. The FAA wants the Flight Surgeon to pull this individual's medical certificate because he's using too much LWOP. Mr. Farrow was instructed to work with NATCA's attorneys and labor relations staff to resolve this matter.

Denver Upgrade: Mr. Forrey reported that there is nothing new on the Denver upgrade, and that Rick Ducharme says he is working the issue. Mr. Forrey will follow up.
NAATS Alaska: The members of NAATS Alaska who have voted to merge with NATCA are satisfied with the definition of their bargaining unit and how seniority will be handled. For these members, their FAA flight service time in Alaska will count towards seniority; they will have the ability to bid under their current seniority until one year after the merger. Mr. Forrey will distribute an official interpretation shortly, once it has been reviewed by the NEB.

Continuation of Pay: Members on COP are having problems with the Agency's interpretation of this program. In one instance, the FAA cancelled a member's COP, ordered him back to work and told him he would be counted as AWOL if he didn't return to work. Mr. Forrey requested the names of facilities where these problems are happening, and he will discuss the issue with Hank Krakowski. He will also ask NATCA's Labor Relations staff to look into this, as it could be a violation of FECA law.

NATCA Store: Mr. Meachum recommends that the NATCA National office not add any profit into cost charged for items ordered by the Regional Vice Presidents from the NATCA Store. Mr. Blankenship would like to include NATCA Locals in this policy. After discussion, it was agreed that NATCA entities would not be charged costs that include profits on any orders from the NATCA Store (this does not include shipping costs).