

NEB Teleconference Minutes August 7, 2008

The teleconference was called to order by President Patrick Forrey, and the following individuals were in attendance: 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; Mike MacDonald, Region X Regional Vice President; Darrell Meachum, Southwest Regional Vice President; Hamid Ghaffari, Western Pacific Regional Vice President. Also present was Adell Humphreys, NATCA Chief of Staff.

Mr. Forrey reported on his recent meeting with Hank Krakowski, Bruce Johnson, Rick Day, Rick Fossey and Rick Ducharme. Bryan Zilonis, Mike Robicheau, Peter Gimbrere and Dale Wright also attended this meeting. In discussing the issue of "tower splits", Mr. Ducharme confirmed that the Agency will not split Miami Tower in 2009 as planned; however, the Agency will continue to do local SRMDs, as they have not abandoned their desire to consolidate facilities. PHL, MEM, ORL and other facilities will be considered for splits in the future, and the Agency has said they will consider NATCA's concerns regarding ways to mitigate these potential splits. The SMS process was discussed, including the failure of the ATO to follow safety regulations (particularly in reference to Detroit).

ATOP Program: The Agency will give an initial briefing on the ATOP program on August 18. Mr. Forrey will inform the Agency that they need to develop a training program for ATOP, as well as address associated pay and redundancy issues before further implementation of the program.

Basic Watch Schedules: The operations manager at Kansas City Center has attempted to circumvent NATCA's seniority process in building schedules by requiring a certain number of slots on each shift to be CIC rated. Since some controllers with high seniority don't have CIC ratings, they could be denied their preferred shifts, which would then be given to CIC-rated controllers with lesser seniority. Mr. Blankenship noted that this may be occurring in other facilities. Rick Ducharme has confirmed that this action is contrary to the Agency's stated intent during negotiations, and he will work with local management to prevent this from occurring.

ATSAT: The Agency is making changes to their screening program so that they can better distinguish whether candidates are best suited for busy terminals. They would like 12 NATCA members to participate in two-week long sessions in Oklahoma to test simulations. Discussion ensued on whether NATCA should participate in this program.

Pilot Deviations: The Agency maintains they have no knowledge of a procedure where controllers are required to report pilot deviations. Mr. Blankenship reported that controllers at MCI were briefed on this procedure, and a couple of facilities in the Southwest Region have been briefed as well. Mr. Forrey requested further information from the Regional Vice Presidents on this procedure.

Harassment of NATCA Activists: Several NATCA representatives have been the recent subject of investigations by Security and Compliance for no apparent reason. Mr. Forrey wants to give very specific information on these instances to Hank Krakowski so that he understands what's going on in the field. Mr. Krakowski has stated that he understands such harassment could have a chilling effect on the workforce and doesn't bode well towards changing the culture towards that of a safety environment.

2008 Convention: Adell Humphreys briefed the NEB on the status of NATCA's 2008 Convention. The Fontainebleau Miami Beach has notified NATCA that their facility will not be ready to host our convention as scheduled in September, so we are investigating other hotels and facilities in the Miami Beach area that can host our convention on those same dates (September 10-12).

Mr. Ghaffari explained that due to some financial improprieties recently discovered at NATCA VGT, the local does not have sufficient funding to send a representative to the 2008 convention. He therefore made a motion to transfer funds to this facility as a loan so that they can be properly represented at the convention.

Ghaffari: Motion to transfer \$2,500 from NATCA's set-aside account to a newly-created account for the NATCA VGT (this transfer of funds will be considered a loan to the local).

Blankenship: Seconded

Vote: Passed unanimously