

NEB Teleconference Minutes **June 12, 2008**

The teleconference was called to order by Executive Vice President Paul Rinaldi and the following individuals were in attendance: Ricky Thompson, Alaska Regional Vice President; Howard Blankenship, Central 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; Darrell Meachum, Southwest Regional Vice President; Ham Ghaffari, Western Pacific Regional Vice President; Mike MacDonald, Region X Vice President. Also present were NATCA General Counsel Marguerite L. Graf, NATCA Deputy General Counsel Eugene Freedman, former NATCA President Barry Krasner, and NATCA Member Scott Conde.

Update on GI Bill Program of Benefits: Mr. Conde provided the NEB with an update on developments concerning implementation of the second part of a program of benefits under the GI Bill. Mr. Conde noted that he had been working with representatives of the Department of Labor to refine the program before a draft is sent to the FAA. Mr. Conde further noted that the draft allows controllers to select FAA correspondence (distance learning) courses to further their education and that this is a direct benefit to CPC controllers. Mr. Ghaffari commented that some of the courses on the list are management classes and that, by choosing to promote the program, NATCA might inadvertently push its members toward management positions. Mr. Conde stated that he needed to convey NATCA's ultimate decision as to whether or not it supported the program to the Department of Labor within the next week.

Award Letters to Developmentals: Mr. Conde informed the NEB that award letters to developmentals are currently being disseminated and that the developmentals are not getting the percentage of award to which they are entitled. Mr. Conde asked the members of the NEB to spread the word in their respective regions that the developmentals should comply with the appeal process to the Veterans Administration that is outlined in the letter.

Convention Subsidies: Mr. Blankenship inquired as to whether the NEB was considering amending the convention subsidy policy. Mr. Rinaldi informed the NEB that Mr. Meachum is heading up consideration of that issue. Mr. Meachum explained that the convention subsidy policy used to be complicated but that the NEB came up with a plan for the 2004 National Convention in St. Louis that simplified the calculations. Mr. Meachum noted that the policy currently is based on the length of time between conventions and that locals are now required to spend 30% of dues received between conventions for convention activities and that NATCA, where necessary, will subsidize the remainder of necessary convention costs. Mr. Blankenship noted that meals/lodging are fixed costs, and including meals in the subsidy calculation could encourage locals to "max out" these expenses. He believes that sine transportation costs are the only items that really differ among the locals, the focus of the subsidies should be on that aspect. Mr. Rinaldi informed the NEB that the National Finance Committee has recommended dropping the required percentage of dues spent on convention activities from 30% to 20%. Mr. Rinaldi noted that he had not yet received an analysis of the financial impact on the organization's budget of lowering the required percentage of dues spent on union activities but that he would procure one and report on the impact on the next scheduled telcon.

At this point, NATCA President Pat Forrey and Eastern Regional Vice President Phil Barbarello joined the telcon.

Endorsement of GI Bill Program of Benefits: Mr. Forrey informed the NEB that he was inclined to support the draft of the second part of a program of benefits to be implemented under the GI Bill and asked if there were any objections to such an endorsement. Hearing none, Mr. Forrey stated that he would advise Mr. Conde to inform the Department of Labor of NATCA's support for the program.

NATCA Headquarters Space: Mr. Forrey informed the NEB that the lease for the tenant occupying approximately one quarter of the third floor in the NATCA Headquarters building is due to expire in August 2008 and that NATCA is considering absorbing that space at that time in order to fully occupy the third floor. Mr. Forrey noted that the additional cost to NATCA would be approximately \$34,000/year. Mr. Rinaldi stated that the NATCA budget could absorb that increase without significant difficulty. Mr. Forrey also informed the NEB that the tenant occupying the second floor of the NATCA Headquarters building had earlier indicated that it wanted to sublet the space halfway through the term of its lease, but that that tenant had subsequently decided to continue on in the space for the remainder of its lease. Mr. Forrey stated that it is his recommendation that the NEB approve acquiring the third floor space when the tenant's lease expires and asked for objections. Hearing none, Mr. Forrey noted that he would inform the principals of NMI of NATCA's intentions with regard to this space.

AFL-CIO Union Veterans Council: Mr. Forrey noted that the AFL-CIO has decided to form a union veterans council and asked if any of the members of the NEB are veterans. Mr. Ghaffari, Mr. Robicheau, Mr. Farrow, Mr. Blankenship, and Mr. Santore all indicated that they are veterans and, after discussion, concluded that they would forward Mr. Ghaffari's name to the AFL-CIO as NATCA's representative on this council.

FAA "Settlement Proposal": Mr. Forrey informed the NEB of the contents in the FAA "settlement proposal" that was sent over earlier in the week. Mr. Forrey noted that the proposal contained no significant movement on any of the issues leading to impasse between the parties in negotiations for a successor collective bargaining agreement for the air traffic controller unit. Mr. Forrey indicated that the National Office would be preparing an official response to the FAA with regard to the proposal and that he would be updating the members on the proposal.

Approval of Minutes from June 3, 2008 Telcon:

Forrey: Motion to approve the minutes from the June 3 teleconference

Rinaldi: Seconded

Vote: Passed unanimously

Endorsement of Candidates: Mr. Santore informed the NEB that he is interested in having NATCA endorse a candidate running for a seat in the U.S. Senate from Georgia. Mr. Forrey noted that NATCA historically only endorses candidates in the presidential race. Mr. Santore inquired as to whether the NEB would consider changing that precedent. Mr. Forrey recommended against it and noted that changing that precedent could be disadvantageous for NATCA's objectives while legislation addressing NATCA's collective bargaining issues is pending in the Senate.

Update on Suit Against FLRA, FSIP, and FAA: Ms. Graf provided the NEB with an update on the legal status of the suit that NATCA filed against the FLRA, FSIP, and FAA on March 21, 2008. The suit presents a legal challenge to the FSIP's failure to assert jurisdiction over the impasse in collective bargaining between NATCA and the FAA for a new air traffic controller agreement and the FAA's subsequent unilateral imposition of work rules on the air traffic controller unit. Ms. Graf noted that the federal judge overseeing the case has set a tight schedule for the submission of the government's responses to the motion for summary judgment that NATCA filed on May 1, 2008. Ms. Graf further noted that NATCA submitted its final pleading in this initial stage of the litigation on June 10, 2008, that the initial motions should be completely briefed this month, and that the case will then be ready for the judge's consideration.

Sponsorship Request: Mr. Thompson informed the NEB that he had been approached by a representative of the Ninety-Nines (99s) International Women's Pilots Association with a sponsorship request for that organization's August 2008 convention in Anchorage.

Thompson: Motion that NATCA provide a \$500 donation to the Ninety-Nines

Rinaldi: Seconded

Vote: Passed unanimously

Affiliation with NAATS: Mr. Thompson informed the NEB that NATCA National Finance Chair Andy Heifner had recently completed a cursory audit of the financial records of NAATS in anticipation of the FLRA's approval of the petition for the affiliation of NAATS with NATCA, and that Mr. Heifner concluded that NAATS was not following many of the financial policies and safeguards implemented by NATCA. Mr. Rinaldi stated that he would like a general disavowment of NATCA's liability for any pre-existing financial irregularities in the financial records of NAATS as a term of the affiliation agreement and the immediate implementation of NATCA's financial policies and safeguards upon completion of the affiliation.

Labor 2008: Mr. Ghaffari inquired as to whether there was an interest on the part of the NEB with regard to having a presentation on Labor 2008 at the National Convention in Miami. Mr. Forrey noted that some of the individuals working with NATCA on organizing the union's participation in Labor 2008 would be in Miami and that, absent a formal presentation, they would be available to discuss the initiative.

Rehired Annuitants: Mr. Ghaffari requested that a representative of NATCA's Labor Relations Department make a presentation on the next NEB telcon with regard to NATCA's strategy for dealing with issues related to rehired annuitants.

Scheduling of NEB Telcons: Mr. Ghaffari initiated a discussion as to the scheduling of future NEB telcons and proposed moving the telcons from Tuesday to Thursday in order to better accommodate the schedules of the various NEB members. Mr. Rinaldi noted that having the telcons on Thursday could be problematic in that there would only be one day left in the week to hold the telcon should the Thursday telcon need to be cancelled. Mr. Rinaldi proposed in the alternative, and it was agreed, that the NEB establish the date and time of the next telcon at the conclusion of every telcon. The next NEB telcon was then scheduled for 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 19.

At that point, with no business left to consider, the teleconference concluded.