
NATCA National Executive Board Teleconference
October 25, 2006

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;
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.

Charitable Contribution: NATCA ZNY is holding a golf outing on October 30 to benefit ZNY controller Joe Shields. NATCA ZNY has formed a 501(c)(3) corporation to accept donations of this type, so this request is in compliance with previously-passed NEB policy.

Barbarelllo: Motion to donate \$250 to the ZNY Golf Outing

Robicheau: Seconded

Vote: Passed unanimously

Imposed Work Rules Update: Mr. Forrey will meet with Russ Chew at 9 a.m. on October 27, followed by a meeting with FAA Administrator Blakey at 10 a.m. At this meeting, Mr. Forrey will discuss various outstanding issues between the parties. Mr. Forrey will travel to Kansas City on Monday, October 30 for a tour of ZKC with DoT Secretary Mary Peters and Administrator Blakey.

Legal Update: A Federal judge has approved the settlement in the dental plan class action lawsuit. NATCA will receive a check for \$250,000, and members who are part of the lawsuit will receive payment before the end of the year. NATCA recently won an arbitration concerning Sunday pay – the arbitrator agreed that individuals are entitled to receive Sunday differential pay while on military leave. We expect the Agency to appeal this decision.

Corporate Sponsorships: Several Region X members have expressed concern about NATCA accepting corporate sponsorships from companies with interests contrary to

NATCA's (i.e., those that support contracting out). Mr. MacDonald will discuss this with his members to develop a definitive list for NEB consideration.

30-Day Extension: Mr. Forrey requests a 30-day extension of his temporary quarters allowance, as he has been unable to find a suitable place to live since he has taken office. It was noted that the Federal travel regulations allow for a maximum of 120 days temporary quarters allowance. It was agreed by consensus to approve Mr. Forrey's request.

Credentialing Proposal: The FAA has recently released a 59-page document that details their proposed credentialing process for air traffic controllers. Mr. Barbarello reported that this procedure is absolutely brutal, in that it duplicates a decertification process – another manner in which the FAA can "pull your ticket" so that you cannot work any operational position. There appear to be no guidelines as to why they can or cannot pull someone's credentials, and there are no guarantees that other work will be provided while credentials have been revoked. The Agency claims this process is parallel to the one in effect for pilots. Mr. Barbarello believes the impact of this proposal could be worse for the controller workforce than the Agency's imposition of their illegal work rules. Mr. Barbarello and Mr. Zilonis will take the lead on this issue, which may require legislative remedy.

IFATCA: It has been recommended that NATCA designate an individual to serve as liaison to IFATCA. This person will neither set policy nor speak for NATCA, but will assist in gathering and transmitting that information to IFATCA.

Barbarello: Motion to designate Chris Sutherland as NATCA's liaison to IFATCA

Rinaldi: Seconded

Vote: Passed unanimously

Director of Communications: Courtney Portner, NATCA's Communications Director, has decided not to return to NATCA after her maternity leave ends in November. The vacancy has been posted internally, in accordance with NATCA policies. Mr. Forrey intends to offer the position to Doug Church, NATCA's Media Relations Manager. This was approved by consensus.

Downgrades: Mr. Ghaffari asked if NATCA should file a grievance regarding the recent facility downgrades. Mr. Forrey will follow up on this with NATCA's Director of Labor Relations March Shapiro. He has also discussed this with Joe Miniace – the Agency recently downgraded 20 facilities under the new pay rules, when it should have been done under the old pay rules. Mr. Miniace agreed that this should have been done under the old pay rules.

NATCA Dues: We have received no response from the Agency regarding the recent correspondence we sent them on the NATCA dues deduction discrepancies. NATCA locals should not file grievances on this matter at this time, as it is being handled at the national level.

NATCA 2007 Training Dates: Mr. Ghaffari reported that one of his members scheduled leave in January to attend FacRep training; however, it appears that the dates for this class have now been changed. Mr. Forrey responded that due to the increasing number of various classes being scheduled for calendar year 2007, it was necessary to adjust dates for some of the classes. The complete list of classes can be obtained from NATCA's Training Department at the National Office.

Picketing: Discussion ensued on the pros and cons of working with the AFL-CIO to conduct informational picketing at various air traffic control facilities.

FAA Employment Offers: Mr. Ghaffari noted that members are accepting firm offers for specific facilities at a specific pay rate; when they report for duty at their new facility, they are often paid much less than the initial offer. Mr. Forrey reported that the Agency maintains that any offer made to an employee who has cleared security and medical qualifications should be honored, even if the actual move did not occur until after September 3. Such instances should have been corrected through FAA's human resources and payroll departments. Mr. Ghaffari will investigate further.

WP Region - Suspensions: Mr. Ghaffari is concerned about several suspension cases that were dropped in his region. Mr. Forrey and Mr. Rinaldi will discuss these matters in detail with Mr. Ghaffari next week.

Blood Leave: It appears that, at the bargaining table, the Agency agreed to include platelet donation as part of the language for blood donation, but this is not being applied correctly in the field. Mr. Forrey will follow up on this to ensure that platelet donation is considered blood donation, and that members can be released from duty for platelet donation.

Sick Leave Denials: The National Office is requesting written documentation for all cases of sick leave denials. Please forward such documentation to the National Office's Labor Relations Department.