

NLC TELCON MINUTES
October 1, 2009

ATTENDEES (10am CST) – Steve Weidner, Grant Anderson, Bob Aitken, Tom Thompson, Joe Zimmermann, Jose Ceballos, Frank McCarthy, Erin Barry

ATTENDEES (2pm CST) – Steve Weidner, Jerry Nash, Tomaso Dipaolo, Marcus Tomlin, Frank McCarthy

The following agenda was used for both telcons:

- Congratulate and thanks NLC and Government Affairs staff on the work they put in to get us to this day – 1st day of the red book contract.
- Legislative briefing from the Government Affairs department (Jose gave 10am briefing / Frank gave 2pm briefing)
- FAA Reauthorization
 - House and Senate passed 3 month extension to the end of calendar year 2009
 - Health care bill is beginning to move which will free up time for the Senate Finance committee to take up other items – like FAA Reauthorization.
 - Jose has had multiple conversations with Senate leadership and has been told that FAA Reauthorization is an important bill and that it will be dealt with before the end of 2009.
 - Belief is that conferencing (combining House and Senate versions) the bill will not take much time.
 - With NATCA air traffic contract issue settled, most of the controversy is out of the bill, making it easier to conference.
 - Government affairs department keeping in close touch with Senate leadership and committee chairs.
 - NATCA orchestrated a user group letter to Senate leadership, urging them to complete FAA Reauthorization. This letter was signed by 32 organizations.
 - Possibility of an activist outreach to members of the Senate Finance committee when the time is right.
- Realignment
 - Government Affairs department is meeting with Senate Commerce committee staff this week for an update on this issue.

- We are asking for an IG investigation for the BOI to Salt Lake TRACON realignment to look into whether or not there will be actual cost savings with this move.
- Waiting on the decision from FAA on Palm Beach to Miami move.
- COLA/FERS
 - This language is attached to the Defense Reauthorization bill.
 - Conference report on that bill (combining the House and Senate bill into one bill) is due out this week. Hoping that the COLA/FERS piece survives conference.
 - Some intelligence tells us that the FERS piece may be out, but COLA will still be in. Other intelligence not so sure if that is the case. Tough to get a feel for what may happen.
- Health Care Legislation
 - There are a few provisions in this bill Government Affairs is working on that may affect NATCA members if passed in their current form.
 - One possibility calls for taxing FEHB that top \$21,000 at 35% and indexing any rise in that threshold to the CPI (consumer price index). NATCA is against any taxation of health benefits.
 - NATCA is lobbying to push the threshold as high as possible (\$25,000) and index it to the medical CPI.
 - Under the regular CPI, NATCA employee health benefits would ultimately catch up to the threshold because the regular CPI grows much slower than the medical CPI.
 - We are working with the AFL/CIO and other federal sector Unions to protect our positions in this debate.
 - There is a possibility that we may need to do some quick grassroots lobbying on the health care bill, depending on which provisions appear to be gaining traction.
- NSPS (Pay for Performance in DOD)
 - This is the Defense Authorization legislation which is currently being conferenced. We are working with AFGE on this effort.
 - AFGE is lobbying against the pay for performance system (NSPS) currently in place at DOD. In conference, the House position is stronger against the pay for performance than the Senate's. If AFGE succeeds in conference, it would be a belle-weather for pay for performance systems. If AFGE is unsuccessful, then the DOD model may spread to other federal agencies and eventually get to the FAA.
 - We believe the conference report will be filed by this week and, as of today, it should turn out favorable to our position.

- Discussed the PAC 20th Anniversary issue of the NATCA Insider
- Discussed the progress on the Legislative Activism class currently under construction by the NLC
 - Reminder to committee to have their blocks ready and submitted via the listserve by October 15th for comment and collaboration with the rest of the NLC. These rough drafts will then be finalized at the November NLC meeting, November 9-10.
 - Bob Aitken offered to help anyone on who is constructing a block. He did not have an assigned block to work on, so he offered to help anyone who needed it.
 - Jeff Aulbach took over the block assigned to Steve. Jeff was not in attendance at the NLC meeting when the blocks were divided among attending committee members. However, he wants to do some work and volunteered to take Steve's block.
- New PAC Polo Order
 - Steve will send out an up to date list of \$50+ per pay period PAC contributors to each region.
 - Each NLC member needs to determine who of their eligible givers has received a shirt. Then each NLC member needs to find out the sizes required for the remaining eligible givers and provide Steve with that list.
 - Once a comprehensive list is received, Steve will place another order to ensure all members giving \$50 or more receive one of these polo shirts.
 - Also discussed that we need to tell everyone who receives a shirt that at NO TIME CAN THAT SHIRT BE WORN ON FAA PROPERTY OR ON DUTY TIME. Wearing that shirt under those circumstances would be a Hatch Act violation.
- Monthly Legislative Regional Write-ups
 - Asked committee to have their monthly regional write up in to Steve no later than October 15th.
- Discussed Calls Received by activists from Members of Congress at the End of the Quarter (Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec) and their request that they 'need' and would appreciate a PAC contribution by the end of the quarter.
- Discussed Open Items from Sept NLC Meeting
 - Steve is checking the NEB minutes to determine if the NEB has, in the past, addressed a policy on endorsements (other than Presidential). So far Steve has not located that policy.

- Jose agreed that someone at the national office should be trained on the GetActive site so they can create a grassroots email campaign in the event an NLC member is not available to do it.
- Discussed the possibility of Liz sending PAC checks to the field two weeks in advance of the event instead of waiting until a week or less from the event. Jose was fine with that idea.
- Thank you letter for new PAC contributors and/or PAC increasers is in the works. Hope to have this letter available by October 19th.
- Again discussed the need for a Constitutional interpretation of the convention resolution that NATCA make the RMC/Phoenix 20 program a priority. What exactly is required to make each program a priority. NLC will stand down on this issue until given direction by the NEB.

Submitted by,

Steve Weidner, Chair
National Legislative Committee
