

14TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION

NATCA

DAILY DISPATCH

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2012

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS:

9:15 a.m.
Opening Remarks
U.S. Rep. Ed Perlmutter (D-CO)
Centennial Ballroom

10:50 a.m.
NATCA Future Leaders Panel
Moderated by Jim Ullmann and featuring John Bratcher, Lisa Cyr, Eddie DeLisle, Jamaal Haltom, Dawn Johnson, Elena Nash, Nate Pair, Trisha Pesiri, & Dan Stefko.
Centennial Ballroom

6:00 p.m.
Closing Event
Bus service from the Hyatt to the stadium will run continuously from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Bus service for the return trip to the Hyatt will run continuously from 9:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m.

TODAY'S T-SHIRT:



Laura Roose
Executive Editor

Abigail Glenn-Chase
Managing Editor

Staff Writers:
Mike Bushnell
Sarah Dunn
Hillary Stroud

Convention photographs courtesy of Carly Rose Photo

DAY 2: CALL TO ACTION, RECOGNITION

Conventioneers attended Thursday's session wearing their "NATCA for Obama-Biden 2012" t-shirts, and the opening speech from AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka echoed the theme very well.

Trumka said the AFL-CIO is proud to stand with NATCA, and urged members to remain involved and active against anti-labor forces. He noted the large number of new NATCA members and said they might not remember just how poor relations were between the unions and the Bush Administration.



AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka with members of NATCA's Legislative Committee.

"Over the past decade, we have had a president who saw us as an enemy, followed by one who sees us as a friend," Trumka said. "You may not have been there for it, but it's easy to see what's at stake and why solidarity is so important."

Trumka specifically mentioned labor's win in Ohio last fall, when over 60 percent of voters rejected a measure that would have eliminated collective bargaining rights for many state employees. He specifically mentioned how labor would be fighting to protect Democratic governors who are up for re-election in Republican states, specifically mentioning Gov. Jay Nixon of Missouri.

"What we've worked for at the bargaining table can be lost at the ballot box," Trumka said, alluding to the presidential election coming up in seven months. "The people who want to bring us down will stop at nothing, unless we remain strong and fight to protect our rights."

As he closed, President Trumka had the nearly 1,300 attendees enraptured with his booming voice and the passion that emanated from every single word. His final words, lamenting the gross disparity between the "haves and have-nots" in America, elicited a standing ovation as thunderous and spontaneous as any during the first two days in Denver.

"The middle-class and working people are the backbone of this country," Trumka said. "This is our America, and it's time we took it back."

OUTSTANDING MEMBERS AND STAFF RECOGNIZED



Garth Koleszar



Jeff Richards



Jim Ullmann



Julio Henriques



Kelly Richardson

Every year the Timmy Awards are given to individuals who have displayed tremendous dedication and exemplified fierce tenacity for their union. NATCA President Paul Rinaldi and NATCA Executive Vice President Trish Gilbert both said so many people deserve these awards, but they had to make the tough decision to select 10 very deserving winners.

The awards program ended with the unveiling of the *Dale Wright Award for Distinguished, Professional and Exceptional Career Service to NATCA and the National Airspace System*, named after NATCA's current Director of Safety and Technology. Rinaldi and Gilbert both remarked on Wright's character and dedication to the union.

"This gentleman has been second to none," said Rinaldi. "He has put everything aside for the love of this union."

"His work ethic is tremendous," said Gilbert. "He is a joy and pleasure to be around and I don't know where this union or where we would be without him."

As Wright accepted the award, he said his father always told him to do the best you can at whatever you are doing and he felt that he had done that at NATCA.

"NATCA means a lot to me," said Wright. "All of you mean a lot to me."



Trish Gilbert, Dale Wright and Paul Rinaldi



Kevin Bianchi



Mark Griffin



Russ Miller



Scot Morrison



Steve Weidner

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WEDNESDAY



AnnMarie Taggio performs the Star-Spangled Banner.



NCF President Elena Nash presents Cathy Meachum with a Lifetime Achievement Award.



ZDV President Lyle Burrington discusses an amendment.



Presidential Panel: Steve Bell and Barry Krasner



NATCA PRIDE



NATCA 25th Anniversary celebration

THURSDAY



AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka delivers opening remarks.



Former NATCA President John Carr opens convention business on Day 2.



NATCA Executive Vice President Trish Gilbert speaks on the present state of the union.



Dean Iacopelli, N90 President, presents the Barry Krasner Award to Eugene Freedman.



Andy Heifner promotes Convention 2014 in Minneapolis.



NATCA President Emeritus Barry Krasner presides over afternoon business.

FRIDAY AGENDA

All times are approximate depending on the movement of business.

- 8:00 - 1:00 **Registration Open**
Centennial Foyer
- 9:00 - 9:15 **Committee Reports**
Centennial Ballroom
- 9:15 - 9:30 **Opening Remarks**
Centennial Ballroom
U.S. Rep. Ed Perlmutter (D-CO)
- 9:30 - 10:30 **Convention Business**
Centennial Ballroom
- 10:30 - 10:50 **BREAK**
Centennial Foyer
- 10:50 - 12:00 **NATCA Future Leaders Panel**
Centennial Ballroom
*Moderated by Jim Ullmann.
Featuring John Bratcher, Lisa Cyr,
Eddie DeLisle, Jamaal Haltom, Dawn
Johnson, Elena Nash, Nate Pair,
Trisha Pesiri and Dan Stefko*
- 12:00 - 1:00 **LUNCH**
- 1:00 - 3:00 **Convention Business**
Centennial Ballroom
- 3:00 - 3:20 **BREAK**
Centennial Foyer
- 3:20 - 5:00 **Convention Business**
Centennial Ballroom
- 6:00 - 10:00 **Closing Event: Sports Authority Field at Mile High Stadium**
Bus service from the Hyatt to the stadium will run continuously from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Bus service for the return trip to the Hyatt will run continuously from 9:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m.

With a feeling of a sporting event, concert and sports bar with dueling pianos all in one, along with access to the entire stadium and a jaw-dropping finale, there will be no doubt that this promises to be a unique event that will leave people talking about the Denver Convention for years to come!



Day 2 Convention Business Brings Debate and Laughs as Carr, Krasner Chair

Two former NATCA leaders presided over Thursday’s convention business, and if it weren’t for the seven flat-screen monitors surrounding them from all sides, it felt like it was still the mid 1990s or early 2000s again.

John Carr, NATCA’s president from 2000 to 2006, held court over the morning session and President Emeritus Barry Krasner, who led the union from 1991-97, ran the afternoon agenda. Both appeared very much at ease in the role. They cracked jokes and bantered back and forth with members who spoke at the microphones, while ensuring that business was handled efficiently and fairly.

And the business the body discussed was very important and set precedents for at least the next two years. The convention unanimously consented to a National Executive Board resolution opposing waivers to the age 56 mandatory retirement provisions in the law.

“Every one of us who has to retire at 56 knew the rules when we were hired,” said President Paul Rinaldi, who spoke on the floor. “To protect the profession, to protect retirement for all, this is what we need to keep intact.”

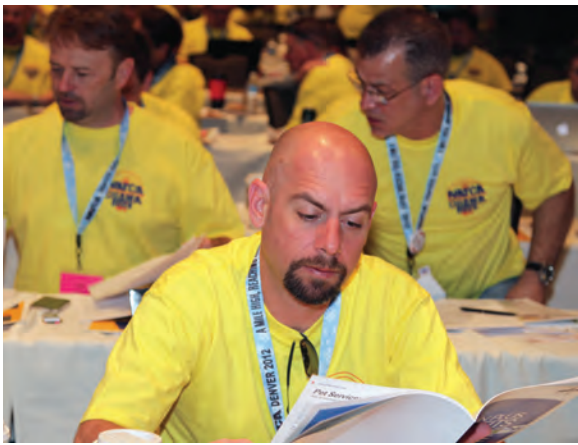
In the morning session, the membership also voted to reimburse small locals \$50 per month to have their own Internet access, which proponents said was necessary to keep union business off FAA servers.

The convention also voted to postpone indefinitely several amendments that dealt with changes to the NATCA seniority policy, drawing criticism from members who said the convention was just kicking the proverbial can down the road. Membership also elected not to debate an untimely amendment that would have required a majority vote to be elected to any NATCA position, not just a plurality.

In the afternoon, the body unanimously consented to bestow the title of “President Emeritus” upon Steve Bell, the first NATCA president. Immediate past president Pat Forrey said Bell was more than deserving of this title for the work he had done to get the union off the ground.

And while many of these matters are critical to how the union functions, the former presidents chairing the convention seemed to be enjoying themselves, and it reflected in the spirited debate on the floor. Carr said he and Krasner wanted to avoid the “baton death march of procedure,” and have as much fun as was possible under Robert’s Rules of Order.

“It was like coming home,” Carr said of his time on the dais yesterday. “The honor of being the chair, not only is it this great privilege but I had the opportunity to foster a robust debate amongst the membership, and have a little fun. If you’re not having fun, it’s not even worth being here.”



CONGRESSMAN ED PERLMUTTER (D-CO) TO SPEAK TODAY



Rep. Ed Perlmutter

Rep. Ed Perlmutter is currently serving his third term in the U.S. House of Representatives, after taking a seat that Colorado Republicans had originally drawn to be favorable to them. In 2006, he easily won the open Seventh Congressional District seat previously held by Republican Bob Beauprez, and has won handily in the two elections since.

A state court drew the congressional districts following the 2010 Census, and if Rep. Perlmutter is re-elected, his district will be comprised of the northern and western inner suburbs around Denver, including Thornton, Westminster and Lakewood.

The AFL-CIO has given Rep. Perlmutter a 97% lifetime rating, including 100% in 2011, and in January, the Colorado AFL-CIO endorsed him for a fourth term in

Washington. State union president Mike Cerbo said the congressman has been a staunch and reliable ally of working people, especially during the recession and its aftermath.

“Rebuilding our middle class is key to rebuilding our economy,” Cerbo said at the time. “Working families know that Ed Perlmutter has always stood by them and will continue to stand up for them in Congress and fight for the economic opportunities that are critical to all of us.”

Rep. Perlmutter supported NATCA’s efforts to pass the recent FAA reauthorization, has fought to protect the powers of the National Labor Relations Board and has opposed damaging free-trade deals that would harm working class Americans. We are excited to have such a great ally in Washington, and honored to have him here today at our convention.

ACTIVIST/MUSICIAN TOM MORELLO ROCKS RELOADED

Tom Morello has joined the ranks of legendary protest balladeers such as Woody Guthrie and Bob Dylan. His third full-length solo album, entitled World Wide Rebel Songs, describes a deep conflict and, as Morello says, “finding personal redemption through fighting for justice.”

During Morello’s 2008 tour following the release of The Fabled City album, he was inspired when he played “The Ghost of Tom Joad” on stage with Bruce Springsteen.

“I became comfortable melding my words as an electric guitarist and a folk troubadour,” Morello says. And thank goodness he did. Morello’s Union Town EP includes eight songs and proceeds benefit the America Votes Labor Unity Fund. Morello says he recorded the EP in response to the anti-union bill put forward last year by Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker.

“At the heart of every struggle, there’s hope,” Morello says. And that message was heard loud and clear at last night’s NATCA Reloaded solidarity event and private concert at the Cowboy Lounge.

“Tom Morello exemplifies the power of what it means to step up,” says Kelly Richardson, Manager of Outreach and Special Events. “Having Tom come to Denver and spend this time with us should remind us that it’s not enough to be just a member any more. We all need to take that extra step and inspire others.”



2016 CONVENTION

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NATCA RED, WHITE & BLUE



NOTE SAN DIEGO 2016

Jim Thompson wants you to "Get on the Bus!"

Air traffic controller Jim Thompson has always been passionate about helping others, which is why this year he is vying to become Man of the Year for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS). Although this challenge may seem like an ego-trip, it's actually an effort to raise money for the LLS nonprofit. One dollar equals one vote, leading Thompson and LLS to successful fundraising for a great cause.

The LLS is the world's largest voluntary nonprofit health organization and has been dedicated to curing leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma since 1949. The Man & Woman of the Year is a ten-week campaign (March 10-May 5, 2012) that raises money and awareness for the nonprofit.

Thompson's goal of \$35,000 is nothing short of incredible, and we urge every NATCA brother and sister to contribute to his cause.

Visit his Web site to donate:
<http://sdhi.mwv.org/JIMTHOMPSON>



The "Get on the Bus" team

Pictured top, left to right: Adrienne Elise Bowden, Jim Thompson, Corine Rogers, Aron McFedries

Pictured bottom, left to right: Sam Brotman, Jennifer Fowler, Stacy Goodman, Seth Figurido

NCF Spotlight: Cathy Meachum

Incorporated on August 15, 1994, the NATCA Charitable Foundation (NCF) has now been operating for 18 years. It all started with a group of controllers sharing the common goal of wanting to give back in a big way. Darrell Meachum of Fort Worth Center (ZFW), his wife Cathy Meachum and a group of air traffic controllers may not have thought it possible then, but NCF has turned into an established nonprofit made up of 100% volunteers.

Meachum's background and experience in organizing auctions at various charities, such as the American Cancer Society and the American Heart Association, helped her take the lead on NCF silent auctions. The first NATCA Convention silent auction was held at the 1996 NATCA Pittsburgh Convention where she and one volunteer, Karen Smith, marketed the event the good old-fashioned way via ground mail. But as NCF grew over time, their tactics became more resourceful and their events within the union expanded to not only NATCA Convention, but also NATCA in Washington and Communicating for Safety.

It is clear that NCF plays a major role at NATCA, inspiring members to become active volunteers for the nonprofit and giving those who need help a leg-up in difficult times. But as some of the early members prepare to retire, Meachum said that she hopes with new members come new ways to reach out.

"We are seeing a transition where the original board members are now retiring," said Meachum. "So, we have a new group of people that are interested in philanthropy and charity, and we're now moving forward with new ideas to expand and grow further."

Meachum said the most rewarding part about volunteering for any charity is the difference you can make to those that need it most and seeing the end result make a big impact.

"All the long hours of volunteering are worth it when you see a family or a child smile," said Meachum. "That makes all the difference."

The biggest message Meachum wants to get out to members is how important volunteers are to the foundation. Whether it's helping at a silent auction for an hour or handing out a truck full of toys delivered to a local shelter, volunteers can make a big impact.



"We want you to help this charity grow," said Meachum. "You can make a difference. Every controller, every spouse and every friend has an opportunity, and the ability, to help the underserved."

Meachum's dedication to NCF has undoubtedly made NATCA a more charitable organization, and, over the course of her tenure, NATCA has recognized Meachum with two awards that acknowledge and reward those efforts. In 2000, Meachum received an honorary Lifetime Membership Award—contrary to popular belief, she is not a NATCA employee, but an Associate member and volunteer for NCF. This was first Lifetime Membership Award given to someone outside of the profession or the union. And at the NATCA Hawaii Convention she was awarded a Timmy Award, one of NATCA highest honors, given to those that exemplify NATCA's core values and principles.

"Since its inception it has been a small core group running this huge organization," said Meachum. "But I think everyone, donors and volunteers, have been amazing in bringing the NCF to the level of success we see today."

And this year at the NATCA Denver Convention, Meachum received her third award, the Lifetime Achievement Award, yet again recognizing her hard work and inspiration to NATCA members.



NCF Recognizes Members

Each year NATCA Charitable Foundation recognizes particularly dedicated volunteers who have made an outstanding impact in NCF. This year, in honor of Cathy Meachum's dedication and mentorship, the NCF Executive Board has named this volunteer honor the *Cathy Meachum Volunteer of the Year* award. Recipients of this year's award were Robin Hill and Jennifer Van Rooy. Congratulations!

50% discount at Perks Coffee Shop with purchase of NATCA travel mug!

One thing everyone will need at Denver is a warm cup of coffee to get the day started. You can't go wrong with NCF's 20-OUNCE TRAVEL MUG (made in the U.S.) with logos to commemorate NATCA's 25th anniversary on one side and the NCF logo on the other. With this mug – sure to be a collector's item – attendees will receive a 50% discount from Perks Coffee Shop, a Starbucks affiliate, located in the Hyatt Regency Convention Center. Present this mug to the barista and receive the discount for your favorite "must-have" morning drinks for all three days at the convention.



Thank You NCF Sponsors!

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- Delta Airlines
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- Marlene Mendel & Andy McGowan
- Steve & Dena Munroe
- Elena & Jerry Nash
- NATCA Benefits Committee
- NATCA National Office
- NATCA Safety Committee
- Stephen Ramsden
- Mike Palumbo
- Vector Shirts
- ZHU NATCA Local

Gold Level:

- Jim Allderdice
- Trish & John Gilbert
- Cathy & Darrell Meachum
- Eric Owens
- Jeff & Yvette Woods
- ZFW NATCA Local

Silver Level:

- Bruce Bates
- Randy Miller
- Paul Rinaldi

Bronze Level:

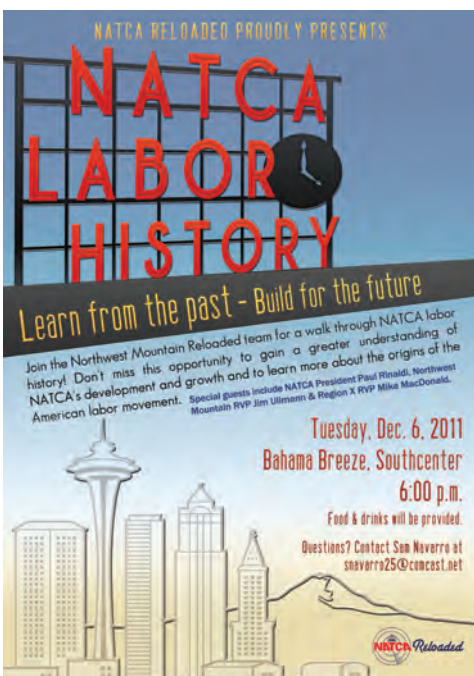
- Dina Earl
- Bob & Robin Hill
- Tim & Karen Smith
- ZMA NATCA Local
- ZDV NATCA Local

NCF FUN FACT

Did you know that NATCA Executive Vice President Trish Gilbert served as vice president of the NATCA Charitable Foundation (NCF) from 1998-2000 and then as president from 2001-2008? One of her fondest memories is from the spring of 2006. Miss Molly, age 76, took custody of her two grandnephews after their father was incarcerated and their mother was not a presence in their lives. They lived in small house with only one bedroom, so NCF volunteers added a room in order to accommodate Miss Molly's family. Gilbert currently holds a spot on the NCF Board of Directors and her involvement with the nonprofit continues despite her many NATCA commitments.



THE FUTURE OF NATCA



Mentorship, Organizing and Activism. NATCA Reloaded strives to achieve this mission with all of its members every year whether they are brand new or have been with the union since the beginning. And with many members eligible to retire and new membership continuing to grow, NATCA Reloaded's goal to engage and inform its members about the union is more important than ever.



NATCA Reloaded has evolved throughout the years, and during that time its efforts have broadened to further engage all union members. Over time, it has developed an ultimate goal to educate members in all things union-related, from learning about labor history, to advising members about opportunities in the union, to discussing how they can help. NATCA Reloaded's committee covers all this and more in events hosted across the U.S. in cities such as Atlanta, Miami, Indianapolis and Dallas.

NATCA Reloaded hosts "Get Active!" events, which give members a chance to learn more about the opportunities available to them at NATCA. Solidarity events bring NATCA members together within their facilities, and Labor History events teach members invaluable information on NATCA and labor history.

In addition, the NATCA Reloaded program visit schools throughout the year to reach out to aspiring air traffic controllers. At the Air Traffic Collegiate Training Initiative program (AT-CTI), NATCA Reloaded meets with undergrad students to educate them about the air traffic control profession. They also host student Meet-and-Greets at the FAA Academy in Oklahoma City to introduce them to NATCA and answer any questions they may have about their new profession.

A common misconception of the Reloaded program is that it is only for new hires and for the youngest NATCA members. This is simply not true. In order for this program to reach its full potential NATCA Reloaded needs everyone, from the most senior member to the newest new hire, to play a role. Veteran members bring a level of knowledge and experience to the table that is impossible to find anywhere else. NATCA Reloaded urges them to mentor, teach and encourage our newest members through the training process and beyond. NATCA veteran members can help identify the strengths and interests of the new hires, which gives NATCA Reloaded the opportunity to begin training and molding the next NATCAvists.

"The NATCA Reloaded Committee continues to work towards ensuring our membership is educated in everything from labor history to the many diverse opportunities available to those interested in becoming more active at NATCA," said NATCA Reloaded Chairman of Committee Jim Ullmann. "This can be a difficult task logistically, as we attempt to reach out to all of our NATCA members at every facility in the NAS."

In an effort to accomplish the needs of members, NATCA Reloaded is working to ensure that every NATCA local has a Reloaded Representative so that the program reaches every member in the union. If you want to learn more about NATCA and start getting active in your union, contact your local Reloaded Representative or visit the Reloaded booth at Convention today!

FUTURE LEADERS PANEL

With the focus of Day 3 being the future of the union, the NATCA Future Leaders Panel was organized with the goal of discussing the younger members' vision of NATCA. The NATCA brothers and sisters on these two pages represent the current and future generation of union activism.

LISA CYR

An Albuquerque Center (ZAB) controller and NATCA member since 2005, Cyr got involved in NATCA in 2007 when she was elected ZAB NATCA Secretary.

After being secretary and learning about the unique opportunities NATCA offers its members, Cyr continued to look for opportunities to make a difference.

Now, Cyr is a NATCA Recurrent Training Representative and a NATCA Workforce Engagement Representative. She was ZAB Safety Representative for a year before becoming a Recurrent Rep.

Cyr believes everyone has something to offer the union. She wants other young NATCA members to get involved because this is "their union and it does matter to their careers."

"Young members can get involved by going to local meetings, going to NATCA events, asking what they can do for their local," Cyr says, "Find your passion, find what you love and what you want to get involved in and ask someone who is involved what you can do."

DAWN JOHNSON

Dawn Johnson joined NATCA on her first day at ZTL in 2005.

The White Book's Imposed Work Rules (IWRs) were implemented almost a year after Johnson started training at ZTL. Suddenly, the salary she was promised was taken away.

Because of that, Johnson got active in NATCA as soon as she checked out of training. She felt it was the only way she could help make things better for the profession.

Johnson educated herself about NATCA, attended NATCA classes and went to major NATCA events like Communicating for Safety. Her facrep asked her to take over as the ZTL Reloaded Representative, which eventually led to Johnson taking the position of Regional Reloaded Representative and becoming a National Reloaded Committee member.

Johnson said that the Reloaded Program was a good fit for her, because she saw the impact the large number of retiring members will have on the profession and the importance of securing the future of NATCA, which has given her so much.

JAMAAL HALTOM

McCarran ATCT (LAS) President Jamaal Haltom has been involved with NATCA from the beginning of his career. He has never missed a local meeting, unless he was supporting NATCA outside the facility.

He started with the FAA in 2007 at Las Vegas TRACON during the White Book Imposed Work Rules (IWRs) and immediately felt the need for a strong labor union.

In 2009 Haltom worked at Tamiami ATCT for a year, then worked at LAS. When Haltom started at LAS, the NATCA President asked him to fill the recently vacated secretary position. He finished out that term and in January 2012 became LAS President.

Haltom is also a NATCA National Core Cadre for Recurrent Training. He's worked as one of two NATCA SME's responsible for helping to develop the Integrated Safety Training in collaboration with the FAA.

Haltom said that other NATCA members should get involved because the outstanding leadership that NATCA has now will not always be around.

Your Vote Matters! Get Active in the 2012 Election



Depending on how closely you have been following the run-up to the 2012 general election, it is either hard to believe it's only seven months away, or shocking that there's still that much time left to go. But NATCA and the AFL-CIO are always encouraging members to get active in efforts to support our brothers and sisters and working people as a whole.

Both the AFL-CIO and NATCA have enthusiastically endorsed President Obama for re-election, recognizing that re-electing this administration is in the best interest of organized labor and the health of our aviation system. When NATCA announced their endorsement last November, NATCA President Paul Rinaldi said President Obama "understands" the aviation industry and his policies have helped end eight years of worker attrition and bad relations between the FAA and the union.

"The next few years are critical for our country and our National Airspace System, and this country needs the President's continued leadership," Rinaldi said at the time. "We support the steady progress that this administration is making to achieve our safety goals through a collaborative partnership, which we are pleased to report not only results in successes but is also becoming the way in which work is done in the FAA. This makes the system safer."

President Obama seems likely to face Mitt Romney, the former Massachusetts Governor and hedge-fund executive who has made curtailing public employee rights a component of his campaign. Just like in 2008, NATCA and the AFL-CIO will be very busy educating their members and urging them to support President Obama's re-election efforts.

In addition to supporting candidates who have the best interests of the middle-class at heart, the AFL-CIO has also actively spoken out against efforts to suppress voting. Lower-income people and minorities, as a whole, tend to be the ones who lack government-issued photo identification, and AFL-CIO wants to support those Americans' right to vote.

The AFL-CIO's "voter protection program" seeks to educate voters across the nation, but especially in states with strict ID requirements, on how to obtain proper identification. They have also been active in working with groups such as the NAACP and La Raza to push back against the laws, through activism at the state level and by filing lawsuits against these measures.

Just in the past few months, judges have struck down photo ID laws in South Carolina, Texas and Wisconsin after ruling them unconstitutional restrictions of an inalienable right. Kansas recently passed an ID law but will likely face a court challenge. The same goes for the bill recently signed by Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett.

The 2010 Supreme Court decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission legalized unlimited, anonymous donations to PACs. This ruling overwhelmingly favored the interests of the wealthy, such as the Chamber of Commerce, which spent \$33 million to run over 8,000 separate advertisements savaging pro-worker candidates across the spectrum of political races.

But in 2010, the Colorado AFL-CIO helped the state stay blue amidst a Republican wave in the Inland West and across the country. The union endorsed Sen. Michael Bennet for election to his first full term (he was appointed in 2009), and supported Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper for governor. Both Democrats turned back challenges from far-right-wing conservatives, and Bennet's was a major victory that helped his party retain control of the United States Senate.

ELENA NASH

SOUTHERN Being a leader comes naturally to NATCA Sarasota ATCT (SRQ) President and NATCA Charitable Foundation (NCF) President Elena Nash.

Nash joined NATCA the same day the FAA hired her 14 years ago. She started at New York TRACON, and then worked at Teterboro ATCT (TEB), where she saw the facility representative use the NATCA position to get a FAA supervisor job. She realized she couldn't sit back and watch people use NATCA to promote their own agendas.

Leading by example, Nash ran for and won the position of TEB NATCA Secretary.

Following that election, Nash was elected Secretary and then Vice President at her next facility, San Juan CERAP (ZSU). She then worked at SRQ, where she was elected President and selected NCF Director. She's now in her second year as NCF President. Nash is also a member of the Workforce Engagement Design Team and a former member of the Southern Region PAR/LR Team.

TRISHA PESIRI

WESTERN PACIFIC Hired in 2006, Pesiri joined NATCA two months later when she arrived at Santa Barbara ATCT (SBA). Shortly after Pesiri arrived at SBA, President Paul Rinaldi asked her to speak to students at the Oklahoma City FAA Academy about her experience with the FAA and the warm welcome she received from NATCA.

Over time, Pesiri got more involved with SBA's in-district legislative efforts and was determined to continue to improve SBA by strengthening its relationship with Congresswoman Capps.

Pesiri has been SBA Legislative Representative for four years, is the Western Pacific Region Chair of the National Legislative Committee and a Workforce Engagement (WE) National/Western Service Area Training Facilitator. She's also been a member of Western Pacific Legislative California Committee and a WE Terminal Design Team.

Pesiri advises other young NATCA members to find a good mentor and a topic about which they are passionate. She said that NATCA's success relies on dedicated volunteers to preserve and improve working conditions.

NATE PAIR

PACIFIC Pair started his career in the Air Force. After nearly five years, he left and worked at a contract tower in Arizona. Less than a year later the FAA hired him.

In 2008, Pair won the position of ZLA Area Representative. Since then, he has been ZLA Vice President and is now ZLA President. He is also a member of the Western Pacific Labor Relations and Pre-Arbitration Review teams.

Pair said he has had some of the best mentors anyone could ask for, specifically Garth Koleszar, Chad Geyer, Mike Hull, and Ham Ghaffari. He urges NATCA's young members to seek out mentors and work hard to shape the future of NATCA.

"We need you to get involved now and get the training and experience from our current reps," Pair says. "This is vital for us to do now if we want to continue providing the best representation to our membership and union."

EDDIE DELISLE

NORTHWEST DeLisle started his career in 2001, as an ATC in the Air Force. He then worked for a Midwest Contract Tower at Guantanamo Bay for one year. In July 2006, the FAA hired him. He started work at Portland TRACON (P80) and immediately joined NATCA.

DeLisle successfully ran for P80 Vice President in 2008. He served until 2010 when he was elected P80 President. He is also a member of the National Validation Team and the Northwest Mountain Region Labor Relations Team.

DeLisle believes that NATCA's young members need to get involved because NATCA will suffer from the way the FAA has hired; as the employment waves progress, valuable knowledge and leadership will inevitably be lost.

"To get active in the union, talk to your facility representative," DeLisle says. "Let him or her know your strengths and interests. All of us have a different skill set and have some thing to give to our union."

DAN STEFKO

REGION X Region X Eastern Region President Dan Stefko always knew he wanted to be a NATCAvist.

Hired in September 2002, Stefko joined NATCA the same day. A few years later, he approached his local president about how he could get involved with the union. They decided the best place for him to start was as a section representative in his platform.

Stefko was elected Region X Eastern Region President in April 2009, a role in which he continues to serve, representing all non-controller bargaining units in the Eastern Region. He is also a member of the Reloaded Committee and has served on the Realignment Committee.

Stefko believes that NATCA's growth depends on the continuous flow of fresh energy and passion, which he said must come from young members taking every opportunity to get involved at their facility, like volunteering for a workgroup, running for an elected position or getting involved legislatively.

JOHN BRATCHER

SOUTHWEST Besides being Fort Smith ATCT/Razorback Approach (FSM) President, Bratcher is FSM Legislative Representative and Chairman of three NATCA committees.

A member since 2005, Bratcher started his career in 1998 at Little Rock Air Force Base ATCT. In 2005, he was hired at Springdale Federal Contract Tower (ASG) and was elected NATCA President. In 2007, he was hired by the FAA and started working at FSM. Three years later he was elected VP.

Bratcher wanted to be active in shaping his profession. After he was hired by the FAA, he looked for more ways he could assist with NATCA's efforts. He was then appointed Chairman of the National Organizing Committee, the National Benefits Committee and the Membership Board of Trustees.

For young members who want to get involved in NATCA like Bratcher, Bratcher says find out what interests you, volunteer and then commit to giving the effort that is necessary in order to better the profession.

NATCA at 25

Editor's note: This is one of a ten-part series of articles spotlighting veteran NATCA members, looking back at the first 25 years of the union leading up to the June 19, 2012 silver anniversary of NATCA's FLRA certification. We profiled one member each month from each of the 10 regions, in addition to also remembering key events that have helped shape the union and its growth as a strong advocate for its members and aviation safety.

JEFF RICHARDS, GREAT LAKES REGION

"It would be horrible to go to work without NATCA," said Great Lakes Region Alternate Regional Vice President (ARVP) and former Chicago Center (ZAU) President Jeff Richards. "I wouldn't be making the amount of money I make today, I wouldn't have the workplace rules...we would still be under the White Book."

A 20-year NATCA veteran, Richards is beyond passionate about the union.

The FAA hired Richards in Jan. 1991 and he joined NATCA that April, before he even finished air traffic control training. Though certified, NATCA was still in its infancy when Richards became a controller and had several kinks to work out. Richards said communication amongst the union members in the 1990s was a big issue because of the lack of technology.

"Now I can just email blast my membership," said Richards, "whereas back then, I had to post on the union bulletin board...then you had management reading it, so it was hard to convey your message to your membership without letting management know what your plans were at the time."

When Richards started at ZAU, he said there was a "chasm between the older PATCO guys and the younger NATCA guys". That generational divide, along with a push from the young NATCA members at his facility motivated Richards to immediately run for area representative.

Running for that local position led Richards to

a long career of leadership.

In 2005, Richards was elected President of ZAU and held that position until January 2012. In 2009 Great Lakes Regional Vice President (RVP) Bryan Zilonis named Richards ARVP. At the same time, Richards was put on the En Route Automation Modernization (ERAM) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Negotiation Workgroup and the Fatigue Risk Management Workgroup.

Richards said that the biggest and most unique challenge for the Great Lakes Region is its size. The region is the second largest in NATCA, so keeping in touch with all the members that comprise the 55 facilities, including four ARTCCs is a major challenge for the region leadership.

Although it is difficult to keep up with the day-to-day issues of the region's membership, Richards said that the volume and variety of the membership issues is the reason he enjoyed his time as ZAU President.

Richards has several recommendations for young members. His advice to them is to be aware of what is going on their area, join the NATCA Political Action Committee (PAC), ask how to help at their facility and do the best they possibly can with the task they are given, even if it's not what they want to do.

As for the future, Richards is focused on the making sure the Fatigue Risk Management Group's recommendations get implemented while he's still working. He's eligible to retire in 2013, but plans to stay through 2019.

THANK YOU

DENVER CONVENTION COMMITTEE!



**NATCA would like to thank the 2012
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**Jim Ullmann
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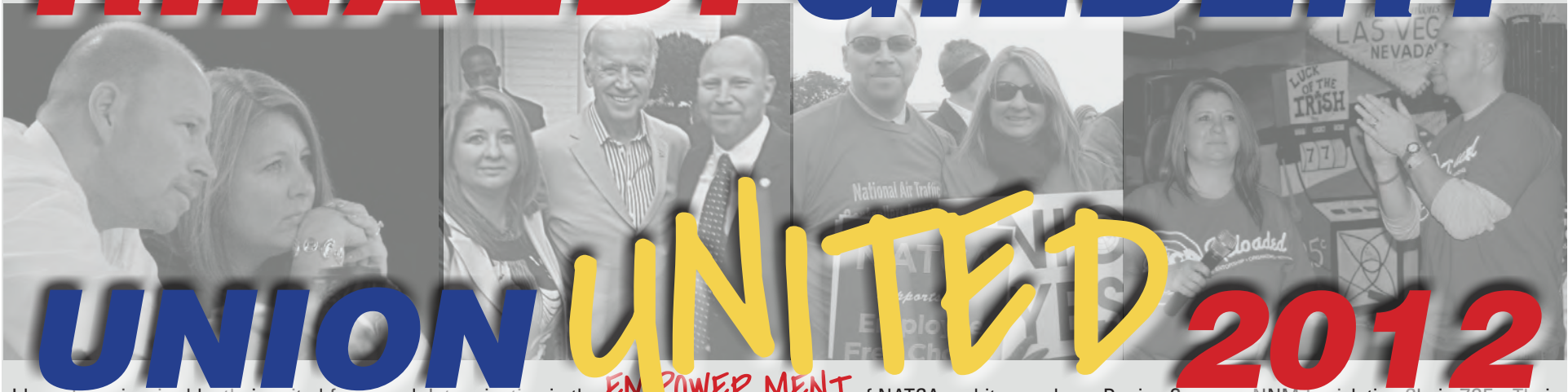
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Trish and Paul have restored unity to the organization, improved NATCA's finances, streamlined the Union's administrative functions and re-imagined our Association into something leaner, stronger, more focused and yes, more **UNITED**. John Carr, Retired Past NATCA President • They have consistently demonstrated the **LEADERSHIP** qualities and **POISE** we need to best position our Union for the future. Mike Hanlon, NGL Legislative Chair, ZOB • Under their leadership, we have learned to take full advantage of the collaboration being offered by the agency while still ensuring that our future is **PROTECTED**. Jeff Blow, D21 President • Paul and Trish are laying a **solid** and lasting **FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE** of NATCA. Nate Pair, ZLA President • Paul and Trish are the team with it all: vision, **EXPERIENCE** and dedication. Dana Bain, ZKC President • Paul and Trish have managed to bring us all back **TOGETHER** as one Union. Jeffrey Fisher, ABE Vice President • They have worked hard together though the tough times and have built our **UNION** to become stronger, more **KNOWLEDGEABLE**, and very aware of the direction of our future. AnnMarie Taggio, CLT • Paul and Trish's every effort, each and every day, move each of us to do more. They challenge each of us by who they are to become more and **ACHIEVE MORE**. It is through their leadership and **VISION** that we are at the strongest moment in our history. Garth Koleszar, National Rep for Training and Pro Standards, ZLA • Now NATCA is unified and stronger than ever. Mike Foote, LAX President • My members are encouraged by their **PROGRESS** and excited about their vision of our organization's future. Richard Woodbury, BGR President • Paul and Trish's work over the past two years, as well as of those they encourage and **MOTIVATE**, have positioned our union to be one of the most **RESPECTED** in the federal sector and the aviation community. Jon Shedden, ZFW Vice President • Paul and Trish have been guiding this union in the right direction and will continue into the future with poise, **HONESTY** and a hard work ethic. Mark Bonvouloir, PVD President • They have invested time and **ENERGY** in motivating a new membership to carry the torch further. James Keith, NSW Legislative Committee Chair, D10 • Unquestionable **INTEGRITY** is the way I would describe them, individually and also as a team. Noel Kingston, PRC • This team has worked without rest to help **RESTORE** not only NATCA's internal family but they have also **REBUILT** much needed **RELATIONSHIPS** with the FAA and Congress. PHX Executive Board • They have worked tirelessly for us, the NATCA member, to secure rights, benefits and protections that we need in our jobs. Rich Santa, ZDC President • Paul and Trish **DELIVER** on high expectations, plus they do it with wit, passion, **FRIENDSHIP**, and humility. Russ Miller, National Collaboration Lead, ZFW • Their ability to proactively guide us through some of our Union's most turbulent periods of time is testimony to their **FOR TITUDE** to lead us in the future. A90 Executive Board • Their **LEADERSHIP** has created an unparalleled sense of **UNITY** and **PRIDE** in this Union. Jim Apone, MYR President

RINALDI GILBERT



UNION UNITED 2012

I have been inspired by their united focus and determination in the **EMPOWERMENT** of NATCA and its members. Denise Spencer, NNM Legislative Chair, ZSE • Their ability to **UNIFY** all facets of this Union from LR to Safety and Legislative has proven beneficial time and time again. Steve Hansen, National Safety Committee, ZAB • The strong leadership, **COMMUNICATION**, work ethic, instilment of pride and **PROFESSIONALISM** that Paul and Trish bring to NATCA is beyond question. Jim Ullmann, Northwest Mountain Region RVP • Paul and Trish plan ahead, think outside the box, and deliver on a consistent basis. Chad Geyer, OAPM National Representative, ZLA • They have lead from a morally **STRONG** position and as a result we now have an NEB **WORKING TOGETHER** like none I have ever seen before. Andy Lewis, NEA Legislative Rep., ROC • Together, Paul and Trish and have set the course for our organization to be viewed as an integral part of the future of not only air traffic control, but of the aviation industry. New York TRACON Executive Board • Truth, **CREDIBILITY** and hard work have brought them and NATCA **GREAT SUCCESS** that will continue into the **FUTURE**. Shane Ahern, PBI President • We believe that under their guidance and leadership our Union is positioned for continued success in both the near- and long-term. Mike Ryan, Atlanta TRACON President • They are **PASSIONATE** with their **RESPONSIBILITY** to better our profession; they are **WELL RESPECTED** by all who deal with them, and our employer and lawmakers trust them. Phil Barbarello, Eastern Region RVP • They are two highly qualified and extremely motivated individuals that make an amazing **TEAM** for now and the future. John Bratcher, NATCA Benefits Committee Chairman • By allowing them to continue in their present positions, we will all continue to reap the benefits of their **HARD WORK**. Rich Ferris, NCT • Together and separately they exemplify the words **SELFLESS** and leadership. Their constant **EFFORT** to always put NATCA first is truly remarkable. Mitch Herrick, National TAMR Rep., MIA • Paul and Trish, together, are the epitome of vision and professionalism that we so very much need at this point in time. Mike Hull, NWP ARVP, SCT • Through their firm, **STEADY**, and principled leadership, Paul and Trish were able to navigate NATCA past the obstacles and bring us to a new level of **SUCCESS**. Mike MacDonald, Region X RVP • NATCA has made **GIANT STRIDES FORWARD** in all aspects with Paul and Trish at the helm. Steve Wallace, ZMA President • They have communicated their actions and their direction and they have effectively used the talents of those around them. They have been **STRONG LEADERS** for our Union. Steve Weidner, NLC Chair • With them, we just get things done. Bryan Zilonis, Great Lakes Region RVP • Collectively, we have all benefited greatly from their **ENCOURAGEMENT** and **ENTHUSIASM**. Trisha Pesiri, NLC Western Pacific Region • They are strong leaders with a very **CLEAR DIRECTION** for what is **BEST FOR OUR UNION**. Scott Sill, Y90 President



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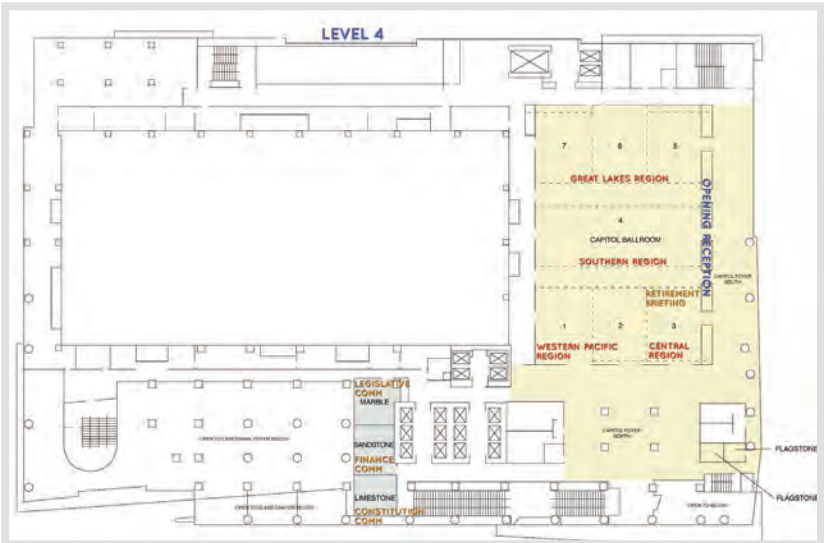
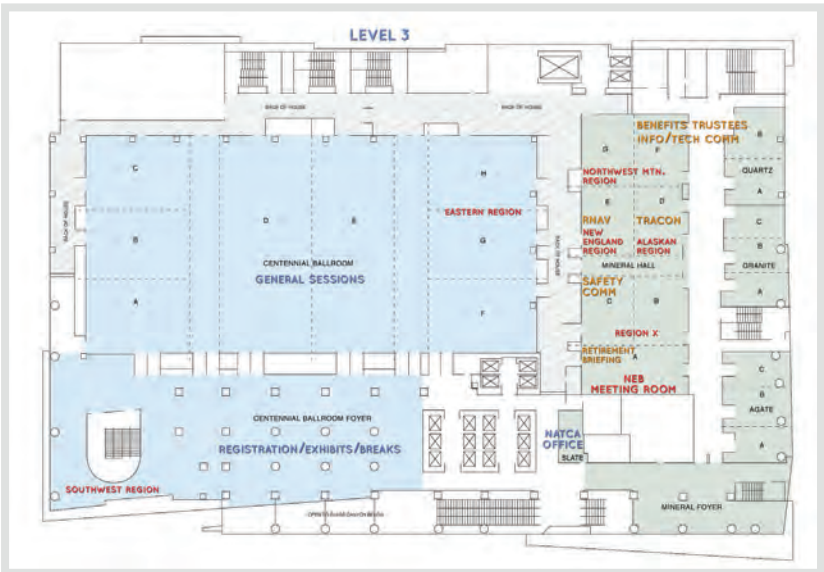
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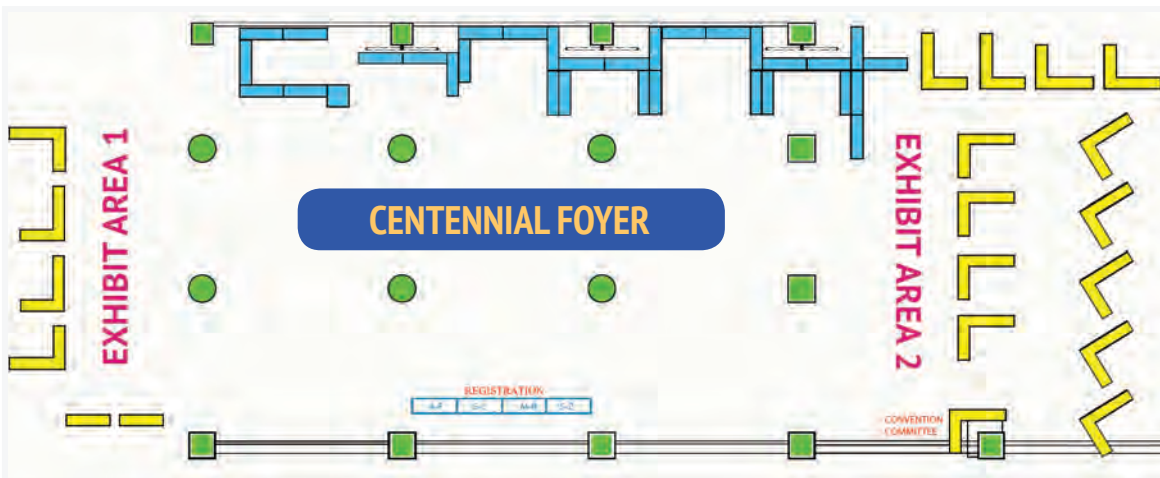


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Introducing...

the **NATCA** Historical Committee

The NATCA Historical Committee, established under NATCA Standing Rule SRH-7 is chartered for the exclusive purpose of documenting the official history of the National Air Traffic Controllers' Association at the national, regional, and local levels. Specifically, the Historical Committee is charged with making recommendations to the National Executive Board, and as approved, implementing methods and means to:

- Archive materials and documents associated with NATCA's official operations, functions and events, and elections;
- Where possible, convert NATCA's materials and documents into a searchable electronic database; and
- Ensure a chronological history of the Organization is documented and available to be used in conjunction with the activities of the Organizing and Reloaded Committees.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Establish, in concert with the National Executive Board, measurable goals and objectives for the Committee;
- Brainstorm, evaluate, and implement suitable methods and means for achieving the Committee's purpose, goals, and objectives;
- Establish Regional and Local structures as appropriate and necessary;
- Develop processes, procedures, and templates for Locals' use; and,
- Once per year, provide the National Executive Board a written report concerning the Committee's recommendations and accomplishments, plus a synopsis identifying the status of, and obstacles and risks associated with, achieving the Committee's purpose and the committee's goals and objectives.

The NATCA Historical Committee will eventually be reaching out to all Locals and the membership for any historical information, documents or items. Contact Steve Weidner for more information: steve.weidner@natca.net.

COLLABORATE:

[kuh-lab-uh-reyt] to work, **ONE** with **ANOTHER**

NATCA President Paul Rinaldi has stated:

"We want to be part of the solution. We want to be involved early in the pre-decisional stages of modernization. We want to lend our experience and expertise to NextGen. We want to be part of something we can be proud of and serve our country in a critical safety function that is so inherently governmental."

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