

Team Update August 25th



Introducing the New Archie League Medal Of Safety Award Video

Nominations for the Archie League Medal of Safety Awards are now being accepted. All flight assists taking place this calendar year (January 1, 2014-December 31, 2014) are eligible for a nomination.

Please note that you may nominate a NATCA member from any facility, not just your own.



Registration for Communicative for Safety 2015 - March 2-4 will open on Monday, Oct. 6. Register through the [CFS website](http://natcacfs.com).

In addition, the CFS Planning Committee announced last week that highly popular CFS 2014 keynote speaker Gordon Graham is returning for next year's conference.

Graham divides his time between study, research, writing, speaking, and consulting in the discipline of risk management. His innovative programs, based on the values and beliefs he learned as a child along with a passion for continuous improvement, are the standard for any organization that wants to improve existing operations and prevent things from going wrong.

To read more about Graham, please click [HERE](#).



Turn Off, Tune In: New Video About Importance of Eliminating Distractions

NATCA's Professional Standards Co-Lead Garth Koleszar and former National Chair of Air Traffic SUPCOM Bob Hildebidle discuss the importance of air traffic controllers eliminating distractions from the workplace in a new video, "Turn Off, Tune In: What You Need to Know About Distractions." To maintain trust among the flying public, Koleszar said, controllers must remember what their role is and what their responsibilities are as professionals. The video highlights a real-life example in which cell phone use impacted aviation safety. On August 26, 2011 the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) for the first time investigated a commercial aircraft crash linked to texting. Evidence showed the pilot had sent 20 text messages less than two hours before the crash. Koleszar points to the science of distractions - how they affect the human brain. The video further discusses how supervisors can lead their workforce by example, and shows how some facilities have taken steps to embody the Turn Off, Tune In campaign.

Watch the video [HERE](#).



NATCA National Election Information from the National Election Committee and Office of General Counsel on the 2015 NATCA National Executive Board Elections

The National Election Committee met in May 2014 to work on establishing the rules and dates of the 2015 NATCA National Election. The official notice of election/election rules will be mailed to each member's home address around the end of this year. Prior to that mailing, however, members should note the following important dates that the National Election Committee has established for next year's election:

March 31, 2015 - Nominations due for the offices of President, Executive Vice President, and the Regional Vice Presidents

May 1, 2015 - Nomination acceptances due

June 30, 2015 - Ballots distributed to the membership

July 24, 2015 - Deadline for duplicate ballot request

July 30, 2015 - Deadline for returned ballots

July 31, 2015 - Ballot count

September 1, 2015 - Elected officers take office

If any members have questions about the upcoming election, they should contact a member of the National Election Committee or NATCA General Counsel Marguerite Graf.



Minneapolis Convention Links

Convention Website, [Click here.](#)

Registration is OPEN! [Click here.](#)

Amendments, Resolutions, [Click here.](#)

Charitable Foundation 5K Fun Walk, Sept. 30th. [Click here.](#)

Charitable Foundation Show Your Roots Fundraiser. [Click here.](#)

Best Labor T-Shirt Contest! Wear Yours on Oct. 1



Dues Adjustment Proposal Membership Telcon

Thursday, Sept. 4th 12:00PM Eastern 1-888-453-9924 Passcode 42421

Monday, Sept. 8th 5:00PM Eastern 1-888-453-9924 Passcode 42421

*Join us for the briefing and
then a question and answer session.*



Member Still In Need After Storm Which Took His Home

Here is his story as written by his facrep:

On April 29th, Pensacola received 26 inches of rain in a 24-hour period. Late that evening, as Amanda (his wife) was nearing home, a wall of water came through their neighborhood, inundating the first floor of their home, drowning their two dogs, and nearly drowning Amanda in her truck. I saw the aftermath

in that neighborhood, and haven't seen the likes of it since Mississippi after Katrina.

They did not have flood insurance, as their insurance company did not assess that neighborhood as a flood zone. Both of their cars were totaled. They did have insurance on the cars, but you know how that goes. They were forced out of their home for three months while they tore out the flood-ruined interior and re-built. Most of the re-building was done by friends and family, but the materials and other expenses....inspections, electrical, etc., were incredibly expensive.

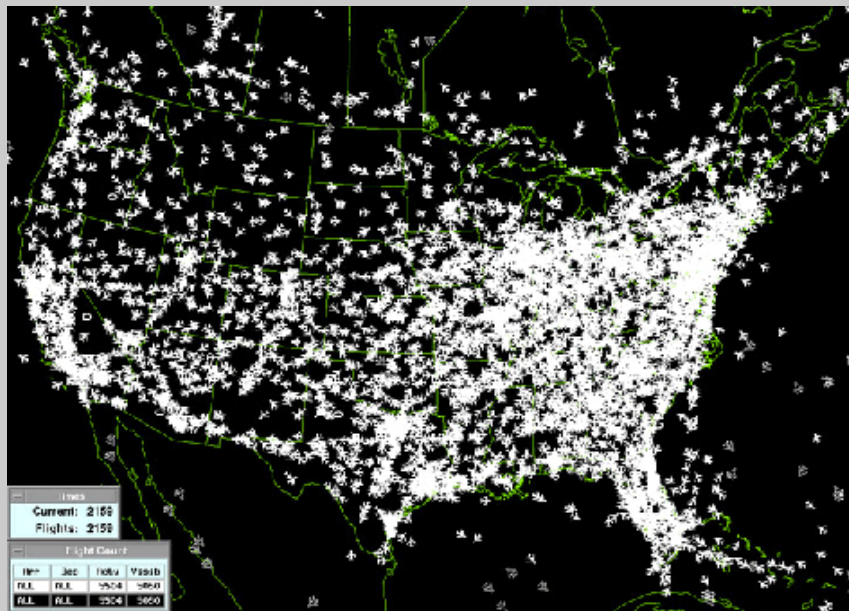
The P31 Local managed, with some help from our friends, to raise almost \$12,000. But they tallied their receipts this week and this ordeal cost them nearly \$42,000. Like most of the new hires, Troy came into the Agency with some student loan debt. He's also paying the mortgage on the home, which is now worth much less than when he bought it. As it turns out, a holding pond at a paper mill miles away gave way that night. And that was most likely the source of the flood. But with high-powered lawyers involved, it may take years for them to recover just a percentage of their losses, if ever.

We are not looking to cover ALL his expenses, but some financial help here would be greatly appreciated. These folks have been through the ringer, driven from their home, and been financially devastated by these events. I'm hoping our union brothers and sisters can show Troy and Amanda that we care, and that our organization takes care of each other.

Cliff Murdock P31 Rep

The NATCA Disaster Relief Fund will add \$2000 to assist Troy. However we are looking for any help from others across the country can give. The two of us will add \$100 each to the cause. To donate please give [HERE](#).

For questions or more info contact P31 VP - Stan Parulski at usmcatc@ATT.NET or (574)-361-7067.



Assessment Validation Participation

All CPCs and CPC-ITs:

We are requesting your participation in an important initiative.

The FAA is currently reviewing and evaluating the pre-employment selection process used to hire Air Traffic Controllers. The FAA has engaged APTMetrics, an external consulting firm, to assist the agency in this effort.

A critical next step in this effort is to validate the newly created screening tools that will be used to select applicants for ATC positions in the future.

Starting in September, all CPCs will be asked to voluntarily complete a multiple choice assessment to help evaluate its effectiveness for possible use as a future selection tool. The assessment should be completed during your normal duty time on a computer at your facility.

The data you provide by completing this assessment is completely confidential. The data you provide will only be used to ensure that the new pre-employment selection assessment is useful for predicting success as an ATCS. FLMs will also be completing confidential performance reviews of their CPCs. The assessment data will be compared against supervisory ratings of performance to determine whether the test can predict successful performance as an ATCS. All information (including your assessment answers and the performance ratings provided by your supervisor) will be used for research purposes only. Note that the FAA is partnering with an external human resources consulting firm, APTMetrics, on this project. All data and information will be collected and seen only by APTMetrics and will be kept strictly confidential. APTMetrics will only report results in aggregate form.

While your participation in this process is entirely voluntary, the effectiveness of the assessment, and ultimately the FAA's efforts to improve the process for screening and selecting future controllers, is dependent upon achieving high participation rates. As such, we respectfully request that you participate in this study and that you take the time to respond thoughtfully and accurately to the assessment.

If you have any questions, please contact Tom Adcock, NATCA National Training Representative, via email (tadcock@natca.net) or phone (305.389.4167) or Dave Bricker, NATCA National Safety Committee Human Factors representative, via email (dbricker@natca.net) or phone (505.321.4239).

Thank you in advance for your support, time and effort toward this important project.

WEEKLY HATCH ACT MESSAGE

Here is this week's Hatch Act scenario.

The law governing federal employees and political activity is called the Hatch Act. The Hatch Act defines political activity as:

Activity directed toward the success or failure of a political party, candidate for partisan political office, or partisan political group

The penalties for violating the Hatch Act can be as severe as removal from federal service. It is important that you understand what is and what is not allowed as a federal employee.

Remember, these scenarios are not meant to cover every situation you may encounter. If you are unsure if a particular action constitutes political activity, please do not hesitate to contact your [NLC member](#), your [RVP](#), or [me](#) with your question. We will get you an answer. It's always better to ask the question than it is to guess and take a chance that you are wrong.

Remember, we want you to be politically active and we want you to be safe and comply with the law while participating.

In Solidarity,

*Steve Weidner, Chair
NATCA National Legislative Committee*



This Week's Scenario

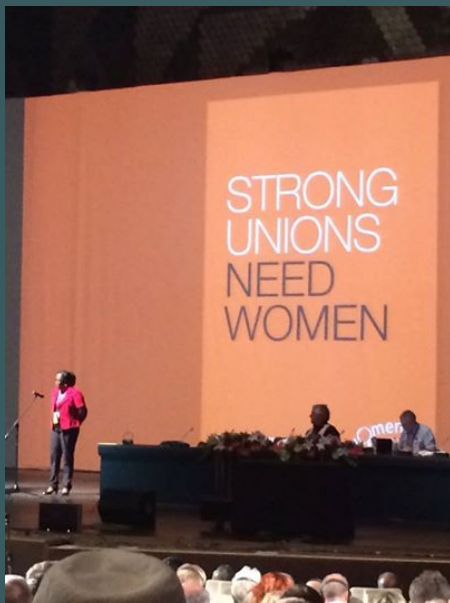
QUESTION: NATCA Local XYZ wants to conduct a voter registration drive in the lobby of their facility. The goal of the local is to get 100% of the employees in the building - members and non-members - registered to vote. Is this a permissible activity?

ANSWER: NATCA locals may not engage in voter registration drives during an election year. This is because NATCA is very active politically, supporting candidates with volunteers and through the Boots on the Ground Program, NATCA PAC contributions, as well as endorsements.

In off years, voter registration drives may be permitted, however you should coordinate with your NLC member on the specifics before holding a voter registration drive.



The past two weeks we attended a meet and greet at ICT with the membership there and in OKC with Academy students. Paul attended membership meetings at RSW, FMY and TOL. Trish visited OKC and attended their mtg in the evening. Trish also attended the [International Transport Workers Federation Congress](#) which is held every four years.



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