

Latest on FAA Reauthorization

The House cleared legislation Monday, March 21 and sent it to President Obama to extend legislative authority for the Federal Aviation Administration to July 15.

The FAA's current authority would have expired March 31. The temporary extension allows more time to reach consensus on contentious issues. For example, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee approved legislation that would last six years and would shift air-traffic control from the FAA to a not-for-profit corporation.

The Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee approved legislation that would last until October 2017 and likely will vote on it this week on the Senate floor.

As of now the House version does not have floor time scheduled.



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Communicating For Safety is the aviation industry's leading conference focusing on safety, technology, and building relationships with other aviation professionals. NATCA is extremely proud of all who took part in the conference and excited to share all aspects of the event with those who could not make it this year.

Putting on CFS is a wonderful team effort, and we are proud to work with the CFS Planning Committee, the National Safety Committee, the IT Committee, and the National Office staff. From the TweetWall and live webcast on natca.org during the event, to all of our publications and videos, we enjoyed giving our members comprehensive coverage of the largest-ever NATCA conference.

You can view the complete playlist of conference videos, including panels and the Archie League Medal of Safety Awards, on the [Communicating For Safety YouTube](#)

[Channel](#). Below, view the welcome, keynotes, awards, and panels from the event.



[Welcome by Steve Hansen, National Safety Committee Chairman, and National Anthem by AnnMarie Taggio \(PCT\)](#)



[Keynote Address by NATCA President Paul Rinaldi](#)



[Keynote Remarks: FAA Deputy Administrator Michael Whitaker](#)

Panels



[The Pros and Cons of the Aviation Innovation Reform and Reauthorization Act \(AIRR\)](#)



[NextGen and SESAR](#)



[Remote Tower Systems](#)



[Pilot/Controller Communications](#)



[Challenges of Integrating UAS into the NAS](#)



[Aviation Weather](#)



[Improving Safety Through Collaboration](#)



[International Air Navigation Service Providers \(ANSP\) Discussion](#)

In Solidarity,

Paul Rinaldi - NATCA President

Trish Gilbert - NATCA EVP



This photo album covers the entire conference, thanks to the great work of NATCA members Doug Jones (MIA) and Jay Tilles (ZTL).



We concluded CFS with the 12th annual Archie League Medal of Safety Awards banquet. Named for the first air traffic controller, the award honors the top examples of skill, dedication and professionalism demonstrated by NATCA members in the previous year. Each honoree saved a life or lives in emergency situations.

The award winners went to work ready to handle anything and relied on their training, their skill, their team and their supreme professionalism. These incidents all ended safely because of the controllers using every available tool at their disposal. They were determined to do whatever was needed.

The award winners were:

- Ronald Sparks and Mike Thomas, ZAN
- Brett Rolofson and Liam Keeney, ZKC
- Jeffrey Schuler, N90
- David Kilgus, CMH
- Joseph J. White, PVD
- Joshua J. Pate, S46
- Donald Blatnik III and Kenneth Scheele, F11
- Wade H. Martin IV and Nick Valadez, DAL
- Ryan Nines, William L. Hoppe Jr., and Luis Ramirez, NCT

To view audio and video presentations of each, please start here.

[Read the Archie League booklet which includes stories about each winning flight assist.](#)

Thank you to all our members for your time and commitment to aviation safety and congratulations to this year's Archie League winners.



The **Formula** Worldwide

Global Professionalism + Leadership = **SAFE SKIES**

Mid March, NATCA proudly welcomed nearly 500 registered attendees to Bally's in Las Vegas for the 55th Annual Conference of the International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations (IFATCA).

In the 55-year history of IFATCA, we were overdue as the largest air navigation service provider in the world in hosting this conference. NATCA and a phenomenal organizing committee of NATCA members and staff were proud to host the world's professional organization for air traffic controllers. There were 74 countries represented at the

conference, which was packed with information, discussion, and education.

Paul welcomed attendees to the United States and Las Vegas during the opening ceremony. He told them that even though the large size of the United States aviation system



makes it unique, "we face the same problems you face around the world. We push for modern equipment and procedures, we strive for the highest standard of professionalism, and we promote and safeguard the National Airspace System while protecting the national air traffic control profession. Modernization and innovation is rapidly making our individual countries' aviation systems into one gigantic, dynamic, global aviation system."

NATCA hosted two panel discussions on Thursday, March 17. The first focused on Foundations of Professionalism and briefed conference attendees on the history and development of NATCA's collaborative work with the FAA on Professional Standards, Turn Off Tune In, Fully Charged, and the Air Traffic Safety Action Program. It was hosted by NATCA Professional Standards Team Co-Leads Garth Koleszar and Jeff Richards.

The second panel was about improving the airspace. It was hosted by Jeff Woods, NATCA Representative in the FAA's Program Management Organization (PMO), and Bennie Hutto, NATCA's Article 48 Safety and Technology Representative on the Washington, D.C., Metroplex project.



To view more photos from the Annual Conference, please [click here](#).

[Read the IFATCA Annual Conference event Newspaper.](#)



NATCA In WASHINGTON REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

We are happy to announce that registration for NATCA in Washington 2016 is now open. Our Union is continually faced with new legislative challenges and this year is no exception. NATCA in Washington provides us with a tremendous opportunity to spend time on the Hill educating our elected officials on the vital work that we do.

This promises to be our best NATCA in Washington ever!! We are continuing to improve this event each year. Regardless if you are a veteran attendee or a first-timer, we are confident that you will come away impressed. We hope you are able to attend and make our collective voice heard on Capitol Hill.

We know that getting leave is always a challenge. We understand these challenges. However, if you are planning to attend but are still trying to work out leave, we encourage you to register. It is much easier to drop a room from our room block than it is to try and pick one up at the last minute.

Below is the registration link and several other items that should answer some of the basic questions you may have.

NATCA in Washington will be May 23-25, 2016 (Monday - Wednesday). For more information and to register online, please click [here](#):

The deadline for registration is April 11, 2016. Participants will be selected based on the Congressional districts in which they reside. It is ideal to have as many Congressional districts represented as possible.

Again, if you wish to attend but are unsure if your leave will be approved, go ahead and register anyway. Attendance confirmation will be sent out on or about April 15, 2016. This should give you plenty of time to take advantage of advanced-purchase airfare. DO NOT purchase airline tickets until you have received confirmation from your regional NLC member that you will be attending AND approval from your local e-board.

Transportation to and from Washington D.C. will be at your local's expense. Transportation expenses will NOT be reimbursed from the NATCA in Washington budget. Therefore, please check with your Facrep first before registering. Any other incidental travel costs (i.e. cabs, tolls, etc) will also be at your local's expense.

Single rooms are on a first-come, first-served basis. If you are booked in a single room, you will be responsible for 1/2 of room charges per night (half the cost is approximately \$172 per night). If you do not indicate your choice of room (single or double) it

will be assumed you want a roommate and one will be assigned to you. If you request a double room, but do not specify a roommate, your roommate will be assigned by your regional NLC member. We always attempt to room members from the same region together (unless specifically requested otherwise), but if there is an odd number of attendees, you may be required to room with someone from another region.

Please make sure you have coordinated with the roommate you've requested PRIOR to registering. This will avoid confusion in the rooming process

FYI - All rooms at the hotel are non-smoking

[Register Today!](#)

NATCA in Washington is our Union's premier legislative event. If you haven't attended before, you will find it very enlightening to learn about our legislative process from the grassroots perspective. Nobody can explain our jobs and our issues to Congress better than us. This is an excellent opportunity to get involved and make a difference. We look forward to seeing everyone in DC.



NATCA CONVENTION - REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

NATCA members planning to attend the convention in San Diego this summer (Aug. 30 - Sept. 2) can now register using this [link](#).

To Submit Proposed Convention Resolutions or Amendments:

Members should submit proposed resolutions or amendments by May 2 to the NATCA Executive Vice President at tgilbert@natcadc.org.

Proposals will then be mailed to all members at least 60 days prior the convention. The National Convention body will then vote on all proposals that are in order and properly before the body.

If you have any questions please contact a [constitution committee](#) member.

[Article XIV Section 1 of the NATCA Constitution](#) covers this subject



NATCA Academy Schedule 2016

Basic Representative Training	April 25-29	Las Vegas, NV
Secretary/Treasurer Training	May 4-5	Las Vegas, NV
Office of Workers Compensation Program	May 10-11	Atlanta, GA
Occupational Safety and Health Administration	May 10-11	Atlanta, GA
Drug and Alcohol Testing Representation	May 11-12	Atlanta, GA
Advanced Arbitration Training II	June 6-9	Phoenix, AZ
Federal Contract Tower	June 14-15	NATCA HQ - DC
Training Review Board	September 13-14	Las Vegas, NV
Secretary/Treasurer Training	September 13-14	Las Vegas, NV
Basic Legislative Activism Training	September 19-20	Las Vegas, NV
Basic Representative Training	September 26-30	Las Vegas, NV
Advanced Representative Training	October 17-20	Las Vegas, NV
Basic Representative Training	December 5-9	Las Vegas, NV
Basic Legislative Activism Training	December 7-8	Las Vegas, NV



Contract Negotiations

We have made significant progress in reaching agreement on approximately 90% of the open provisions, which includes articles and mid-term agreements such as MOUs and other practices.

While the number of open items is not high, as is normal during term negotiations, those that remain open until nearing the end are significant and important to both sides. We are continuing our weekly negotiating sessions with the Agency to reach agreement utilizing the principles of interest based bargaining on the remaining articles and provisions.



KEEP CALM I'M AN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER

Attached to this message are the two MOUs that reflect changes to the [C90/N90 Return Rights Agreement](#) and the mid-term change to [Article 61](#) of the red book collective bargaining agreement. Below is a brief explanation of the changes:

C90/N90 Return Rights: changed to reflect that CPC's that do not achieve full certification at C90/N90 will not be processed through the NEST (EMP 1.14a) and will be transferred to the facility at which they were previously certified.

Article 61 MOU: changed to reflect that developmental employees (those that have never achieved CPC status) that withdraw from training may be offered up to 5 facilities for which they are qualified, as determined by

the NEST, if a vacancy exists. All other developmentals that do not achieve facility certification may be afforded a list of all vacancies for which they are qualified, as determined by the NEST.

National Release Policy/ERR SOP: We have completed the first National Centralized ERR Process Team (NCEPT) review. If you had an ERR on file and were from a facility that met the qualification for a Category 1 or 2 release, you should have received a tentative offer letter (TOL) by now. If you haven't received any information, please contact your [Regional Vice President](#) and include your name, present facility and facility to which you were seeking reassignment.

The next NCEPT has been scheduled to occur in early June 2016. To be considered in that next session, employees will need to have any ERRs submitted to the appropriate Human Resources Management Division no later than May 19, 2016.

Additionally, A new public KSN site was created which contains information on estimated ERR vacancies and estimated facility status for the next NCEPT. The intent is to provide controllers insight on NCEPT priority and vacancies. Also included is a file that lists facility category and potential losses according to the latest run of the priority tool. We cannot stress enough these are provided

as estimates based on the latest data. They will change monthly.

Please disseminate widely. All controllers should be made aware of the information.

A link is provided from the Facility Placement Dashboard or you can navigate directly to it via this URL:

<https://ksn2.faa.gov/ajg/ajg-r/AJG-R4/AJG-R41/nceptpublic/SitePages/Home.aspx>

If you have any question please contact your Regional Vice President.



**National Validation Resolution on
Terminal Buffers**

NATCA and the Agency have reached an agreement to modify the terminal breakpoint buffers to address existing concerns regarding program consistency. The buffers have been adjusted from 5% to 7%. Based on this adjustment, the National Validation Team (NVT) will meet in the near future to conduct facility level reviews. As part of the review process, the NVT will also establish a standard operating practice for future program changes.

As a reminder, facility upgrades are retroactive to the first full pay period after the first month the facility was at or above the breakpoint. By comparison, facility downgrades do not occur until the first full pay period after the validation process has been completed.

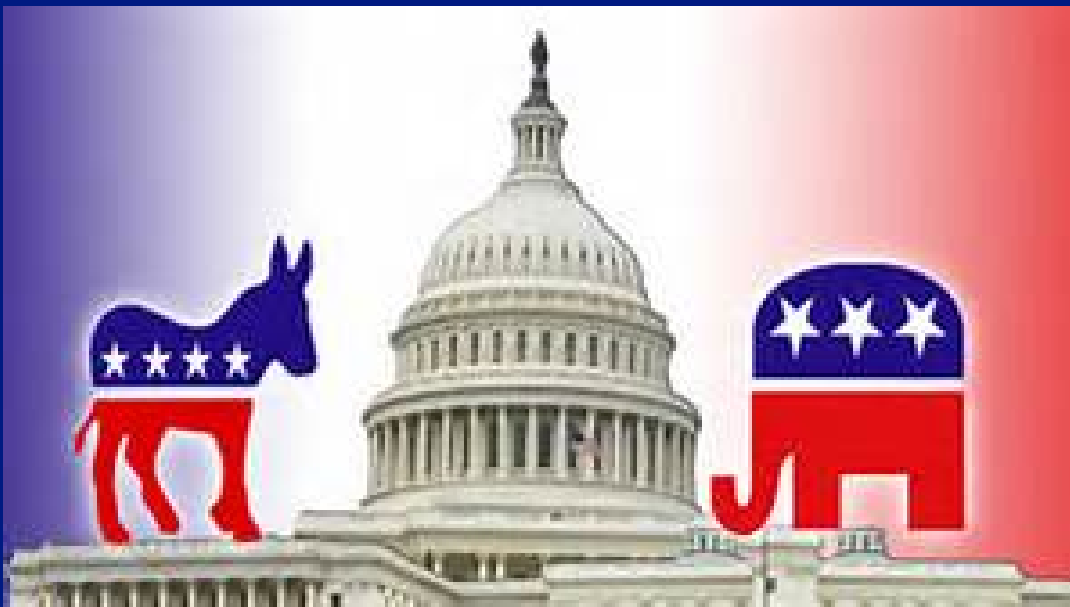
In accordance with our collective bargaining agreements, bargaining unit employees who are subject to a downgrade shall be granted facility level retention for two years and pay retention thereafter. Employees assigned to the facility on the effective date of the facility level decrease shall retain their facility's previous higher-level CPC pay level for two (2) years commencing on the effective date of the facility level decrease.

Pay Retention applies to all employees assigned to the facility on the effective date of the facility level decrease and shall continue as long as the employee remains at that facility. For those employees whose basic rate of pay exceeds the CPC band maximum, they will receive fifty percent (50%) of all annual increases as an adjustment to Basic Pay and fifty percent (50%) will be paid as a lump sum.

Transfers with firm offer letters issued before the date of the downgrade shall receive facility level retention expiring at the same time as all employees assigned to the facility on the effective date of the downgrade.

New hires assigned to and transfers with firm offer letters dated after the effective date of the facility downgrade shall be paid in accordance with the new applicable facility pay level.

Contact your Regional Vice President with any questions.



2016 Legislative Activism *T-Shirt Design Contest*

Rules

- **Entry period open until April 6th**
- **NATCA Logo or NATCA Legislative Logo must be incorporated into the design**
- **T-shirt must be legislatively themed**
- **No use of trademarked or copyrighted logos or slogans**
- **No advocating for or against a political party, candidacy for a partisan political office or partisan political group**
- **Must be appropriate for workplace wear (no profanity, no HATCH Act violations)**
- **Design cannot be so intricate that the details are difficult to see**
- **The winner will be announced at NATCA In Washington in May**
- **Winner will receive a \$350 gift certificate or an iPad mini. Second place will receive a \$100 gift certificate**

All submissions become property of NATCA and must be submitted by a NATCA member in good standing.

Submit your design to National Legislative Committee (NLC)
Chair Steve Weidner at steve.weidner@natca.net

FLYER FOR POSTERS

EAA AIRVENTURE
OSHKOSH

JULY 25-31, 2016

REPRESENT- Your Facility & NATCA

EAA's AirVenture 2016 in Oshkosh is just around the corner!



This year's event is July 25th - 31st, 2016. NATCA will begin to set up the booth on July 24th. There are

multiple openings to assist NATCA with this year's event. Below is a detailed description of what is expected for this event:

- * All bargaining unit volunteers are on their own time via annual leave, RDOs, etc...

- * NATCA will provide lodging (shared house) and pay expenses for food.

- * Bargaining Unit Members are responsible for their transportation to and from the event.

- * A minimum of three (3) days working at the event are requested if at all possible

- * If volunteers are available for five (5) days that will help with the overlap but we understand that five days may be too much to ask for during prime-time leave.

The dates listed above are more than just working in the NATCA Booth.

NATCA is looking for volunteers that will also assist in the following public venues:



- * KidVenture - This is where children of all ages participate in an Aviation Learning Center. The

subjects include Air Traffic Control and other aviation oriented subjects. The work here is mentoring children through ATC computer lessons to receive credit toward their certificate for completing the aviation course.

* Innovations Pavilion - There will be several ATC displays where controllers will be working.

* Briefings and presentations - NATCA provides briefings and presentations several times throughout the event. These briefings are on subjects such as Runway Safety, Controller Expectations and other aviation subjects. Volunteers may be requested to assist or even lead these presentations.



If you are interested in volunteering for this event and have questions, please contact Kelly Richardson via [email](#).

Volunteers shall complete the Volunteer Information Form [HERE](#).

***The deadline for volunteering is April 4, 2016
at 11:59 pm EDT.***



Internet Reimbursement Reminder

As a reminder, in accordance with SRF-22, locals that are covered by SRF-12 (annual dues less than \$4,500) are entitled to \$50 per month for internet access.

SRF-22 Internet for Smaller Locals (3/12) NATCA shall reimburse up to \$50 per month to Locals covered by SRF-12, for internet access. Wireless cards, hot spots, and internet in the facility are reimbursable, home service is not.

Any questions, please contact your Regional Vice President.

STAY CONNECTED



NATCA, 1325 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC 20005

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Sent by tgilbert@natcad.org