



Brothers and Sisters,

Many of our members are concerned about what the future holds for them and our profession. By now you have read or seen many news stories about efforts to reduce the federal workforce, cut or freeze pay, change federal retirement benefits, and countless other assaults on federal employees and their Unions. Together, we will surely face many challenges as we maneuver through the many proposals for change and deal with the possibilities that FAA reauthorization - expiring Sept. 30 - may bring. Additionally, there has been political rhetoric suggesting the possibility of a government shutdown. The continuing resolution we are currently operating under expires on April 28. We expect to continue to see many attacks on federal employees and federal sector unions.

Rest assured, we are prepared for these battles. We will remain vigilant and work to mitigate the effects on NATCA members and on the safety of the NAS. As we always have, we will work hard in the field, on Capitol Hill and with the Administration to educate policymakers and aviation stakeholders on our issues. We will hold our heads high and know that we are right on message, commitment, and dedication. Our members' solid, credible work speaks for itself. All reasonable opponents will quickly realize the ally they have in NATCA and work with us to maintain and improve the safety of the NAS. The unreasonable we will have to work around. We will continue to rely and build upon the strong relationships we have cultivated among those in government agencies, industry, labor, media, and Congress.

Throughout NATCA's 30-year history, we have worked on and succeeded with legislative issues under Democrat and Republican presidents and Democrat and Republican Congresses. Our issues are truly bipartisan and safety is our top priority. We are the stewards of the NAS and our true, vested interest in the success and modernization of our aviation system is without question. These issues and our concerns transcend politics and resonate with representatives on both sides of the aisle and in industry.

Our solidarity, our unity, and our collective spirit have seen this Union through good and bad, each time succeeding and rising to new heights. Stay strong, stay united, and thank you to everyone who has worked so hard and given so much to advance our Union and given positive visibility to our professions.

In solidarity,

Paul Rinaldi, NATCA President

Trish Gilbert, NATCA Executive Vice President



*Far and away the best prize that life has to offer  
is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.  
....**Theodore Roosevelt***

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**\$9.9 MILLION PAID TO MEMBERS**

**NATCA HAS YOUR BACK.**

**DO YOU?**

**ບໍ່ມີ OPEN ENROLLMENT**  
**FEBRUARY 1 - MAY 1, 2017**  
**[natcadisability.com](http://natcadisability.com)**

You've invested days, weeks and even years to get you where you are in your air traffic career. You've insured your car, your home and even your life to protect your family and all of its assets. But what about protecting the very thing that makes your lifestyle possible?

All it takes is one accident, one illness, one trip to the doctor and your golden medical ticket can be taken away. "It won't happen to me" is not a solid plan for your family's financial well-being. Is your savings account large enough to pay all your bills while you work to get your medical back?

As a NATCA member, you have access to one of the greatest benefits our Union has to offer – long-term disability insurance from UNUM. You cannot get this insurance as an air traffic controller in the outside world; this was specifically negotiated for the benefit of NATCA members.

With several payment options to choose from, all for about the cost of a soda a day or less, UNUM disability insurance gives you the financial peace of mind that your family will be taken care of while you focus on regaining your health.

[Learn more](#) about UNUM long-term disability insurance.

OPEN ENROLLMENT: Now – May 1, 2017

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## NATCA Scholarships

NATCA offers its own scholarship program to college-bound children and spouses of NATCA members.

For the NATCA scholarship submit this [form](#) by March 1.



## Registration for Communicating For Safety 2017 is Open

Communicating For Safety (CFS) is the aviation industry's leading conference focusing on safety, technology and building relationships.

For more details visit the CFS [website](#).



## The Archie League Medal of Safety Award Winners Have Been Selected!

NATCA is proud to announce the 2017 Archie League Medal of Safety Award winners. They will be honored during the Archie League Medal of Safety Award banquet on March 22 during Communicating For Safety 2017 at Bally's Las Vegas.

The winners were selected during an all-day judges meeting held Feb. 3 at the NATCA National Office in Washington, D.C.



The judges were NATCA Director of Safety and Technology Jim Ullmann (pictured center), Experimental Aircraft Association CEO & Chairman of the Board Captain Jack Pelton (pictured left) and Air Line Pilots Association, Int'l. Aviation Safety Chairman Capt. Steve Jangelis.

**Alaskan Region**

Jessica Earp, Anchorage Center

**Central Region**

Jeffrey R. Volski, Kansas City Center

Andrew Cullen, Kansas City Center

**Eastern Region**

Richard Wallace, Washington Center

Jaymi Steinberg, Washington Center

**Great Lakes Region**

Eric Vanstrom, Fort Wayne ATCT

David Stempien, Cleveland Center

**New England Region**

Ross Leshinsky, Boston ATCT

Eric J. Knight, Boston ATCT

**Northwest Mountain Region**

Aaron Grijalva, Denver TRACON

**Southern Region**

Mason Braddock, Atlanta TRACON

Nichole Surunis, Atlanta TRACON

Patrick Burrows, Atlanta TRACON

Keith Tyus, Atlanta TRACON

Clay Sutton, Atlanta TRACON

**Southwest Region**

Patrick Armstrong, Dallas/Fort Worth TRACON

**Western Pacific Region**

Brian Bond, Phoenix TRACON

Carlton Wickstrom, Phoenix TRACON

Aaron Fones, Phoenix TRACON

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## The 2017 NATCA National Professionalism Award

The NATCA National Executive Board (NEB) has selected this year's second annual NATCA National Professionalism Award winners. The National Professional Standards Committee (PSC) made its award recommendations to the NEB from an incredible group of individuals nominated by their peers.

The winners are:

### Western Service Area

- Aaron Rose, Seattle TRACON (now at Seattle Center)

### Central Service Area

- Nate Holmberg, Indianapolis Center

### Eastern Service Area

- Pete Slattery, Charlotte ATCT
- Matthew Sullivan, Potomac TRACON

### Region X

- Alan Stensland, Region X - Engineers, Southern Region

The goal of NATCA's Professional Standards program is to maintain and promote professionalism across all of NATCA's bargaining units.

The NATCA National Professionalism Award was created as a means to recognize those who have demonstrated a consistent personal commitment to safety and



excellence, and whose professional contributions and individual performance has enhanced the standings of their profession.

All those submitted were evaluated on their body of work throughout their careers. The factors considered were:

- How did they as individuals promote professionalism?
- How did they inspire and motivate others?
- Did they personally demonstrate professionalism?
- Testimonials and statements provided by their peers.

The winners will be honored at Communicating For Safety on March 21.

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## **Retirement and Benefit Education Seminars**

In an effort to help NATCA members prepare for retirement, NATCA expanded its member benefits program several years ago to hold NATCA-sponsored Retirement and Benefit Education seminars for NATCA members in locations across the country and to answer individual questions concerning retirement/benefits from NATCA members.

These seminars will review all of the benefits - including TSP and the options associated with it - walk members through the retirement paperwork and provide timelines members can expect as they retire.

In addition to the regular retirement seminars, NATCA provides early career seminars (C.O.R.E.) and four webinars (EDGE) for members who cannot attend a seminar in their area. The C.O.R.E. seminars have two segments, one that is geared towards members early in their career (15 years or less of service) and how those members can prepare for retirement from day one, and one that covers the information in the regular seminar. The EDGE webinars cover several topics covered in both the regular and C.O.R.E. seminars.

New in the 2016 Collective Bargaining Agreement (The Slate Book), Article 41 provides for excused absence to be granted to those within seven years of retirement eligibility. At the local level, requests for excused absence to attend these briefings

shall be submitted to the Agency by the Union no later than forty-five (45) days prior to the date of the briefing. Such requests shall be approved/disapproved no later than twenty-eight (28) days prior to the date of the briefing. Employee names submitted less than forty-five (45) days in advance shall be approved/disapproved in the order they were received.

NATCA is pleased to announce the schedule of Retirement/Benefit Education Seminars for 2017:

<b>DATE</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Time (Local)</b>	<b>Seminar Type</b>
2/16	San Antonio, TX	1500-2100	Regular Retirement
2/17	San Antonio, TX	0900-1500	CORE Retirement
2/28	Long Island, NY	1500-2100	Regular Retirement
3/1	Long Island, NY	0900-1500	CORE Retirement
2/28	Phoenix, AZ	1500--2100	Regular Retirement
3/1	Phoenix, AZ	0900-1500	CORE Retirement
3/2	Newark, NJ	0900-1500	Regular Retirement
3/3	Newark, NJ	0900-1500	CORE Retirement
3/8	Burien, WA	1500-2100	Regular Retirement
3/9	Burien, WA	0900-1500	CORE Retirement
3/14	Eastern Time Zone	1000-1700	EDGE Seminar
3/28	Bridgeton, MO	1500-2100	Regular Retirement
3/29	Bridgeton, MO	0900-1500	CORE Retirement
3/30	Kansas City, MO	1500-2100	Regular Retirement
3/31	Kansas City, MO	0900-1500	CORE Retirement
4/4	Mather, CA	1500-2100	Regular Retirement
4/5	Mather, CA	0900-1500	CORE Retirement
4/4	Louisville, TN	1500-2100	Regular Retirement
4/5	Louisville, TN	0900-1500	CORE Retirement
4/25	Avoca, PA	1500-2100	Regular Retirement
4/26	Avoca, PA	0900-1500	CORE Retirement
4/27	Philadelphia, PA	1500-2100	Regular Retirement
4/28	Philadelphia, PA	0900-1500	CORE Retirement
5/2	Fayetteville, NC	1500-2100	Regular Retirement

5/3	Fayetteville, NC	0900-1500	CORE Retirement
5/9	Portland, OR	1500-2100	Regular Retirement
5/10	Portland, OR	0900-1500	CORE Retirement
5/16	Bridgeport, WV	1500-2100	Regular Retirement
5/17	Bridgeport, WV	0900-1500	CORE Retirement
6/1	Central Time Zone	1000-1700	EDGE Seminar
6/7	Tampa, FL	1500-2100	Regular Retirement
6/8	Tampa, FL	0900-1500	CORE Retirement
6/13	Aurora, IL	1500-2100	Regular Retirement
6/14	Aurora, IL	0900-1500	CORE Retirement
6/20	Dallas/Ft. Worth area	1500-2100	Regular Retirement
6/21	Dallas/Ft. Worth area	0900-1500	CORE Retirement
8/1	Louisville, KY	1500-2100	Regular Retirement
8/2	Louisville, KY	0900-1500	CORE Retirement
8/3	Indianapolis, IN	1500-2100	Regular Retirement
8/4	Indianapolis, IN	0900-1500	CORE Retirement
8/23	Pacific Time Zone	1000-1700	EDGE Seminar
9/12	Lafayette, LA	1500-2100	Regular Retirement
9/13	Lafayette, LA	0900-1500	CORE Retirement
9/19	Peachtree City, GA	1500-2100	Regular Retirement
9/20	Peachtree City, GA	0900-1500	CORE Retirement
9/20	San Diego, CA	1500-2100	Regular Retirement
9/21	San Diego, CA	0900-1500	CORE Retirement
9/26	Albuquerque, NM	1500-2100	Regular Retirement
9/27	Albuquerque, NM	0900-1500	CORE Retirement
10/10	Nashua, NH	1500-2100	Regular Retirement
10/11	Nashua, NH	0900-1500	CORE Retirement
10/12	Burlington, VT	1500-2100	Regular Retirement
10/13	Burlington, VT	0900-1500	CORE Retirement
10/17	Salt Lake City, UT	1500-2100	Regular Retirement
10/18	Salt Lake City, UT	0900-1500	CORE Retirement

10/24	Northern VA area	1500-2100	Regular Retirement
10/25	Northern VA area	0900-1500	CORE Retirement
11/1	Las Vegas, NV	1500-2100	Regular Retirement
11/2	Las Vegas, NV	0900-1500	CORE Retirement
11/8	Farmington, MN	1500-2100	Regular Retirement
11/9	Farmington, MN	0900-1500	CORE Retirement
11/15	Charlotte, NC	1500-2100	Regular Retirement
11/16	Charlotte, NC	0900-1500	CORE Retirement
12/6	Eastern Time Zone	1000-1700	EDGE Seminar

You may contact [benefits@natca.net](mailto:benefits@natca.net) if you have any questions or comments about this benefit or any other benefit that NATCA provides to its members. Please visit [www.NATCABenefits.com](http://www.NATCABenefits.com) for more information regarding this benefit and other benefits offered to NATCA members.

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## Legislative T-Shirt Design Contest

The NLC is pleased to announce the opening of our Legislative T-Shirt Design contest for 2017. The [attached flier](#) is Hatch Act compliant and can be distributed and posted in the facility. This is your opportunity to have your design on NATCA's legislative t-shirts for the whole year!

If you have any questions, or to submit a design, please email NLC Chair, [Steve Weidner](#). Rules are on the [flier](#). All submissions must be received by **April 1st** to be considered.

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## NATCA Academy Schedule 2017

Basic Legislative Activism Training	Feb. 22-23	Las Vegas
Basic Representative Training	Feb. 27-Mar. 3	Las Vegas
Basic Representative Training	April 10-14	Las Vegas
Training Review Board	April 24-26	Las Vegas
Secretary/Treasurer	April 11-12 <b>(Date changed from previous update)</b>	Las Vegas
Federal Contract Tower Rep.	June 13-14	DC - NATCA HQ
Basic Legislative Activism Training	Sept. 11-12	Las Vegas
Training Review Board	Sept. 12-14	Las Vegas
Secretary/Treasurer	Sept. 13-14	Las Vegas
Basic Representative Training	Sept. 25-29	Las Vegas
Basic Legislative Activism Training	Nov. 28-29	Las Vegas
Basic Representative Training	Dec. 4-8	Las Vegas

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We emailed three messages to the membership on the hiring freeze memo signed by the President on January 23. Early that week we met with both Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member DeFazio on the hiring memo and the impact it could have if the FAA were not allowed to hire. Within the week the FAA was able to exempt some positions and others are still being worked.

Later that week (Jan 26) Trish joined other NATCA Reps. and staff in OKC to meet with both members at RTF and students in initial training.



NATCA in OKC for Training (RTF and other)



OKC Academy students in initial training

The following week Trish attended the [Drone Advisory Committee](#) meeting in Reno, NV.



Drone Advisory Committee

While there she joined members from RNO for dinner and gave them a briefing on the hiring issues and potential legislation.



RNO membership

While Trish was in Reno Paul flew to Anchorage to join members for a meeting there.

On Feb 2 and 3 the [national committee](#) chairs were in DC for their annual training and briefings.



Committee chair meeting

While Super Bowl LI was an historic game, the professional men and women in the Houston facilities and at the Command Center [accomplished amazing things](#) in getting fans safely in out and of the Houston airports. We appreciate their professionalism and dedication in planning and then in execution. Kudos are still coming in from users of the system!!

- Video: Houston air traffic control activity - Monday, Feb. 6 as aircraft departed the area following the game.

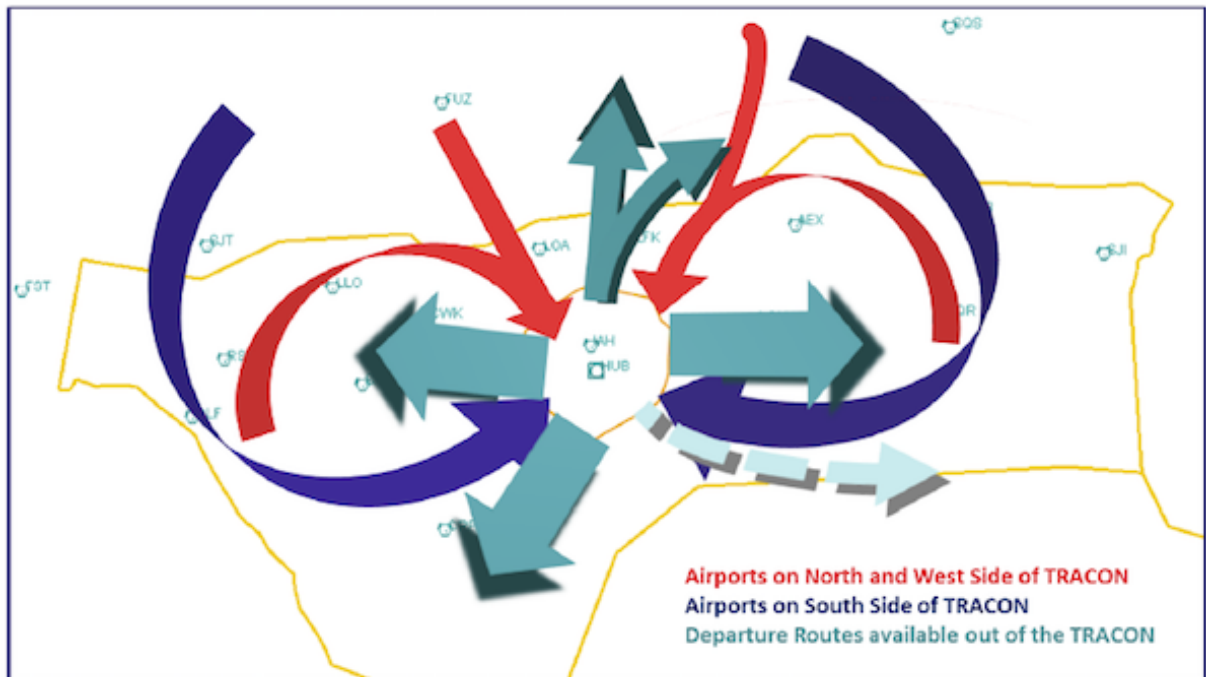
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- For more details about the advance planning for the big week, please [click here](#).
- For our photo album from the week of extra aircraft at Houston-area airports and facilities, please [click here](#).

Press Clips:



- KPRC-TV HOUSTON: Coverage on air traffic control and the extra Super Bowl traffic that Houston area facilities were set to handle last weekend; includes footage and interviews inside Houston TRACON (I90). "The real MVPs, it seems, are the flight controllers," says reporter Joel Eisenbaum in the story. [Read more.](#)
- KTRK-TV HOUSTON: I90 FacRep Clay Matheny was interviewed for a story that aired last Friday, also about the facility's plans to handle the Super Bowl traffic. Matheny said: "From the towers to the center everyone came together. ...This is going to be one of the busiest times that Houston airspace has ever seen." [Read more.](#)



Trish attended membership meetings in Chicago on Feb 6 and then Detroit on Feb 13. While DC activity has been quite busy we are aggressively trying to increase the time verbally updating the membership on national activities. While some emails and electronic newsfeeds from NATCA are read the face to face meetings are best.



Chicago area event



Cynthia Reyes and Sara Stewart from SBN



Detroit Meeting



[NATCA continues NATCA30 celebrations!](#)

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