



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The Senate Commerce Committee unveiled [its version](#) of the FAA reauthorization bill earlier this week. The Committee's proposed authorization only lasts until the end of fiscal year 2017, which means if this proposal is signed into law, Congress will work on a new bill early in the next session of Congress (the 115th). This will also be the case if Congress only passes extensions in this session (the 114th). An 18-month authorization allows lawmakers time to address some of the issues they have identified with the current authorization, while also buying them time to work through the more complicated areas of concern, such as drone privacy, passenger facility charges, and air traffic control reform.

The Commerce Committee plans to mark up the bill next Wednesday, March 16, with a possible vote on the Senate floor in April. We remain in close contact with Chairman John Thune (R-SD), Ranking Member Bill Nelson (D-FL), and their staffs about the details of the legislation which they have drafted to ensure our concerns are addressed and to seek inclusion of several provisions in

the manager's package of amendments (noncontroversial amendments) that will be considered during markup.

One of those issues is the hiring of air traffic controllers. In the Commerce Committee's proposed bill, we advocated for, and are glad to see, an increase in the maximum hiring age -- from 31 to 35 -- for air traffic controllers with previous military or civilian experience on the job. Unfortunately, there is also a provision that mandates the FAA establish guidelines for an in-person interview with all applicants for air traffic control positions before they could be hired to ensure English speaking proficiency. While we do not disagree with the logic, we believe a mandated in-person interview is not necessary and would have the unintended consequence of further delaying the hiring of air traffic controller candidates. Our understanding is that within the past two years, no employees enrolled at the FAA Academy have been required to take an English language proficiency exam. Further, the FAA website and the vacancy announcements already have a requirement that candidates "speak English clearly enough to be understood over radios, intercoms, and similar communications equipment." Our suggestion is that the language states that the Administrator ensures all employees enrolled in initial qualification training for air traffic control specialists at the FAA Academy meet the International Civil Aviation Organization's language proficiency requirements. We are also working with the Committee on its proposed pilot program to evaluate the feasibility of using remote towers, particularly in the Federal Contract Tower Program and for airports without any air traffic control tower, or to improve safety at airports with towers.

While both the House and Senate continue efforts to move their respective bills forward, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman

Bill Shuster (R-PA) and Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady (R-TX) yesterday introduced an FAA authorization extension to fully fund the FAA and the federal aviation programs through July 15, 2016. H.R. 4721, [the Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2016](#), is a clean extension of FAA programs and the Airport and Airway Trust Fund collection authority. H.R. 4721 avoids the lapse of the FAA's authority to collect aviation taxes. Without the extension, the FAA would have to engage in an emergency shutdown furlough and the Airport and Airway Trust Fund would lose approximately \$30 million per day.

Funding disruptions have needlessly created numerous problems for our workforce and the NAS, including staffing shortages and a slowdown in NextGen modernization projects. That is why our top priority continues to be securing funding certainty to create stability for continuous technology upgrades, long-term planning and hiring, and to ensure the safety of the NAS. A stable and predictable funding stream is also essential to adequately support air traffic control services, staffing, hiring and training, long-term modernization, preventative maintenance, and improvements to airport infrastructure. Uninterrupted funding is necessary to promote growth in the system and to allow us to continue to lead the world in aviation innovation.

As always, we welcome your questions at [faabill@natca.net](mailto:faabill@natca.net).

In Solidarity,

Paul Rinaldi - NATCA President  
Trish Gilbert - NATCA EVP



## 2016 NATCA Scholarship Winners

**President's winner of \$2,000 Rebecca Kerr  
(Father CLE Robert Kerr)**

Twenty \$1,000 winners:

Tyler	Barnhardt	NWP	SBA	Jeffrey Barnhart
Bridget	Booe	NWP	ZOA	Eric Booe
Nickolas	Chastain	NSO	ZME	Edward Chastain

Madeline	Clark	NWP	ZOA	Patrick Clark
Nicholas	DiPalmo	NGL	ZID	Mark DiPalmo
Luke	Franks	X	ESO	Cynthia Wills
Gabriel	Garcia	NSW	ZAB	Mary Garcia
Alexis	Hatchard	NNW	Do1	Deidre Hatchard
Brooke	Holdgate	NNE	ACK	Frederick Holdgate
Rebecca	Kerr	NGL	CLE	Robert Kerr
Chelsea	Kilgore	NAL	FS3	Alicia Foss
Adrianna	Kremer	NEA	ZNY	Leo Kremer
Rachel	Lastrapes	NSW	ZFW	Paul Lastrapes
Elise	Reumann	NEA	N90	Eric Reumann
Joseph	Richards	NGL	ZAU	Jeffrey Richards
Michael	Robicheau	NNE	ZBW	Mike Robicheau
Chase	Ryan	NSO	ZTL	Shawn Ryan
Philip	Schmeichel	X	ENM	Donald Schmeichel
Stevie	Stevens	NSO	MIA	Jo-Ann Stevens
Alec	VanZee	NGL	GRR	Jim VanZee
Elia	Zanella	NGL	RST	Lisa Bonczyk

Congratulations to this year's winners!



## Air Traffic Control Specialist Hiring

The first of two hiring bids for air traffic controllers is out until June 21, for experienced controllers (52 weeks former FAA CPCs, Military controllers, DOD controllers and Federal Contract Tower controllers). Applicants will not need to take the biographical assessment, and depending on their experience may not need to go to the Academy. Click [here](#) to apply.

The FAA is planning a second bid in late summer or early fall. It will be a general public open bid. We are very concerned whether the FAA will meet their goal of a summer/fall bid. They have indicated to us that they want to validate a new ATSAT for use in that bid. Our concern is that validating a new ATSAT is requiring many controller hours out of the operation to validate it. With the workforce already short staffed, pulling the needed numbers to validate is problematic and may cause delays in the bid announcement. We will work with the FAA to help with the validation meanwhile advocating for a plan B as not to delay the bid.

Applicants in the open bid will need to pass the biographical assessment (as revised), the ATSAT (as revised, unless we can convince them to use the current one another time), and attend and pass the Academy. Academy graduates will get their facility placement upon graduation as is current practice.

## **NATCA URGES PARTICIPATION IN FAA'S AT-SAT REPLACEMENT VALIDATION TESTING**

Recently, many NATCA BUEs received notice that they had been randomly selected to participate in the FAA's AT-SAT replacement validation testing, which the Agency is conducting in conjunction with APT Metrics. NATCA urges those CPCs selected to participate in this very important endeavor. APT Metrics must test at least 1,600 CPCs to accurately validate the replacement test. Only by quickly validating a replacement to the AT-SAT can the FAA's CPC staffing crisis begin to be addressed.

Unfortunately, the current number of CPCs who have either completed testing or signed up to test is far below the needed number to validate the test. NATCA encourages selected BUEs to work closely with their FacReps and ATMs to schedule a



testing date as soon as possible, and to discuss any questions or concerns with their FacReps or RVPs/ARVPs immediately.



## **MRA+30 and OPM**

Recently, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) resubmitted their [February 2006 guidance](#) to the FAA on Section 226 of Public Law 108-176, Vision 100, known as MRA+30. OPM advised the FAA that they still interpret section 226 as not applying to those individuals who occupy first or second level supervisory positions.

TMC time qualifies without any change. OPM has only distinguished between front line air traffic controllers, flight service controllers, FLMs, and second level managers. There is no special category for TMCs different than other front line controllers. We believe the FAA website's distinction for CPCs is not accurate, unless they are applying our definition included in Article 108, Section 2(F) of our CBA which includes TMCs and TMSs who are certified and are involved in the traffic flow management of aircraft under the definition of CPCs.



**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](mailto: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.

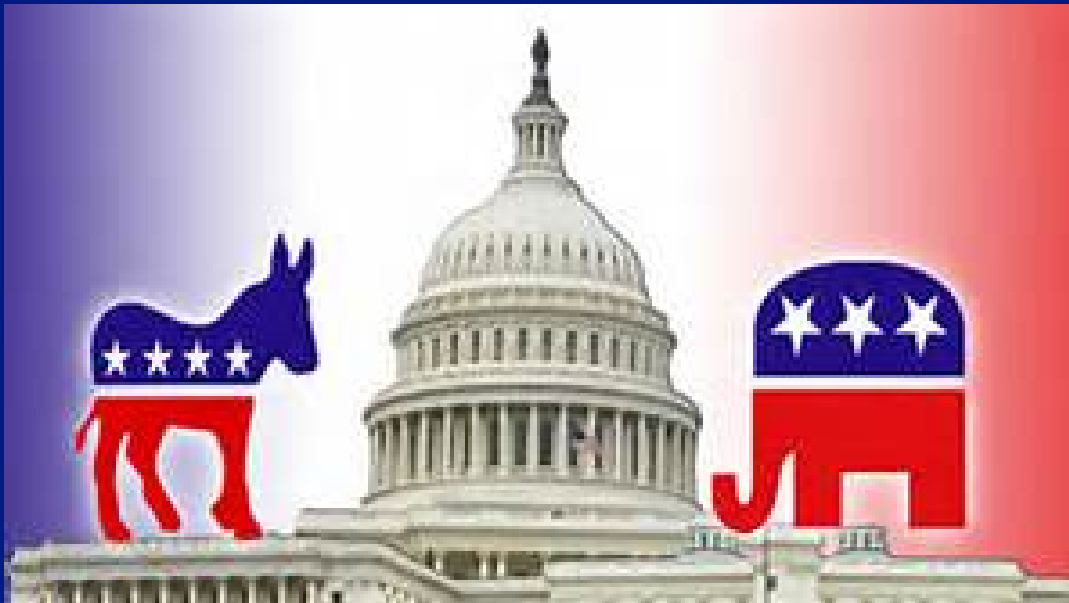
If you have any questions please contact a [constitution committee](#) member.

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



## *NATCA Academy Schedule 2016*

Advanced Representative Training	April 4-7	Las Vegas, NV
Advanced Legislative Activism Training	April 4-6	NATCA HQ - DC
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



## *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](mailto:steve.weidner@natca.net)

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OSHKOSH<sup>™</sup>**

**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.***

STAY CONNECTED



NATCA, 1325 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC 20005

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Sent by [tgilbert@natcadc.org](mailto:tgilbert@natcadc.org)