

Team Update - March 15



Over the course of the last two decades, CFS has grown to become the nation's premier aviation safety conference. This year we welcomed around 1,500 registrants, and we project that next year will be even bigger. 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 www.natca.org during the event, to all of our publications and videos ([click here](#) for the full CFS playlist), we enjoyed giving our members comprehensive coverage of the largest-ever NATCA conference.

Paul kicked off the conference focusing on the important need to talk about aviation safety. "We are all here because safety is in our DNA," he said. "Our common dedication to creating the safest transportation system in the world brings us together to start conversations that move the needle on aviation safety." He cited a recent [Slate.com article](#) that rated the U.S. Aviation Control System the number one

marvel of the modern world, thanks in large part to NextGen and the many modernization efforts being implemented throughout the system. He stressed the increasingly global nature of aviation and the airspace. For the full remarks see below.

CFS 2015 Keynote Address - Paul Rinaldi

Other speakers at this year's event included FAA Administrator [Michael Huerta](#), Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board [Christopher Hart](#), FAA Assistant Administrator for NextGen, [Edward Bolton](#), [Tom Costello](#), correspondent, NBC News; Gordon Graham, risk management expert; and [James H. Fallon, Ph.D.](#), professor emeritus of Anatomy & Neurobiology and professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at the University of California, Irvine.

Panel topics included air traffic control modernization and safety, how voluntary reporting has advanced aviation safety, aviation weather, human factors in pilot and controller communications, foundations of professionalism, and the national safety initiative. In addition, a special presentation focused on the incredible story of how nearly three dozen facilities responded to the Chicago Center outage over 17 days last fall. The panel comprised both NATCA and FAA management. To watch this panel see below.

CFS 2015 Chicago Center (ZAU) Outage

We concluded CFS with the 11th 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:

Alaskan Region: Parker Corts, Anchorage Center

Central Region: Travis Arnold, Omaha TRACON

Eastern Region: Joseph Rodewald, Potomac TRACON

Great Lakes Region: Justine Krenke, Adam Helm, and Mike Ostrander, Green Bay Tower/TRACON

New England Region: Kelly Eger and Sarah LaPorte Ostrander, Boston Tower

Northwest Mountain Region: Mark Haechler, Al Passero and Matt Dippe, Seattle Center

Southern Region: Sarina Gumbert, Central Florida TRACON

Southwest Region: Hugh McFarland, Houston TRACON

Western Pacific Region: Jesse Anderson, Brackett Field Tower

To read more about each award winning flight assist, and to view audio and video presentations of each, please [click here](#).

Thank you to all our members for your time and commitment to aviation safety and congratulations to this year's Archie League winners (here is the video of the President's Award winner Hugh McFarland - I90).

2015 Archie League Awards - President's Award

In solidarity,

Paul Rinaldi - NATCA President

Trish Gilbert - NATCA Executive Vice President





NATCA Congratulates New NTSB Chairman Hart, Board Member Dinh-Zarr on Confirmations

Congratulations to Christopher Hart, who was confirmed on March 12 by the Senate as Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), and Tho Dinh-Zarr, who was confirmed as a member of the NTSB.

We are very happy for Chairman Hart on his confirmation. NATCA has enjoyed a positive working relationship with Chairman Hart over the course of his career at the NTSB and also when he was at the FAA as its deputy director for air traffic safety oversight. We look forward to working with him on issues vital to maintaining and improving the safety of the National Airspace System. NATCA also works closely with the NTSB through our Air Safety Investigations Committee. We anticipate continued good relationships with the Board under Chairman Hart's leadership.



Chairman Hart was a special guest and keynote speaker last week at NATCA's annual Communicating for Safety (CFS) conference. As a licensed pilot with commercial, multi-engine, and instrument ratings, he has maintained a close and positive relationship with the air traffic controller workforce. Additionally, his years of service at the NTSB have involved working on many important aviation safety issues.



NATCA in Washington 2015 - Registration OPEN!

We are happy to announce that [registration](#) for NATCA in Washington 2015 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.

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 anyway. 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.

NATCA in Washington 2015 promises to be our best NATCA in Washington ever! We have made several changes to this year's event. If you are a veteran attendee, you will notice a greatly changed and much improved event. If you are 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. Below are several items that should answer some of the basic questions you may have.



NATCA in Washington will be May 18-20, 2015 (Monday - Wednesday). For more information and to register online, please click [here](#):

The deadline for registration is April 8, 2015. 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. It's easier to drop rooms than to add them at the last minute. Attendance confirmation will be sent out on or about April 15, 2015. 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.



Next OSHA Webinar is March 25

Last month's NATCA OSHA webinar with Geoffrey Bacci was a success, with 43 people participating. The presentation lasted 25 minutes and the Q&A session lasted 35 minutes with some great questions. [Registration is now open](#) for the March 25 webinar, entitled "Partners for a Healthy Building Environment."



Air Traffic Control Specialist Hiring

The general public open bid will commence on March 23. Applicants will need to pass the biographical assessment (as revised), the ATSAT, and attend and pass the Academy. They will get their facility placement upon graduation as is current practice. There was a rumor that those who did not pass the biographical assessment on the February 10th, 2014 open bid could not apply again. That is not accurate. Those applicants may apply again for the March 2015 open bid.

**“IT WON’T HAPPEN TO ME”
IS NOT A BACKUP PLAN.**

NATCA Long-Term Disability Insurance Program: Open Enrollment Now Through April 30

All members are eligible to participate in the UNUM Group Long-Term Disability (LTD) program. Open enrollment began on Feb. 1 and runs through April 30, 2015.

UNUM offers a number of premium savings options from which to choose. In addition to the 90-day elimination period (the traditional claims waiting period), you can now choose a 180-day or 360-day elimination period. It's your choice.

To learn more or enroll, please visit natcadisability.com.

In addition, there are two contests, if you need more reasons to enroll:

Regional Contest: Be part of the region that gains the most participants by percentage. The region that wins will have a check for \$5,000 donated to the NATCA Charitable Foundation on its behalf at NATCA in Washington 2015.

Individual Local Incentive: The local of any member who refers another member who then joins the LTD program will receive a \$10 gift certificate.





REPRESENT-

Your Facility & NATCA

EAA's AirVenture 2015 in Oshkosh is just around the corner!

This year's event is July 20th - 26th, 2015. NATCA will begin to set up the booth on July 19th. 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 would 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 displays that controllers will be working at:*

- *Tower Simulator - This is an Adacel donated simulator where AirVenture attendees can plug to work tower traffic. The NATCA participant works with the participant to help them through the simulation. This is a very popular activity.*
- *STARS - Raytheon is donating a STARS platform and there is a need for volunteers to provide briefings and demonstrations on this equipment.*
- *ERAM - Lockheed Martin is donating an ERAM platform to the event for NATCA to provide briefings and demonstrations of how controllers use this equipment.*

** 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](#).





NATCA Academy Schedule 2015

Basic Legislative Activism Training	April 7-8	Las Vegas, NV
Basic Representative Training	April 13-17	Las Vegas, NV
Advanced Representative Training	April 20-23	Las Vegas, NV
Advanced Legislative Activism Training	April 27-29	Washington, DC
Secretary/Treasurer Training	May 12-13	Las Vegas, NV
Drug/Alcohol Representative Training	May 27-28	Atlanta, GA
Occupational Safety & Health Rep.	May 27-28	Atlanta, GA
OWCP Representative Training	May 27-28	Atlanta, GA
Contract Tower Representative Training	June 2-3	Washington, DC
Arbitration Advocate Training II	June 8-12	Atlanta, GA
Basic Representative Training	June 15-19	Las Vegas, NV
Secretary/Treasurer Training	September 15-16	Las Vegas, NV
Training Review Board	September 15-16	Las Vegas, NV
<i>Arbitration Advocate Training I</i>	<i>Sept. 28 - Oct. 1</i>	<i>Tentative</i>
Advanced Representative Training	October 5-8	Las Vegas, NV
Basic Representative Training	October 19-23	Las Vegas, NV
Secretary/Treasurer Training	December 1-2	Las Vegas, NV
Basic Legislative Activism Training	December 2-3	Las Vegas, NV



NOTICE OF ELECTION & ELECTION RULES

FOR THE 2015 NATCA NATIONAL ELECTION

This document (mailed to all NATCA members) constitutes the Notice of Election and Election Rules for the election of the following officers of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association, AFL-CIO ("NATCA" or "Association"):

- NATCA President
- NATCA Executive Vice President
- Regional Vice President, NATCA Alaskan Region
- Regional Vice President, NATCA Central Region
- Regional Vice President, NATCA Eastern Region
- Regional Vice President, NATCA Great Lakes Region
- Regional Vice President, NATCA New England Region
- Regional Vice President, NATCA Northwest Mountain Region
- Regional Vice President, NATCA Southern Region
- Regional Vice President, NATCA Southwest Region
- Regional Vice President, NATCA Western Pacific Region
- Regional Vice President, NATCA Region X

Hereinafter, this election shall be referred to as the "2015 NATCA National Election." In accordance with Article VII, Section 3 of the NATCA National Constitution, the NATCA National Election Committee ("NEC") has established the following rules for the 2015 NATCA National Election.

Section 1 - General Provisions

- A. Elections shall be held by referendum and all balloting shall be conducted by use of the secret ballot. Write-in votes shall not be permitted.
- B. Members shall have the option of voting electronically or by use of mail-in ballots, unless the NEC determines that electronic balloting shall not be used.
- C. Electronic balloting, if available, shall be conducted via the Internet. Members shall be required to register online to vote electronically. The NEC shall provide all members with information on how to register for electronic balloting.
- D. For balloting conducted via mail-in ballot, the following procedures shall apply:
 - 1. The official number assigned to each member shall be printed on the face of the corresponding official ballot return envelope.
 - 2. A list of the names of all members, together with their corresponding official numbers, shall be made available the NEC for the purpose of checking the voting eligibility of the members whose ballots have been returned prior to the ballot count.
 - 3. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary as set forth herein, all ballots shall be returned to a predetermined depository to ensure the secrecy of the ballots, and the ballots shall be held there until the time designated for the counting of such ballots.
- E. Except as otherwise specifically provided herein, any protest or challenge regarding the conduct of the 2015 NATCA National Election shall be made in accordance with Article VII, Section 7 of the NATCA National Constitution.
- F. Any further appeals must be filed with the Secretary of Labor pursuant to 5 U.S.C. Section 7120 and applicable regulations.

Section 2 - Nominations

- A. All nominations shall be made in accordance with Article VII, Section 2 of the NATCA National Constitution.
- B. Nominations shall be in writing and delivered via UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE CERTIFIED MAIL to: National Election Committee c/o NATCA General Counsel, 1325 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005. Nominations must be received at the Association Headquarters by 5:00 p.m. EDT on Tuesday, March 31, 2015.
- C. To be a candidate for office, nominees must have been active NATCA members in good standing for at least one year prior to the close of nominations on March 31, 2015.

D. The Association Headquarters shall be charged with the safekeeping of all nominations, and shall turn them over to the NEC.

Section 3 - Nomination Acceptances

A. No member may accept nomination to be a candidate for more than one office.

B. Nomination acceptances shall be in writing and contain the following information:

1. The candidate's full name and, if desired, any special name to appear on the ballot;
2. The candidate's Facility, his/her home or mailing address, and the last four digits of his/her Social Security number;
3. The title of the office for which the candidate is accepting nomination; and
4. The following certification, completed, signed, and dated by the nominee:

"I hereby accept the nomination for the office of _____. I certify that I am not now, nor have been for the past 13 years, convicted of or served any part of a prison term resulting from conviction of robbery, bribery, extortion, embezzlement, grand larceny, burglary, arson, violation of narcotics laws, murder, rape, assault with intent to kill, assault which inflicts grievous bodily injury, or violation of Title II or III of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959, as amended, or conspiracy to commit any such crime."

C. Nomination acceptances must be returned to the National Election Committee, c/o the NATCA General Counsel at the Association Headquarters, 1325 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005. Nomination acceptances must be received at the Association Headquarters by 5:00 p.m. EDT on Friday, May 1, 2015. Nomination acceptances not received by this time and date shall be invalid.

D. The NEC shall determine whether each candidate has correctly submitted his/her nomination acceptance and whether the candidate possesses the necessary qualifications for the proposed office. The NEC shall prepare a report listing each candidate and the office for which he/she has accepted nomination. Each candidate shall be marked "qualified" or "disqualified" on the report, based on the findings of the NEC. If a candidate has been deemed "disqualified," the reason for disqualification shall be stated in the report. The report shall be signed by all five (5) members of the NEC and submitted to the NATCA National Executive Board.

E. The NEC shall notify any disqualified candidates, in writing and delivered by United States Postal Service certified mail, of the reason(s) for his/her disqualification. Disqualified candidates shall have the right to file a written appeal to the NATCA National Executive Board within ten (10) business days of the receipt of the

disqualification notice. The NATCA National Executive Board shall review the appeal and issue a response within five (5) business days of receipt of the appeal.

Section 4 - Balloting Procedures

A. The NEC shall ensure the proper and timely preparation of ballots without partiality as to candidates. The names of the candidates for each separate office shall appear in alphabetical order based on the candidates' last names. Ballots shall contain voting instructions consistent with the provisions established herein.

B. The ballots prepared at the direction of the NEC shall be the only official ballots. No other ballots may be used. The NEC shall maintain a record of the ballots distributed.

C. Members shall return ballots via mail to a predetermined depository, which shall be paid for by NATCA, to ensure secrecy. No signature of the voter or other distinguishing mark may appear on the ballot. A signed or marked ballot shall automatically be ruled ineligible.

D. No member's ballot shall be counted unless the member is in good standing as of fifteen (15) days immediately preceding the close of the balloting.

E. Ballots shall be distributed to the membership on Tuesday, June 30, 2015. Ballots must be completed electronically or, for mail-in ballots, received at the predetermined depository, by 11:59 p.m. EDT on Thursday, July 30, 2015. Ballots not completed electronically or received in the depository by this time and date shall not be counted.

F. Each member shall be entitled to a duplicate ballot and receive same, provided that he/she notifies the NEC by Thursday, July 23, 2015. Envelopes used for duplicate ballots shall be marked "Duplicate Ballot" and shall be a different color than the envelopes used for the original ballots. Duplicate ballots shall be counted unless the original and duplicate ballot mailed to a member are both cast, in which case only the duplicate ballot shall be counted.

G. If a member casts both an electronic ballot and a mail-in ballot, only the electronic ballot shall be counted.

H. The NEC shall supervise the conduct of the election and take the measures it deems necessary to ensure a fair and impartial election.

Section 5 - Ballot Collection and Tally Procedures

A. On the morning of Friday, July 31, 2015, a member of the NEC shall proceed to the depository and obtain all the ballots. Ballots shall be retained in the custody of the NEC until such time as they are checked and counted.

B. The NEC shall tally all ballots and prepare a report detailing the results of the election, including a complete account of all ballots and a reconciliation of the ballots with rosters and verification lists of the membership. The report shall clearly detail any

discrepancies discovered and include recommendations for the treatment of such discrepancies. All members of the NEC shall sign the report without prejudice.

C. The NEC shall commence the counting of the ballots on July 31, 2015 (the same day that the ballots are collected) and shall complete this work as quickly as possible. The report of the NEC shall be filed with the Association Headquarters no later than forty-eight (48) hours following the completion of the count.

Section 6 - Runoff Procedures

A. In the event of a runoff election, the NEC shall supervise the distribution of ballots. The ballots shall be distributed no later than sixteen (16) days after the NEC has ruled on challenges or protests of the election or, if there are no challenges or protests, within sixteen (16) days following the submission of the NEC's report.

B. Any runoff elections shall be conducted in accordance with Section 4, herein. Ballots shall be distributed to the membership and shall be due back to the predetermined depository within thirty (30) days of the date of distribution. In the event that the thirty-day deadline falls on a weekend or holiday, the next regular business day shall be designated as the deadline for the receipt of returned ballots. The NEC shall meet the following day to tabulate ballots and announce the results of the runoff election.

Section 7 - Installation of Officers

A. New officers shall take office on September 1, 2015. In the event of a runoff election, such officers shall take office thirty (30) days after the results of the runoff election are finalized.



Two weeks ago, Trish attended the Transportation Trades Department (TTD) Executive Committee meeting (pictured above with Congressman Peter King). The TTD Executive Committee passed many policy statements including the attached policy statements on [FAA Reauthorization](#) and [Integration of UAS](#). View TTD's new video.

Moving America: TTD's Fight for Good
Transportation Jobs

Paul joined Trish for the AFL-CIO Executive Council meetings that lasted through Wednesday the week of Feb. 24th.



While Paul remained in Atlanta for the NextGen Advisory Committee (NAC) meeting, Trish returned to DC for a House Aviation Subcommittee roundtable policy discussion to examine the issues related to modernizing and improving the efficiency of the U.S. air traffic control system.



One of the Subcommittee's highest priorities this year is the FAA reauthorization that helps ensure ATC modernization and lays the groundwork for the future of the system. NATCA highlighted the funding issues the Agency is facing and the urgent need for FAA reauthorization. Other participants included representatives of the Department of Transportation Office of the Inspector General, Honeywell, Airlines for America (A4A), the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, and the Reason Foundation.

Below is the transcript of Trish's opening statement:

"Thank you Chairman LoBiondo, Ranking Member Larsen, and (full Transportation Committee) Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member DeFazio.

"Before I get started, a little bit about myself. Before I became NATCA's Executive Vice President, I spent 21 years at Houston Air Traffic Control Center as an air traffic controller. So I have been an employee of the FAA for 26 years. While we have these discussions around the funding and the uncertainty and the

culture of the FAA, I think I can lend some background on the role the FAA has played and continues to play in modernizing the air traffic control system and how leadership has played a role in that. I will tell you that the leadership at the FAA, despite some of the challenges, has worked very closely with the stakeholder community; whether it be in the NextGen Advisory Committee, or the Management Advisory Council. They are involving stakeholders and the workforce, so there is significant change there. However the culture is not significantly changed to the point where I believe we can remain the world leader in aviation unless we do something differently-not only differently inside the FAA with regard to structure and funding but it has to be less political.

"There are some tough decisions that need to be made at the FAA. It seems as we move toward making those tough decisions, something stops it, whether it's a Congressman or Senator who won't allow us to make decisions to put facilities in a location where they need to be, where they would be most beneficial to the flying public, or how we can deploy new technologies or properly staff facilities. That comes into question with the politics associated with some of the decisions that need to be made. And certainly it's no secret with the previous extensions of the FAA bill (23), the partial shutdown in 2011, a full shutdown in 2013, and sequester cuts in 2013 where 10 percent of the controllers were furloughed, the impact that had on the system is really the biggest concern that we have.

"We have 1,000 less controllers right now than we had in 2013 when we furloughed 10 percent of the controller workforce. We have seen hiring freezes and reduced staffing and now a reduced workforce. We do not want to sit around and hope that a new FAA bill gets passed on time, and we hope that we don't have to see many extensions. By the way, we all know that on October 1 we are going to see sequester cuts again unless something takes place to change that.

"We are very concerned, but we are very open to dialogue. We are open to change, but we just want to make sure that we continue to safeguard the world's best air traffic control system."

We then went right into the Communicating For Safety Conference. After the conference we attended the World ATM Congress in Madrid where NATCA gave briefings on PBN, Runway Safety and UAS integration. Additionally Paul sat on a panel entitled "Smart Choices in a Disruptive Future."



While there Trish attended the [ITF](#) Air Traffic Services committee where she serves as its Vice Chair. We also shared a trade booth with [IFATCA](#) at the event.



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