



Brothers and Sisters,

As you may recall, airline executives met with President Trump and his staff at the White House on Feb. 9. During that meeting some of the discussions led the President to criticize - and the media to report - the FAA's multifaceted NextGen effort to modernize the ATC system as "out of whack."

Certainly, of concern to us, is the fact that a lack of stable, predictable funding has created many challenges for the FAA. In spite of this, great progress has been made in modernizing the NAS due to the collaborative culture labor, management, and industry have spent so much time and effort building.

In a recent speech at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce summit FAA Administrator Michael Huerta acknowledged that we'd all like to move faster, but made clear that our work together has been critical to the success of the tremendous progress we have made to revamp our air traffic system with the latest technologies. He also stated the following, "What most interests me ... is a steady and reliable funding source, access to capital for infrastructure projects, flexibility to utilize funds in our accounts where they're needed most, and the freedom to make major purchasing decisions without all the current impediments."

NATCA also recently [publicly highlighted](#) the positive working relationship it has developed with the FAA and the progress made to modernize the NAS.

The FAA, NATCA and all aviation stakeholders have enjoyed a very productive and collaborative relationship for nearly a decade now. Since 2009, we have focused on working together to modernize the system as we maintain the safety and efficiency of the world's busiest and most complex airspace system. In 2016 alone, controllers worked 141 million operations, an increase over the 130 million just four years ago, and helped over 900 million passengers safely reach their destinations.

So here we are, an integral part of an aviation system that we love and that provides so much to our country and its economic success. We are also an integral part of the dialogue about the challenges we face and potential solutions to those challenges. Of course, there are not just dozens of opinions on what the challenges are, but also dozens of opinions on the potential solutions. So while neither the status quo nor a profit-driven solution will sustain our system, what is the answer, particularly as we prepare ourselves for the likelihood of even more budget cuts?"

With so many potential answers, now more than ever, it is important that we remain an integral part of the conversation as policymakers on the Hill and in the Administration decide what they will ultimately pursue. Any change, as well as status quo, has the potential to both disrupt and cause damage to the system and the men and women who safeguard it.

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*

\$9.9 MILLION PAID TO MEMBERS

NATCA HAS YOUR BACK.

DO YOU?

unum OPEN ENROLLMENT
FEBRUARY 1 - MAY 1, 2017
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



EAA's AirVenture 2017 in Oshkosh is just around the corner! This year's event is July 24- 30. NATCA will begin to set up the booth on July 22nd. 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. Due to the large number of volunteers, and the fact bed space is limited, no accommodations are available for any friends or family members of volunteers.

- * 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

Located at Pioneer Airport, KidVenture encourages children and teens to explore several areas of aviation, including flying, air traffic control simulation and building aircraft, through hands on activities, speakers, simulators and demonstrations.

INNOVATIONS

NATCA will assist the FAA with a NextGen display that explains to visitors the behind the scenes benefits of NextGen.

CAREER BOOTH

NATCA will have a presence in the Aviation Career tent, and our volunteers will be on hand to explain to visitors the career of air traffic control, and how to become an air traffic controller.

- * Briefings and presentations - NATCA provides briefings and presentations several times throughout the event. These briefings are on subjects such as Pilot Controller Communications, Aviation Weather, Emergencies 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 at krichardson@natcadc.org.

Volunteers shall complete the Volunteer Information Form via the Google DOC link [here](#).

The deadline for volunteering for this very enjoyable event is March 31, 2017 at 11:59 pm EDT.



NATCA Communicating For Safety 2017

Communicating For Safety (CFS) is the aviation industry's leading conference focusing on safety, technology and building relationships. The conference is only two weeks away. We're excited to see you in Las Vegas!

For more details visit the CFS [website](#). See our updated conference agenda. [Click here](#).

Join the Conversation on Social Media

We're on social media to bring you the latest news, updates, and discussion about CFS 2017. Follow the event on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#). Our hashtag across all forums is #NATCACFS.



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

To learn more about each honored flight assist, please read our series of features; [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), and [Part 3](#).



NATCA In Washington 2017 Registration Is Now Open

We are happy to announce that registration for NATCA in Washington 2017 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.

NATCA in Washington 2017 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.

Dates and Registration Link

NATCA in Washington will be May 22-24, 2017 (Monday - Wednesday). To register online, please go [here](#):

Registration Deadline

The deadline for [registration](#) is April 10, 2017. 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 14, 2017. 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.

NATCA in Washington Website

Visit niw.natca.net for detailed information on NATCA in Washington. We are continually updating this website so be sure to check back from time to time.

Transportation

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 Room / Roommate Requests

Single rooms are on a first-come, first-served basis. If you are booked in a single room, you will be responsible for half of room charges per night (half the cost is approximately \$177 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. 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. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact your [NLC member](#).



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:

DATE	Location	Time (Local)	Seminar Type
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 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 for more information regarding this benefit and other benefits offered to NATCA members.



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.



NATCA Academy Schedule 2017

Representative Training I (formerly BRT)

April 10-14

Las Vegas

Training Review Board	April 24-26	Las Vegas
Secretary/Treasurer	April 11-12	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
Representative Training I (formerly BRT)	Sept. 25-29	Las Vegas
Basic Legislative Activism Training	Nov. 28-29	Las Vegas
Representative Training I (formerly BRT)	Dec. 4-8	Las Vegas

On Thursday, Feb. 16, Trish joined several NATCA reps and staff at the February Aero Club Luncheon in Washington, D.C. NBC News Correspondent Tom Costello was the featured speaker at the luncheon. Mr. Costello discussed the media's challenges and opportunities in covering aviation and transportation in the new Administration. Mr. Costello has been NBC News's lead aviation correspondent since 2005. His reports and insight offer valuable insight into how best to tackle any media challenge related to aviation.



Aero Club of Washington

Paul spent all of Feb. 16 at FAA HQ at the Management Advisory Council (MAC) meeting.

On Feb 21, we joined the Center FacReps in San Antonio for their meeting. We were only there long enough to brief the reps. We will be returning to San Antonio for the AFL-CIO winter conference. While there in March, we will be holding a membership meeting on Tuesday, March 14 at Two Brothers BBQ.



ARTCC Rep Meeting

Paul quickly had to return to DC from San Antonio for the [NextGen Advisory Committee](#) (NAC) which was held at [MITRE](#).

Throughout the last two weeks, we have spent time on the Hill, at FAA and meeting with DOT and White House staff regarding the numerous challenges facing the NAS and implications of potential decisions on the system and its talented workforce.

Early the week of Feb. 27, Paul visited JetBlue HQ with NATCA staff and our PMO rep. Later in the week Trish attended the last day of the basic rep training class and briefed them on numerous strategies, concerns and efforts by NATCA on the many things that are likely to occur in the next months and years.



Rep Training I - formerly Basic Rep Training (BRT)



[NATCA continues NATCA30 celebrations!](#)



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