



Government Shutdown Deadline Approaching

The House and Senate are on recess for the remainder of this month. Both chambers are expected to return to Washington the week of Sept. 9, which leaves just 13 legislative days to pass legislation funding the federal government before current funding expires on Sept. 30.

Before leaving for the August recess, Congress passed, and the President signed, a bipartisan budget deal (H.R. 3877) that raises spending caps on discretionary spending by \$321 billion over two years and effectively ends the across-the-board spending cuts known as sequestration. This paves the way for Congress to fund federal agencies before the Sept. 30 deadline and avoid a government shutdown. While enactment of the budget deal was a positive development for NATCA, several critical steps remain in the legislative process in order to avoid a government shutdown at the end of September. Congress and the Administration must now come to an agreement on funding for federal agencies through the annual appropriations bills or through a continuing resolution (CR) before current funding expires. If annual appropriations bills or a CR is not agreed to, a government shutdown would occur on Oct. 1.

Proposed 3.1% Federal Employee Pay Raise

Earlier this summer, the House passed its Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) appropriations bill, which is the spending bill that has jurisdiction over any proposed pay raises for federal employees. The House-passed FSGG appropriations bill rejects President Trump's request for a pay freeze and proposes a 3.1% pay raise for federal employees. However, House passage of the FSGG bill was only the first step in the legislative process to secure a pay raise for federal employees. The Senate has not yet introduced its version of the FSGG appropriations bill. In fact, Senate appropriators have yet to introduce a single one of their 12 annual funding bills for FY 2020, let alone mark up or pass those bills on the Senate floor. It is unclear whether Senate leaders will try to pass any of their spending measures on the Senate floor before the Sept. 30 deadline for government funding. Additionally, even though the House passed its version of the FSGG appropriations bill, appropriators must now readjust funding levels to align with the recent budget deal.

As a reminder, once a spending bill passes both the House and Senate, any differences must be reconciled before it is sent to President Trump for his consideration and possible signature. With only 13 legislative days remaining before Sept. 30, the delay in the consideration of appropriations bills means that a short-term CR is becoming more likely. A CR would mean that the 3.1% proposed pay raise for federal employees would likely be on hold until a final FSGG appropriations bill is agreed to and enacted into law.

NATCA Supports Aviation Funding Stability Act of 2019

NATCA continues to advocate for and seek co-sponsors on the Aviation Funding Stability Act (H.R. 1108 in the House; S. 762 in the Senate). These two bills are identical legislation. The House Transportation & Infrastructure (T&I) Committee passed H.R. 1108 on March 27 by unanimous consent. H.R. 1108 has faced hurdles in the House, especially among House leadership, Appropriations Committee leadership, and progressive members. Despite these challenges and thanks to the hard work and perseverance of NATCAvists, H.R. 1108 now has 244 co-sponsors. For a listing of Congress members in the House who are cosponsors on H.R. 1108, [please visit congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov/legislation/house-bills/1108).

Until this year's NATCA in Washington (NIW), NATCA focused its resources on garnering support for the House version of the legislation. NIW served as the launching pad for NATCA's advocacy on the Senate version of the legislation, S. 762, which is identical to H.R. 1108. So far, S. 762 has garnered nine bipartisan co-sponsors. For a listing of Senators who are co-sponsors on S. 762, [please visit congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov/legislation/senate-bills/762).

Hatch Act Tip of the Month

Can I Volunteer for Someone's Campaign?

Yes, you may volunteer for a partisan candidate's campaign.

However, you are prohibited from engaging in political activity while on duty, in a federal room or building, while wearing an official uniform or insignia, or while using a government vehicle.

Additionally, employees may not use their official authority or influence to interfere with the result of an election or solicit, accept, or receive political contributions at any time.

Examples of permitted activities that constitute political campaigning include: initiating or circulating nominating petitions, canvassing votes in support of or in opposition to a partisan political candidate, attending and being active at political rallies and meetings, distributing campaign literature, and taking an active part in managing a partisan candidate's political campaign.

Federal employees may not solicit or receive political contributions at any time.

If you have a question about whether something is allowed, [contact your National Legislative Committee member](#).

NATCA Activism in Local Districts

NEW JERSEY: Congressman Gottheimer Tours Teterboro Tower



Pictured left to right: TEB Supervisor Matthew Petersen, member Navin Muneshar, VP Jaime Borbon, Legislative Rep Carlos Wyre, New Jersey Congressman Josh Gottheimer, TEB members Bradley Chen, Lawrence Bryson, and Ehab Mahmoud

New Jersey Congressman Josh Gottheimer toured the tower cab at Teterboro ATCT (TEB). "We explained to him the layout of the airport, projects and plans for new taxiways and a new tower, noise issues, and our procedures with drones," said TEB Legislative Rep Carlos Wyre. "He asked very knowledgeable questions and was able to see a good amount of aircraft movement happening at the time."

NEW JERSEY: Congressman Van Drew's First ATC Visit



Pictured left to right: ACY FacRep TJ Woodyard, New Jersey Congressman Jeff Van Drew, and ACY Legislative Rep Mark Vattilana

New Jersey Congressman Jeff Van Drew recently made his first visit to an air traffic control facility. "We spent some time going over the basics of our profession," said Atlantic City ATCT (ACY) FacRep TJ Woodyard. "We also discussed the challenges facing the workforce today, before giving him a full tour of the operation. We talked at length about our need

for stable and predictable funding, as well as the impacts of shutdowns, and it really resonated with him. He told us to let him know if we need anything and that we have his full support."

NEW JERSEY: Members Attend Event in Support of Congressman Kim



Pictured left to right: EWR FacRep Bill Striffler, New Jersey Congressman Andy Kim, and AYC FacRep TJ Woodyard

Newark ATCT (EWR) Legislative Rep and FacRep Bill Striffler and Atlantic City ATCT (AYC) FacRep TJ Woodyard recently attended an event for New Jersey Congressman Andy Kim. "It was great to talk with Congressman Kim," said Striffler. "We thanked him for co-sponsoring H.R. 1108 and for his support during the last shutdown."

NORTH CAROLINA: Members Welcome Congressman Budd to GSO



Pictured left to right: GSO FacRep Ryan Hampton, Legislative Rep Katie Cooper, North Carolina Congressman Ted Budd, and GSO Air Traffic Manager Charlie Dale

North Carolina Congressman Ted Budd and staff member Addison McDowell recently toured Greensboro ATCT (GSO). "We talked about our new tower being built and how the government shutdown delayed the construction of it," said GSO Legislative Rep Katie Cooper. "The Congressman is well-versed in aviation, so we were able to talk in detail with him about our airspace, the training process, and certification. At the conclusion of the tour, we thanked him for supporting H.R. 1108."

TENNESSEE: Congressman Kustoff Tweets His Thanks to Memphis Tower and TRACON Members



Congressman David Kustoff recently toured Memphis ATCT (MEM) and TRACON (M03). The tour was coordinated and led by Memphis Center (ZME) member Ike Munn along with M03 Legislative Rep Ryan Guest, M03 FacRep Brett Arnold, and MEM member Ashley Sykes.

"Thank you to everyone who allowed this visit to happen, especially Ike Munn of Memphis NATCA," Kustoff tweeted. Congressman Kustoff is a co-sponsor of H.R. 1108, the Aviation Funding Stability Act of 2019.

TENNESSEE: Congressman Burchett Visits Knoxville ATCT



Pictured left to right: TYS Air Traffic Manager Mike Soto, FacRep David Harness, Tennessee Congressman Tim Burchett, TYS Legislative Rep Max Crawford, and member Mike Wilkinson

Tennessee Congressman Tim Burchett and two members of his staff recently visited Knoxville McGhee Tyson ATCT (TYS) to meet with members and tour the facility. "We thanked Congressman Burchett for his support of H.R. 1108 and discussed the basics of air traffic control in the eastern Tennessee region," said TYS FacRep David Harness. "We answered multiple questions from the Congressman and his staff regarding our mountainous terrain, weather, and traffic. He was extremely grateful for the tour and insight into our world of aviation. He thanked us all for being great professionals and being the ones responsible for the safest airspace system in the world."

VIRGINIA: Boots On The Ground Member Attends Meet and Greet with Congresswoman Luria



NATCA Boots on the Ground member Craig Smith recently joined the Seafarers International Union for a meet and greet with Virginia Congresswoman Elaine Luria at the Ironworkers 79 union hall in Norfolk, Va. Twelve different unions were represented, including NATCA, with 20 people in attendance.

"Congresswoman Luria has been doing an excellent job in Washington representing unions, and everybody here thanked her," Smith said. "As my turn to ask a question arrived, I mentioned how hard it has been to get adequate staffing at air traffic facilities. She was 100 percent on NATCA's side."

The Boots on the Ground program allows mostly retired NATCA members to participate in the labor-to-labor outreach and education program of the AFL-CIO (American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations). NATCA "Boots" members work with other union members to reach out to fellow labor members and educate them about candidates in upcoming elections. This program has been effective at getting the word out to the labor community regarding candidates' records and positions. For more information about the Boots on the Ground program, contact Boots on the Ground Program Manager Tom Thompson at tthomp0526@aol.com.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Members Speak with Congressman Rice About Co-Sponsoring H.R. 1108



Pictured left to right: MYR Legislative Rep Chris Martinez, South Carolina Congressman Tom Rice, MYR VP Zachary Hutchings, and Acting ATM Derek Thrap

South Carolina Congressman Tom Rice and a few of his staffers recently visited Myrtle Beach ATCT (MYR) and asked about the process to update the antiquated equipment. Said MYR Legislative Rep Chris Martinez: "His asking what he could do to help us catch up with other countries like Canada, equipment-wise, allowed me to ask him to co-sponsor H.R. 1108 to ensure stable funding, which is the first step towards furthering NexGen and updating our equipment. At first, he gave me what I would call a soft verbal commitment to co-sponsor, but after I listed the other South Carolina members of Congress who have co-sponsored the bill, he said he would 'get on it as well.'"

The Congressman has very little knowledge of air traffic control (ATC) or the National Airspace System, so this was a huge opportunity to educate him. He said that if anything comes up regarding FAA appropriations or authorization, he would be



reaching out to get input from us on what it means and if it will benefit ATC.

"I think the visit was a great opening to build a relationship that will last, and we will continue working to ensure the relationship grows. I feel confident we will add him as a co-sponsor for H.R. 1108 in the near future."

TEXAS: Congressman Cuellar Shows Support for NATCA



San Antonio ATCT (SAT) member Ismael Lugo had the opportunity to meet Congressman Henry Cuellar recently. "The Congressman spoke highly of NATCA and thanked us for our support," said Lugo. "He talked about the recent shutdown

and how it negatively affected all involved. When talking with him, he seemed genuinely interested in a facility tour. As a result, our facility is working with his staff to facilitate a tour of our tower in the very near future."

TEXAS: El Paso Tower Showcases the Value of Collaboration



Texas Congresswoman Veronica Escobar recently toured El Paso ATCT (ELP) to learn more about the dynamics of the complex international airspace and upcoming projects that will improve ELP's ability to maintain safety in the skies above the borderland. "She has been an advocate for aviation safety since her first days in office and has become a strong supporter of initiatives that address our ongoing controller staffing crisis, as well as the implementation of NextGen technologies across the National Airspace System (NAS)," said ELP Vice President and Legislative Rep Cesar Cordero. "I cannot thank the Congresswoman, her staff, and my colleagues enough for the time they invest into one of the nation's greatest national treasures, the NAS."

ALASKA: NLC Member Attends Event for Congressman Young



Pictured left to right: Alaska Regional Legislative Rep and MRI member Dawn McFalls, Alaska Congressman Don Young, and John McFalls

Former Alaska Governor Bill Sheffield recently hosted an event for Alaska Congressman Don Young. "I thanked Congressman Young for co-sponsoring H.R. 1108 and for his continued support of the National Airspace System," said Alaskan Region Legislative Rep and Merrill Field ATCT member Dawn McFalls. "There were many other politicians and staff members in attendance that I had the opportunity to speak with. One staff member even requested a tour of our facility for himself and his boss."

ALASKA: Senator's Staff Member Visits Anchorage Tower and TRACON



Pictured left to right: ANC member Eric Minor, Alaska Senator Dan Sullivan staff member Allie McDonnell, and A11 FacRep Ryan Reeves

NATCA members had the privilege of meeting with Alaska State Senator Dan Sullivan's staff member, and giving her a tour of Anchorage ATCT (ANC) and Anchorage TRACON (A11). "The tour went very well," said A11 FacRep Ryan Reeves. "Allie gave us her contact information and told us to contact her if we had any questions about hiring reform."

NATCA in Washington 2019



In each Legislative Update, we will be posting interviews from your fellow NATCAvists who had the opportunity to attend NATCA in Washington (NiW) and share their thoughts. [Click on this link](#) or click the video below to hear what they had to say. Additionally, you can click on the links in the boxes below to view materials, videos, and transcripts from NiW 2019.

[Click here](#) to view the transcript from Paul and Trish's opening speech.

[Click here](#) to view the 2019 edition of NiW Today, providing a comprehensive guide to the issues, meeting tips, and references.

[Click here](#) to view the video of Paul and Trish's opening speech.

[Click here](#) to review the post-NiW packet including a checklist, motivational tips, and sample thank-you letters.

What is Your Takeaway from This Year's NATCA in Washington?



Save the Date: NiW 2020, March 23-25

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