



## NATCA in Washington: Registration Closes with High Interest



Registration for the 27th annual NATCA in Washington closed last week with 564 members requesting to attend. That is a new record, reflecting the high interest in this year's event.

Members will be notified by their [National Legislative Committee \(NLC\) member](#) by Feb. 7 with confirmation regarding attendance.

First priority will be given to Regional Committee Members, then NATCA members based on congressional district. Your attendance is **NOT** guaranteed until you receive confirmation from your regional NLC member.

If your local will be paying for your expenses to attend NATCA in Washington, please **DO NOT** make any travel reservations/arrangements until you have received purchase approval from your local FacRep/E-board.

The National Office staff, the NLC, and the NiW Planning Committee are busy preparing for another successful event, at which our top-notch NATCAvists will spend time on Capitol Hill, advocating on behalf of our Union to elected officials about the critical work of air traffic controllers and aviation safety professionals.

## Government Affairs Department Update

### Paid Parental Leave

Last year, there was a loophole within the Federal Employee Paid Leave Act that was signed into law as part of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Specifically, the leave provisions, which were intended to cover all federal employees, are not applicable to a number of federal workforces, including all FAA employees. GA is continuing to aggressively lay the groundwork on Capitol Hill to correct this inequity as soon as possible. Over the past few weeks, we have been meeting with members of Congress and staff on both sides of the aisle – Republicans and Democrats – in both the House and Senate – to find the best path for a fix to this loophole through a technical correction in the legislative process.

### Infrastructure Legislation Introduced

On Jan. 29, House Democrats introduced a \$760 billion, five-year infrastructure package, which outlines major investments in highways, rail, transit, airports, wastewater, water infrastructure, ports, and harbors. The package also includes an aggressive plan to combat climate change which ranges from making federal buildings carbon-neutral to transitioning to renewable fuels for aviation, with a focus on transit and rail as a greener option than automobiles and airplanes and encouraging the use of more climate-friendly building materials.

Meanwhile, House Republicans introduced infrastructure legislation that contains their own set of guiding principles, which are more focused on project and permit streamlining, and addressing the long-term sustainability of the Highway Trust Fund.

As the legislative process surrounding a comprehensive infrastructure bill continues over the coming months, NATCA will be providing input to Capitol Hill on our key infrastructure priorities that are most beneficial to our membership.

### The Continuity for Operators with Necessary Training Required for ATC Contract Towers Act of 2019

H.R. 5297, The Continuity for Operators with Necessary Training Required for ATC Contract Towers (CONTRACT) Act of 2019, was introduced by Rep. Julia

Brownley, D-Calif., and Rep. Rodney Davis, R-Ill., in December 2019. If passed, this bill will allow retired federal air traffic controllers (ATC) to continue receiving their FERS (Federal Employees Retirement System) annuity payments while working as controllers at FAA contract towers. This bill is similar to the exception that Congress provided federal controllers who became ATC instructors. This bill is also important because it addresses short- and long-term staffing challenges at FAA contract towers and would specifically help with staffing concerns at four contract towers in Alaska.

[Click here](#) to read the industry letter supporting H.R. 5297.

## Hatch Act Tip of the Month

### All Federal Employees May:

- Register and vote as they choose;
- Display campaign signs at home;
- Display a political bumper sticker on a personal vehicle parked in a federal employee parking lot -- must be normal size; one per race;
- Be members of political clubs or parties;
- Be candidates for public office in nonpartisan elections; and
- Campaign for or against referendum questions, constitutional amendments, or municipal ordinances.

## NATCA Activism in Local Districts

### ARIZONA: Phoenix TRACON Members Meet Congressman Greg Stanton





Pictured left to right: Phoenix TRACON (P50) FacRep Matt Schorman, Arizona Congressman Greg Stanton, and P50 member Mike Ryan.

Phoenix TRACON (P50) FacRep Matt Schorman and member Mike Ryan attended an event with Arizona Congressman Greg Stanton and Maryland Congressman Steny Hoyer. "We were able to speak with both Congressman Stanton and Congressman Hoyer," said Ryan. "We thanked them for their support of labor unions and their involvement in the recent federal employee pay raise."

## **MINNESOTA: Members Discuss Issues with Congresswoman Omar**



**Pictured left to right: Flying Cloud ATCT (FCM) Legislative Rep Brad Truax, Great Lakes Region NLC Rep and Minneapolis Center (ZMP) member Erin Phelps, Minnesota Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, and ZMP member and Minnesota State Legislative Coordinator Mitch Becker.**

NATCA members Mitch Becker, Erin Phelps, and Brad Truax recently attended a labor breakfast with Minnesota Congresswoman Ilhan Omar and numerous union officials in downtown Minneapolis.

“Congresswoman Omar talked about many of the issues that she is working on in Washington,” said Becker. “We had a chance to thank her for her support of NATCA and for co-sponsoring H.R. 1108. We talked about appropriations and the fact that it seems like it's just right around the corner when we will have to be working on it again.”

## **WASHINGTON: NATCAvist Briefs Congressman Newhouse on H.R. 1108**





Pasco Tri Cities ATCT (PSC) Treasurer Wailani Okamura attended an event with Washington Congressman Dan Newhouse. "This was my first legislative event, and it went great," said Okamura. "It was not what I was expecting at all. It was very informal, and I was able to meet some people that work with the Congressman as well. Towards the end of the event, I was able to get a little time to talk with him about H.R. 1108. He said he wasn't too familiar with the bill, so I was able to explain it to him. I look forward to following up with him to secure his co-sponsorship as we close in on the target of 290 co-sponsors."

## Register for NATCA Legislative Classes

Sign up now for your 2020 legislative activism classes. Visit the [NATCA Membership Portal](#) to register. Once you have logged in, select "NATCA Academy" from the quick links. Then, select "2020 Courses." Registrants will be notified within 35 days from the course start date of their status for the course.

If you have any questions, please contact NATCA Training Coordinator Carolyn Kamara at [ckamara@natcad.org](mailto:ckamara@natcad.org).

## 2020 Legislative Course Schedule:

|  |                   |                            |
|--|-------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Legislative Activism<br/>Training (LAT)</b>           | <b>Feb. 26-27</b> | <b>REGISTRATION CLOSED</b> |
| <b>Advanced Legislative<br/>Activism Training (ALAT)</b> | <b>June 16-18</b> | <b>Washington, D.C.</b>    |
| <b>Advanced Legislative<br/>Activism Training (ALAT)</b> | <b>Sept. 1-3</b>  | <b>Washington, D.C.</b>    |
| <b>Legislative Activism<br/>Training (LAT)</b>           | <b>Oct. 6-7</b>   | <b>Las Vegas</b>           |

NATCA | [www.natca.org](http://www.natca.org)



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