NATCA Celebrates International Day of the Air Traffic Controller

On Wednesday, Oct. 20, NATCA is proud to join others in the United States and throughout the world in celebrating the International Day of the Air Traffic Controller. This special day honors air traffic controllers as essential professionals who work to make air travel the safest possible mode of transport. Despite challenges related to the pandemic, these professionals in the U.S. and in other countries have continued working day in and day out to keep the airspace moving safely. NATCA members should be proud of the work we have done to help others during this difficult time. Our members have been responsible for the safe and efficient delivery of PPE throughout the pandemic and have helped deliver hundreds of millions of vaccine doses across the country and internationally.

Read more here.

Celebrating 10 Years of Professional Standards Casework

On Oct. 17, 2011, the first professional standards case was completed, marking the beginning of something new for NATCA-represented bargaining unit employees (BUEs). The
Professional Standards Program (PSP) was initially sought as part of a package of safety culture programs as the NATCA-FAA collaborative relationship was starting to grow. The PSP aimed to utilize the power and depth of peer-to-peer conversation to provide the tools necessary to protect and improve member professionalism and bolster the safety of the National Airspace System. With this new program, any BUE could initiate a conversation with a peer to discuss how we could do something better or safer and how our actions impact professionalism and teamwork. Ten years later, NATCA’s PSP has become a worldwide model within the aviation safety sector, and this week we are celebrating its legacy.

Read more here.

IT Committee Meets to Discuss Ways to Improve Service to Members

The Information Technology Committee (ITC) held a full, three-hour-long meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 12. During the call, ITC members addressed an array of issues including updates to NATCA’s website, ways to help NATCA reps nationwide better communicate using Microsoft Teams, and upgrading technology and equipment at the National Office. The ITC also talked about the progress it is making to increase member engagement through a support system to answer questions on the website and plans to roll out upcoming improvements to the ways that members access the website, the NATCA Store, and soon, our new membership database. In the photo (top to bottom, left to right) are David Towell (Greater Cincinnati ATCT, CVG), Doug Church (NATCA staff), Jason Michaud (Boston TRACON, A90).
Pamela Rusk (Engineer/Central Region, ECE), Phil Yanchulis (NATCA staff), Matt Heer (NATCA staff), John Tornatore-Pili (San Francisco ATCT, SFO), Matthew Fritz (Andrews Air Force Base ATCT, ADW), and Committee Chair Jason Doss (Jacksonville ARTCC, ZJX).

Do you need IT support? If so, click here. Reach our live chat support here.

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**Update from NATCA Procedures**

**Article 114 National Representative**

NATCA Procedures Representative John Murdock (Philadelphia ATCT, PHL) works collaboratively with the Mission Support Services Policy (AJV-P), developing, implementing, amending, and interpreting air traffic policies and regulations in FAA Orders JO 7110.65, 7210.3, Aeronautical Information Manual (AIM), and many others. The national representative position also works closely with other Article 114 and project representatives to assist them in developing and incorporating policy and procedures into the National Airspace System. Controller input is critical in the successful development, interpretation and correction of air traffic regulations and policy. Working collaboratively with the Agency provides continuity between FAA Headquarters and field facilities. This month’s update from Murdock includes these topics: Runway Safety Area, Approach and Departure Hold Markings, No Weight (NOWGT) Aircraft, and Corrective Action Request 2012-009 Runway Selection.

Read more here.

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**Attend One of the Last Three Retirement Webinars of 2021**

Whether you’re still building for your future in retirement or ready to put your retirement plan into action, one of the most important member benefits that NATCA provides is expert planning and guidance. The National Benefits Committee (NBC) has scheduled three monthly virtual sessions for the remainder of 2021; Tuesday, Oct. 26, 1 p.m. CDT; Thursday, Nov. 18, 1 p.m. CST; and Friday, Dec. 17, 9 a.m. CST. These
webinars are filled with information to help you maximize your federal benefits to meet your retirement goals. Spouses are also encouraged to attend. Register at https://portal.natca.org. For questions, contact the NBC at benefits@natca.net.

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**Event and Hotel Registration Open for 18th Biennial Convention, Dec. 9-10**

The 18th Biennial Convention in Houston is scheduled to begin on Thursday, Dec. 9 at 1 p.m. CST at the Marriott Marquis. We plan to continue working into that evening after dinner and then conclude the next day, Friday, Dec. 10, no later than 2 p.m. CST. As a reminder, this convention will be focused exclusively on the business of the Union, as carried out by the convention delegates. As a result, we are not planning the usual activities associated with a convention such as an opening and closing reception. We intend for all activities, including meals, to take place inside the convention hotel. Registration is a two-step process: **Step 1** is visiting the convention registration site here. **Step 2** is making your hotel reservation at the Marriott Marquis here. For more about the convention, please click here.

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**Join in NCF $25,000 Regional Charity Competition, Help Charities in Your Region**

The ongoing regional competition hosted by the NATCA Charitable Foundation (NCF) runs through December. Each NATCA region has an individual section on the main competition webpage located here. The regional pages show the
charities already receiving support from NCF. It then lists three new charities within the region that NCF has vetted. NCF asks the NATCA family to support it through the gift of tax-deductible payroll deduction donations. When you give to NCF with a new or increased donation through payroll deduction, you are then eligible to vote for your favorite new charity within your region. Learn more, including signing up for payroll deduction or increasing your donation, here.