



CONTRACT Act Update - Markup in Senate Committee Nov. 3



On Wednesday morning, the Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs is scheduled to mark up S. 419, the Continuity for Operators with Necessary Training Required for ATC Contract Towers Act of

2021 - known as the CONTRACT Act for short. NATCA strongly supports this bill, which would provide an incentive for retired federal air traffic controllers to continue working as controllers at the 256 airports that participate in the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Contract Tower Program. NATCA represents controllers at 118 of those towers. If enacted, this legislation would allow controllers who retire from federal service to work as controllers at contract towers without their federal annuity supplement being reduced or eliminated entirely. This would allow these experienced controllers to continue to contribute to the safety of the National Airspace System after they retire from the FAA without sacrificing a portion of their earned retirement benefits.

[Read more.](#)

NEB, National Finance Committee Meeting Nov. 1-4

The National Executive Board (NEB) and the National Finance Committee (NFC) are each meeting in Washington, D.C. Nov. 1-4. All meeting participants will follow CDC guidance and ensure the appropriate mitigations are



in effect. It is the annual gathering each November for both the NEB and the NFC, which use the extended meeting time to discuss and approve the upcoming year's budget priorities for the Union. It will also be a regular meeting of the NEB with myriad topics on its agenda. Full minutes from each meeting will be made available in an upcoming NATCA Update.

Past NEB meeting minutes: <https://www.natca.org/neb-minutes/>

NFC webpage: <https://www.natca.org/committees/nfc/>

Navarro and Ortiz at National Office for NEB In-Person Work on Key Issues



Northwest Mountain Regional Vice President (RVP) Alex Navarro III (pictured left) and Western Pacific RVP Joel Ortiz (pictured right) worked in the National Office Oct. 25-27 as part of the National Executive Board's process of having 2-3 RVPs in Washington, D.C., each week. The RVPs work with President Rich Santa,

Executive Vice President Andrew LeBovidge, and some members of the staff in addressing many key issues. They also are available to handle any issues that arise unexpectedly, helping the NEB to begin to tackle them. Last week, Navarro and Ortiz worked on preparations for the upcoming 18th Biennial Convention (Dec. 9-10, Houston), including such topics as safety protocols, scheduling, and the details that will ensure an efficient flow of the convention business in the compacted and shortened agenda that is now planned.

Register for convention: <https://form.jotform.com/212736162885058>

Reserve your convention hotel

room: <https://book.passkey.com/event/50243103/owner/14793349/home>

Constitution Committee Update: Supplement Containing Additional Proposed Amendments for Convention Mailed to Members and on Convention Resource Site

The National Constitution Committee (NCC) is responsible for creating the biennial convention package, containing all

the proposed amendments to the NATCA constitution, resolutions, and policy and position statements. A convention package of these materials was mailed to members in June 2021 in advance of the convention that was then scheduled to be held in August 2021.



When the 18th Biennial Convention in Houston was rescheduled to December 2021, NATCA reopened the period in which members could submit proposals in accord with the provision in the NATCA constitution that allows proposals to be submitted by members up to 120 days in advance of the convention. The NCC recently completed compiling the supplement of additional proposals that came in during this period and which will be considered at the convention on Dec. 9-10 along with the proposals in the June 2021 mailing.

The supplement has been printed and should arrive by mail to members in the next few weeks. The supplement is also available electronically on the [NATCA Convention resource webpage](#). The document on the webpage contains both the booklet sent this past summer and the supplement of additional proposals.

For more information, please email ncc@natca.net. View the NCC webpage [here](#).

Safety and Technology Update: Traffic Flow Management System (TFMS)



The Traffic Flow Management System (TFMS) is a data exchange system for supporting the management and monitoring of national air traffic flow. TFMS processes all available data sources such as flight plan messages, flight plan amendment messages,

and departure and arrival messages. The National Airspace System (NAS) data warehouse assembles TFMS flight messages into one record per flight. TFMS is restricted to the subset of flights that fly under instrument flight rules (IFR) and are captured by the en route computers. TFMS is the primary tool used at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Air Traffic Control System Command Center (DCC). TFMS continued on schedule for implementation of R14 last month. The next release (R15) is currently planned for the fall of 2022.

[Read more from TFMS NATCA Article 114 Rep Ryan Jacobs here](#)

IT Committee Seeks Three New Members

The Information Technology Committee (ITC) is seeking three new members to help meet the increasing technology demands of the organization. Members of the ITC have a wide range of skills and are asked to be well versed in technology-related matters for NATCA. The committee regularly provides support, guidance, and recommendations to the National Executive Board, other committees, and NATCA members. An ITC member must be comfortable with technology of all types including computers, websites, video, Microsoft products, and email. Additionally, a member of the committee must commit to completing tasks, being a team player, and sharing new ideas. Learn more here, including how to apply for these open positions.



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