



## Happy Thanksgiving from NATCA!

We want to take a moment to express our thanks for so many things this week as NATCA members and staff celebrate Thanksgiving in our homes as well as in break rooms and common areas with our colleagues.

Thank you to our 16,000 dues-paying members, who have continued throughout the global pandemic to provide the best professional services to the flying public, especially those working during this holiday. Thank you to our NATCA reps and volunteers who give their time and talents to maintain and grow our great Union, the professions it represents, and the National Airspace System. Thank you to the NATCA staff, who work hard every day and are committed to providing our members with the very best service and representation in organized labor. Thank you for our NATCA family that is built on a commitment to the power of our solidarity.



We are honored by your dedication. We are proud to represent you. We thank each of you for your support and solidarity. We wish you a happy and safe Thanksgiving holiday with your family and friends.

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**RVPs Aaron Merrick (NCE), Brian Shallenberger (NEA), Mick Devine (NNE), and Brad Davidson (NRX) working in National Office**

Central Regional Vice President (RVP) Aaron Merrick, Eastern RVP) Brian Shallenberger (pictured



left), New England RVP Mick Devine, and Region X Vice President Brad Davidson (pictured right) worked in the National Office during the weeks of Nov. 8 and 15. The National Executive Board currently is having 2-3 RVPs work in NATCA's Washington, D.C., headquarters 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 tackling them. While here, Davidson and Shallenberger worked on a wide variety of planning and logistical issues for our upcoming convention ([Dec. 9-10, Houston Marriott Marquis](#)).

Merrick and Devine concentrated on working with Santa and LeBovidge on improving the Article 114/subject matter expert solicitation process from beginning to end. Revising the process will result in giving the RVPs better, more detailed insight to the volunteers for new positions, allowing them to make the best decision for NATCA as to who will represent the Union when working with the Agency on issues that affect our members.

“We are asking members that apply for the various roles to provide background information that more readily identifies the knowledge, skills, and abilities a member has to assist the NEB in making the best selection,” Santa said. “The new process will also allow FacReps to provide information about how active the member is at the local level. This will give us a broader perspective of member candidates applying to a solicitation.”

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## Southern Region Reps Meet in Atlanta for Pre-Convention Meeting



Southern Regional (NSO) Vice President Jim Marinitti led a two-day pre-convention meeting for 53 NSO FacReps Nov. 16-17 at the Hilton Atlanta Airport. The reps prepared for the 18th Biennial Convention ([Dec. 9-10, Houston Marriott Marquis](#)) by conducting their business in the same time format as the convention will use: starting in the early afternoon of the first

day, extending into the evening, and then concluding midday on the second day. "After two years of virtual meetings, the feedback and appreciation from the reps was overwhelmingly positive," Marinitti said.

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## Congratulations to our newest FacReps!



The NATCA Onboarding Committee welcomes and thanks all of our new NATCA leaders who have recently taken office for their term as FacRep at their local facilities:

### **Great Lakes Region**

Rapid City FCT (RAP), Steven Beardsworth

### **New England Region**

Groton ATCT/FCT (GON), Eric Knight

### **Southern Region**

Destin FCT (DTS), Michael Sweeney

Page Field FCT (FMY), Bernard Campau, II

Jackson (Miss.) ATCT (JAN), Alex Sternbach

Leesburg (Fla.) FCT (LEE), Brent Comeaux

Montgomery/Dannelly Field ATCT (MGM), Daniel Kotowski

Owensboro Daviess ATCT/FCT (OWB), James Shoemaker

### **Southwest Region**

Longview ATCT (GGG), James Chesnut

### **Western Pacific Region**

Tucson TRACON (U90), Alexander Yeager

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## Welcome New Facility: Danbury FCT (DXR)

NATCA is excited to welcome Danbury, Conn., Federal Contract Tower (FCT) to the NATCA family. The airport (DXR) opened in 1930 and is considered a regional reliever facility by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

"As a contract tower, our members are either FAA retirees or former military controllers, seeking to join the ranks of the FAA," says DXR FacRep Bert Wheeler. "As such,

NATCA is a perfect fit for our facility. The FAA retirees are familiar with NATCA and the former military controllers will, in all probability, be NATCA members in their future endeavors.

“Union representation is key to a productive working environment. Not just for arbitration of issues and collective bargaining, but for the valuable representation that NATCA provides with our federal government and elected officials. NATCA ensures that we FAA employees and contractors are part of the discussion when the future of the National Airspace System is being determined.”



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## Florida Members Meet with Congresswoman Wasserman-Schultz



Miami Center (ZMA) Vice President and Southern Florida State Coordinator Daniel Garcia-Barbon and Miami ATCT (MIA) member Brian Lenz (MIA) met with Florida Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman-Schultz and some members of her staff to catch up and discuss some of the current affairs important to NATCA. “I asked the congresswoman about the looming funding deadline on Dec. 3,” said Garcia-Barbon. “She mentioned to me that at the time there was still no progress on it, but while she does not expect a government shutdown, she is expecting a short-term continuing resolution. We also had a brief discussion on the recent passage of the infrastructure bill. I made it

clear how important that bill is to NATCA and our aging infrastructure. We thanked her for her support of NATCA over the years and told her that we looked forward to seeing her in Washington, D.C. early next year.”

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## Upcoming NATCA Academy Class: STT: NATCA Convention, Robert's Rules of Order, and You

Join the NATCA Academy on  
Monday, Nov. 29, 1:00 p.m. to  
2:30 p.m. Eastern for “STT:  
NATCA Convention, Robert's



## NATCA ACADEMY ROBERT'S RULES CLASS

Rules of Order, and You.” Whether you are a seasoned parliamentary veteran or a novice, this course is designed to give you a refresher on Robert’s Rules of Order and how to use them at the NATCA Convention. In this course, we will discuss the theory behind Robert's Rules, the

different types of motions and how to articulate (phraseology) them correctly, voting procedures, and specifics on how NATCA uses Robert's Rules. The course will also provide a good foundation for your use at the 18th Biennial Convention in December. [Join the class on Teams.](#)

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