

# Santa Speaks to ATCA Audience on the Impact of the Pandemic on Aviation

President Rich Santa participated in a panel at the Air Traffic Control Association (ATCA) virtual annual conference on Feb. 8 entitled, Global Impact of the Pandemic on Aviation." He spoke on the impact of the



COVID-19 pandemic on NATCA members. "Despite all that has happened, we have had the privilege of working collaboratively with the FAA, moving personal protective equipment throughout the country, to ensure the health and safety of millions of people," said Santa. "Our members have been keeping the NAS (National Airspace System) running safely during the pandemic, with very few ATC-0 events, and they are proud of that. There's inspiration and real ownership by our members in what they have accomplished during these trying times."

Santa was also asked about the pandemic's impact on training. "The FAA has continued to hire," he said. "The Academy is at reduced capacity, but we are still getting people through the system. The FAA has been good at monitoring where we can and cannot train. NATCA and the FAA have been working collaboratively to ensure that where we can train, we do."

When the discussion became more about the future of air traffic control, Santa stated that air traffic controllers will always be working but with better tools. "This is the best job, and it's the best job because it's challenging and technical," he said. "If you go back 10 years ago, systems like ERAM (En Route Automation Modernization) didn't replace us; it just gave us the tools to maintain the highest and most efficient airspace in the world."

#### **NATCAversary: 10 Years Ago, Fair Collective**

#### **Bargaining Process Was Secured**



10 YEARS AGO, FAIR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING PROCESS WAS SECURED

NATCA marks a notable anniversary today. Ten years ago, on Feb. 14, 2012, President Obama signed H.R. 658, the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012. It was the final step in making FAA Reauthorization a law. It ended a five-year-long effort to achieve an FAA bill and more than seven years of NATCA trying to amend Title 49 and establish a fair collective bargaining process for all of its

members. Sec. 601, which addresses the personnel management system, was the critical provision that ensures that FAA bargaining units will never again have work and pay rules imposed upon them by their employer, such as what occurred during the White Book lost years.

## NATCA Safety Reps Partner with ALPA and Delta for A320 Scenarios, Pilot's Perspective

Earlier this month, National Safety Committee Pilot/Controller Liaison Brad Wilcko (Southern California TRACON, SCT), ATSAP Event **Review Committee** member Dawn Johnson (Atlanta Center, ZTL), and National Runway Safety Representative Bridget Singratanakul (Gee) (Dallas-Fort Worth ATCT, DFW) met with Air Line Pilots



Association, International (ALPA) co-Airport Safety Liaison Jason Herman at Delta's Atlanta headquarters to view the Airbus A320 simulators and run scenarios.

"We wanted to view different scenarios from the pilot's perspective on the flight deck," Johnson said.

A320 Delta Instructor Pilot Cliff Sato and Delta Technical Pilot Eric Morse simulated the scenarios and answered questions from the NATCA reps.

Pictured left to right (top): Wilcko, Sato, Morse, Singratanakul (Gee), Herman, Johnson. Pictured left to right (bottom): Johnson, Singratanakul (Gee), Wilcko.

#### NATCA Academy's First In-Person Course of 2022: Basic Legislative Activism



On Feb. 8-9, the NATCA Academy held its first in-person training course of 2022: Basic Legislative Activism (LAT). The instructors were Charlotte ATCT (CLT) FacRep Anthony Schifano and National Legislative Committee Southern Region Representative Jenny Chhetri (Atlanta Center, ZTL). During the two-day course attendees reviewed the congressional structure and discussed the process for passing legislation while exploring the reasons NATCA needs to be legislatively active and have a presence on Capitol Hill.

Said Chhetri, "It was invigorating to meet with new activists in-person to discuss the legislative side of our Union and the importance of building and maintaining relationships with our members of Congress."

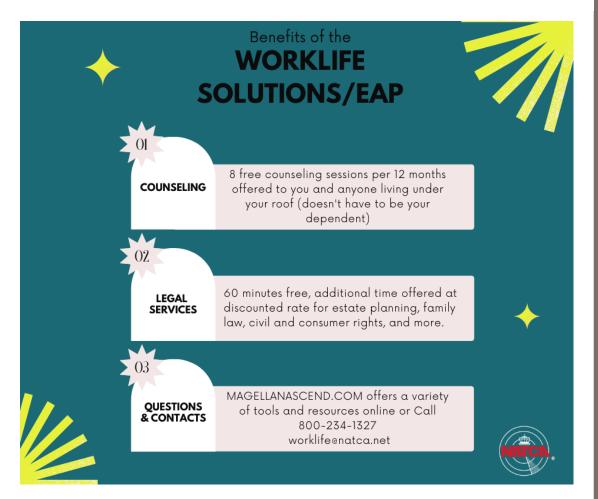
Attendees were instructed on techniques for building relationships with every member of Congress who is critical to NATCA's legislative priorities. The main goal of the course is to educate and enable NATCA members to help protect and enhance the profession.

Two more LAT courses are scheduled for April 13-14 and Nov. 8-9.<u>Click</u> <u>here</u> to learn more.

#### ITC Tech Tip, NATCA Website: Quick Links to Notable Pages

In the latest installment of a continuing series focusing on the Union's website, NATCA's Information Technology Committee presents a guide to several quick links that will take you to frequently visited pages for ease of use. See the guide <u>here</u>.

### EAP Committee Update: Benefits Available to Members



The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Committee is a workgroup that interfaces with the FAA on all issues related to the EAP/WorkLife program under Article 57 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Items discussed include issues related to all services provided by the EAP contractor. There are numerous benefits available, as outlined in this graphic. Learn more about the committee here.

For questions, email the EAP Committee, WorkLife@natca.net.

## Shop Union Made This Valentine's Day



<u>union-made in America products</u> to support employers who provide fair working conditions for their workers. The AFL-CIO and Union Plus produce lists of union-made chocolate, candy bars, jelly beans, taffy, and more to surprise your loved ones on this holiday.



Sent bynatcanationaloffice@natca.net