



## **Santa Joins Other Union Leaders in Meeting with President Biden, Labor Secretary Walsh**

NATCA President Rich Santa was proud to participate in the AFL-CIO's Meeting of Union Presidents with President Joe Biden and Labor Secretary Marty Walsh in Wilmington, Del., on March 5. Santa joined a small group of union leaders in meeting with President Biden and Secretary Walsh to discuss issues affecting union members and how the administration can help support working Americans.



Among the goals of the meeting, as detailed by AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler, were to develop a unified set of priorities to help working people and unite and plan for the work ahead.

President Biden thanked the union presidents for their support and outlined the steps the administration has taken to help union members in the first year of the administration. Secretary Walsh spoke of the need to work collaboratively to empower American workers and underscored the president's support for strong unions as key to the middle class. The group discussed the accomplishments of the administration thus far in creating jobs, including the bipartisan landmark Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), which the president signed into law last fall.

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## **Santa Discusses Aviation Funding, Other Critical Issues, With Senate Aviation Subcommittee Chair Sinema**

President Rich Santa had a phone meeting with Arizona Senator Kyrsten



Sinema, chair of the Senate Commerce, Science, & Transportation Subcommittee on Aviation Safety, Operations, and Innovation. They discussed the importance of aviation funding and Sinema's support of NATCA. "I thanked Senator Sinema for her leadership in securing ATC facility upgrade funding in the recently-enacted bipartisan infrastructure bill," Santa said. "The Senator shared that she worked on that provision in a way that benefits the entire aviation community. I expressed

the appreciation and support of not only our Arizona members, but all of NATCA." Santa said Sinema expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve as chair of Senate Aviation Subcommittee and partner to support NATCA priorities and the infrastructure bill. She also reiterated that she will continue to work with NATCA and looks forward to collaborating as the FAA reauthorization process gets underway, Santa added.

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## Transportation Secretary Buttigieg Tours Denver Tower

Denver ATCT (DEN) FacRep Gary Beal recently had the opportunity to give U.S. Secretary of Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg a tour of the facility. "It was a pleasure to give Secretary Buttigieg a tour," he said. "We discussed the current expansion happening at Denver International Airport, with increasing traffic as well as gate



expansion. We also discussed staffing struggles and the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought to our facility and the entire National Airspace System. The secretary expressed strong support for NATCA and thanked everyone for all their hard work through these difficult times."

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## RDU Secretary Meets with North Carolina Congresswoman Ross

Raleigh Durham ATCT (RDU) Secretary and North Carolina State Legislative Coordinator James Walsh attended an event and met with North Carolina Congresswoman Deborah Ross. "Upon





arrival at the event, I was welcomed and personally recognized by two of the congresswoman's staff," said Walsh. "When the congresswoman arrived, she recognized me as well and I got to spend a solid 20 minutes speaking directly with her. We discussed many things including airport projects, the upcoming continuing resolution, North Carolina redistricting, and more."

Walsh said the event was very casual and allowed for "real" time to be spent with the congresswoman and her staff.

"It was a very successful congressional event for networking and relationship-building purposes," he said.

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## Members Attend In-Person Legislative Training Course



After a two-year hiatus, the Advanced Legislative Activism Training (ALAT) course returned in-person last week at the National Office in Washington, D.C., with 12 participants. For two and a half days, they heard from subject matter experts from NATCA's in-house legal counsel and Government Affairs Department employees as well as the Office of Special Counsel. The ALAT class took an in-depth look at NATCA's legislative past and how it has crafted current policies and procedures with specific case studies. The attendees were taught the skills to build relationships with members of Congress in order to educate and advocate for NATCA's issues. Omaha TRACON (R90) FacRep Dan Witt said of the class, "we learned information that there is just no other way to get. It helped me see the importance of our legislative efforts in a way that I had never understood before."

## NLC Vice Chair Discusses the Importance of Advocacy



Professional Women Controllers, Inc. (PWC) released its spring 2022 issue of *The Watch*. In it, National Legislative Committee (NLC) Vice Chair Trisha Pesiri-Dybvik discusses the importance of legislative advocacy in and for our Union, just weeks before the start of [NATCA in Washington](#) (March 28-29).

“The importance of advocacy and legislative activism cannot be overstated as an aviation safety professional,” says Pesiri-

Dybvik. “It is vitally important that members of Congress hear directly from us. Nobody can tell our story better, or with more expertise, than we can.”

Pesiri-Dybvik details in the PWC feature how to become a member activist. “The best way to get involved is to become a member activist and find your passion in our Union. The relationships NATCA activists have built throughout the history of our Union have allowed us to advocate for nearly every benefit we enjoy today,” she said.

Read the full story [here](#).

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## Houston Center Member Gets Face Time with Several Members of Congress

Houston Center (ZHU) member and Texas State Legislative Coordinator Joseph Lolio attended an event recently where he was able to meet these members of Congress: Massachusetts Congresswoman Katherine Clark, Texas Representatives Lizzie Fletcher, Sylvia Garcia, and Marc Veasey, and New York Congressman Hakeem Jeffries.



“I was able to speak with Congresswoman Garcia, Congressman Veasey, and their staff at great lengths about air traffic, and possibly touring a facility,” said Lolio.

**Pictured left to right: Texas State Congresswoman Penny Morales Shaw,**

**Congresswoman Clark, Lolio, Congressman Veasey**

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