



NATCA in Washington 2022



NATCA in Washington 2022 drew 304 members who brought their enthusiasm and activism back to Washington, D.C., and Capitol Hill for the first time since 2019. They visited 260 congressional offices, a remarkable feat given the logistical challenges resulting from security and safety concerns for Hill visitors.

President Rich Santa Delivers State of the Union Remarks: 'Our Activism Starts Right Here'

President Rich Santa opened NATCA in Washington by declaring that “our activism starts right here.” Things are opening again on Capitol Hill, ushering in an important time to build back NATCA’s relationships on both sides of the political



aisle. Members of Congress and their staffs are “happy to see us,” Santa said. “We’re back! NATCA is back!” He thanked the assembled members for their efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. “It’s been a long two years,” he said. “You fought for a lot back in your facilities. But you’re here to work. We appreciate that. I appreciate that.” He continued, “You’re the rock stars. You make a difference. NATCA in Washington makes a difference. Your

yearly, monthly, daily contributions, your meetings – they make a difference. For our work lives, our home lives, our profession, our careers.”

Read and view Santa’s full remarks [here](#).

Executive Vice President Andrew LeBovidge: 'Relationship Building is at the Core of our Legislative Mission'



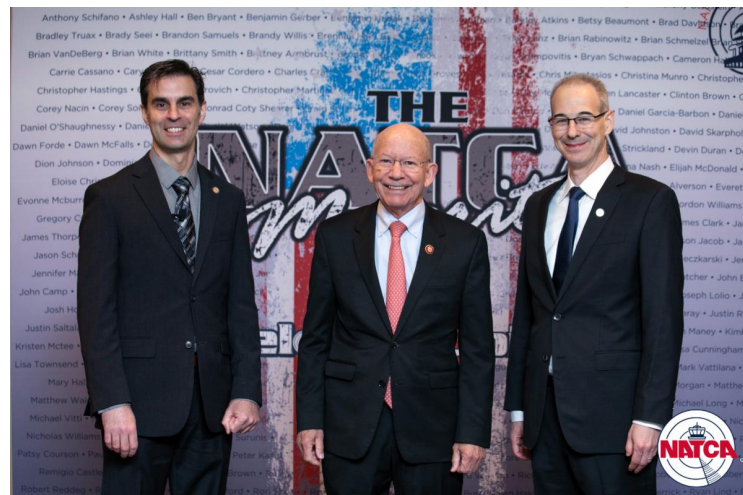
Executive Vice President Andrew LeBovidge addressed NATCA in Washington attendees to close the first day of the event and reinforce a central message of the importance of relationship building. “Relationship building is at the core of our

legislative mission,” LeBovidge said. “It is the key to building the NATCA Majority within, and then building it with congressional offices on both sides of the political aisle. All your work this week, and the work that follows, takes place on a foundation of 35 years of legislative activism by NATCA members. NATCA has achieved so many important victories here in Washington using the relationships we have built along the way.”

Read and view LeBovidge’s full remarks [here](#).

House T&I Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio, a 'True Friend of NATCA,' Speaks to NiW for Final Time as Member of Congress

NATCA was proud to welcome House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., to NATCA in Washington (NiW) on Tuesday, March 29. President Rich Santa and former NATCA President Paul Rinaldi were on hand to



introduce DeFazio as “a true friend of NATCA.” For more than three decades, DeFazio has been a passionate advocate and fierce champion for

aviation safety, transportation labor, and the front-line workers who power the engine that drives our nation's economy. DeFazio said he was very proud and honored to attend his final NiW before he retires at the end of this Congress. "Every member of Congress owes you a debt of gratitude for keeping them safe while flying back and forth to and from their districts and Washington, D.C.," he said.

Read more and view his remarks [here](#).

House T&I Committee Ranking Member Sam Graves Has Message of Appreciation for NATCA Members' Work, Highlights Infrastructure Bill



NATCA was honored to welcome House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Ranking Member Sam Graves, R-Mo., back to NATCA in Washington for the first time since 2016. President Rich Santa introduced Graves, a month after a call between them where

Santa highlighted the importance of the air traffic controller workforce and Graves expressed his understanding that the aviation system cannot operate without the great work of aviation safety professionals. "The aviation system has changed in the last few years, but you all continue to be at the forefront, moving traffic all over the country," said Graves. "It is very much appreciated what you all do." Graves talked about the new infrastructure bill that just recently passed and the money that would be flowing to aviation from it, about \$5 billion, to be used for the overhaul of new air traffic control facilities and new equipment, "helping you all to do your jobs more efficiently," he said.

Read more and view his remarks [here](#).

Former Congressmen Bill Shuster, Jerry Costello Discuss How Washington Really Works



NATCA was pleased to welcome former congressmen Jerry Costello and Bill Shuster, two of the most knowledgeable and influential transportation leaders in Washington, for a panel discussion on how Washington really works. Combined, Costello and Shuster totaled more than 40 years of combined service in the U.S. House of Representatives. They have a proven track record of bipartisan accomplishments in their distinguished congressional careers and were strong NATCA allies throughout their public service, implementing critical safety reforms and other policies to support aviation. Both congressmen talked about their experiences working on the House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee. Shuster chaired T&I, and Costello chaired the T&I Aviation Subcommittee. They explained that the committee is very bipartisan, and members get a lot done working together. “Just like your Union negotiating contracts,” said Costello, “members on the committee will not get everything they want for their constituents. You have to negotiate to get things done. It’s all a give and take.”

Read more and view the panel [here](#).

Pictured above, left to right: Senior Political and Legislative Representative Sean Maxwell, former Pennsylvania Congressman Bill Shuster, former Illinois Congressman Jerry Costello, and Director of Government Affairs John Bressler.

Congressional Staffer Panel: The Power of NATCA from the Hill's Perspective



Director of Government Affairs John Bressler and National Legislative Committee (NLC) Vice Chair Trisha Pesiri-Dybvik moderated a panel of well-respected senior staff members serving on Capitol Hill from both sides of the aisle. They spoke about the power of NATCA from Capitol Hill's perspective, how organizations can most effectively advocate before Congress, and what happens behind the scenes as a senior Capitol Hill staff member. The panelists shared their views of working with NATCA members. "Being around transportation policy, staffers on Capitol Hill have a very good handle on what's happening nationally," said Brian Bell, majority staff director for the House Aviation Subcommittee. "But NATCA members come and educate us on the details. NATCA has a lot of credibility on Capitol Hill, and we trust what you, the members, say. The trust turns into more funding and policy for infrastructure."

Read more and view the panel [here](#).

Pictured above, left to right: Director of Government Affairs John Bressler, Rep. Andrew Garbarino Chief of Staff Deena Tauster, Senior Political and Legislative Representative Sean Maxwell, House Appropriations THUD Subcommittee Minority Staff Director Doug Disrud, House Aviation Subcommittee Majority Staff Director Brian Bell, and National Legislative Committee Vice Chair Trisha Pesiri-Dybvik.

NLC Chair Richard Kennington Prepares Members to Advocate for Membership on Capitol Hill

National Legislative Committee (NLC) Chair Richard Kennington spoke to NATCA in Washington (NiW) legislative activists as they prepared to go to Capitol Hill and

advocate for the membership with passion, dedication, and solidarity. Kennington described the Union's activists' work building relationships with lawmakers as a good strategy for success. Kennington described how



NATCA does not look at party lines, but instead focuses on building good relationships with federally-elected officials – regardless of party – in order to support and promote the mission of NATCA. Kennington, in line with the NLC and NATCA as a whole, refer to that bipartisan group of representatives as The NATCA Majority.

Read more and view Kennington's remarks [here](#).

NLC Roll Call: Committee Members Lead Regional Activism in Show of Solidarity

The National Legislative Committee (NLC) strives to advance the status, professionalism, benefits, and working conditions of all NATCA bargaining unit employees through political and legislative activism. The NLC accomplishes these tasks through grassroots activism, educating and training NATCA members on how to become effective legislative activists, and providing political education. The [NLC webpage](#) includes a wealth of valuable resources. NLC members had the opportunity to introduce their regions during a roll call presentation (photos below) to help open this year's NATCA in Washington.



Alaskan Region
Rob Kindred
Anchorage Center (ZAN)



Central Region
Allison Schwaegel
St. Louis ATCT (STL)



Eastern Region

Kristena Jones
Washington Center (ZDC)



Great Lakes Region

Erin Phelps
Minneapolis Center (ZMP)



New England Region

Jamie Green
Providence ATCT (PVD)



Northwest Mountain Region

Jenny Benjamin
Denver Centennial ATCT (APA)



Region X

Jason Holland
Engineers New England (ENE)



Southern Region

Jenny Chhetri
Atlanta Center (ZTL)



Southwest Region

Corey Soignet
Houston Intercontinental ATCT
(IAH)



Western Pacific Region

David Skarphol
Phoenix TRACON (P50)

Three Members' Exceptional Work Honored With Trish Gilbert Legislative Activism Award



NATCA is proud to honor members who have demonstrated the passion to serve the Union through legislative activism. In 2009, NATCA established the National Legislative Activism Award to be presented at NATCA in Washington (NiW). The following year, at her first NiW as executive vice president (EVP), the award was named for Trish Gilbert, one of NATCA's most effective activists in its 35-year history. The Trish Gilbert Legislative Activism Award is given each year to an activist who has demonstrated the passion to serve the Union through legislative activism and stepped up to do extraordinary work. At NiW, the award was presented to Tom Thompson (for 2020), Erin Phelps (for 2021), and Kristena Jones (2022).

Read more and view the award presentation [here](#).

Pictured above, from left to right: Rich Santa, Richard Kennington, Trisha Pesiri-Dybvik, Tom Thompson, Erin Phelps, Kristena Jones, and Andrew LeBovidge.

NiW Today: Your Legislative Resource Guide

The 2022 edition of NiW Today is a 96-page briefing book that not only prepared NATCA activists for this year's event, but can also be used as a year-round legislative resource.

You can view a PDF of the book by going to our NiW webpage [here](#).



**Building the Majority Within the Union
So We Can Build the Majority on the Hill**

NiW 2022 Video Library

We have assembled all of the videos from this year's event in one easy to use library, located [here](#). As with the NiW webpage, access to this video page is for members only using your MyNATCA credentials. Additionally, members who want to watch NiW videos must confirm that they are not on duty (including break or official time), not on federal property, and not using federal government equipment.

[Visit our NiW Webpage](#)



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