



CFS 2022 Update: AOPA's Richard McSpadden Confirmed to Speak



Those attending Communicating For Safety (CFS) 2022 at Bally's Las Vegas (Sept. 12-14) will be treated to a visit by one of the nation's leading aviation safety experts. Richard McSpadden, former Air Force Thunderbirds commander and now the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) Air Safety Institute (ASI) senior vice president, will speak at a time when pilot-controller communications are

improving and opportunities to interact are becoming more popular. "I love it! It's so positive for aviation," McSpadden said. "I remember when the controller/pilot relationships were adversarial. Pilots didn't trust controllers and likewise, controllers were suspicious of pilot intent. Now I see a much more collaborative and positive relationship."

Register [here](#) now.

RNAV Committee Update: Busy Period Highlighted With Union Activism, Boots On The Ground Activity in Multiple States

Retired NATCA Active Volunteers (RNAV) Committee Chair Tom

Thompson reports that it has been a busy period for the committee and the BOTG program. Total RNAV membership has grown to 3,185, and several RNAV members were recently honored for their dedication to NATCA and the labor movement.



A recent highlight of participating in the program for Thompson and RNAV/Boots On The Ground (BOTG) member Craig Smith was attending a special Workers Memorial Day ceremony April 28 in Marseilles, Ill., for a union historical marker plaque dedication honoring the 1932 birth of Laborers' Local Union 393. At this event, they had the opportunity to meet and watch a performance by legendary guitarist, union activist, and honorary NATCA member Tom Morello. View a [video clip](#) on the RNAV Facebook page of Morello performing "This Land is Your Land." The ceremony was held in Morello's mother Mary's hometown of Marseilles, Ill.

Read about other RNAV activities [here](#).

NATCA Staff Spotlight: Terminal Technology Coordinator Bill Geoghagan

We have an amazing National Office staff that our membership can be very proud of. NATCA Terminal Technology Coordinator Bill Geoghagan has been with NATCA's Safety and Technology Department for almost 10 years. Bill is a

retired Savannah ATCT (SAV) controller and has been an active member of the National Office staff union, Organized NATCA Employees Union (ONEU). In this photo, Bill is standing with a woodworking project he completed depicting the ONUE logo that he proudly displays in the NATCA National Office in Washington, D.C.



“The most rewarding part of working at NATCA is the people with whom I work. This is the most wonderful group of people!” Bill said. He described his love for the Archie League Medal of Safety awards presentation event each year as part of his NATCA experience. “[When receiving their awards] the answer from every controller every year is always, ‘I was just doing my job.’ It is touching and makes me proud of my connection to them as a retired controller and of representing them as a member of the NATCA staff.”

Thank you for all you do for NATCA and our members, Bill!

Read more [here](#).

Union Spotlight: BMWED



NATCA continues to highlight our union sisters and brothers in AFL-CIO-affiliated unions. Today we thank our siblings of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (BMWED). BMWED is a national union representing the workers who build and maintain the tracks, bridges, buildings, and

other structures on the railroads of our nation. Interestingly, when the union

was started in the late 1800s, “employe” and “employee” were both valid spellings. BMWED, which chose “employe,” has never changed the spelling in its name out of respect for its past.

“Fatigue is a chronic issue with almost everyone I know and work with. We manage it so it doesn’t get too severe,” several railroad trainmen and engineers recently told the Guardian, discussing grueling schedules and labor cuts during union contract negotiations. “We’ve been struggling through the pandemic with fatigue, exhaustion, and we have no chance to even catch our breath.”

Rail labor leaders, including those of BMWED, fight continually for their members’ job security, better working conditions, fair wages and benefits, improved safety conditions, and elimination of cutbacks. Read more about BMWED’s efforts [here](#).

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