NATCA NEB Meets in Portland, Ore. & Hosts Solidarity Event

The NATCA National Executive Board (NEB) met May 11-12, in Portland, Ore. While the NEB was in Portland, they hosted a meet and greet for members at local facilities in the area. At the event, the NEB members introduced themselves and answered questions from members.

PHOTO: (from left to right) NATCA President Rich Santa, Portland ATCT (PDX) President Corrie Conrad, New England Regional Vice President Mick Devine, Jesse Garrido (Hillsboro ATCT, HIO), Central Regional Vice President Aaron Merrick, Eastern Regional Vice President Brian Shallenberger, Southern Regional Vice President Jim Marinetti, Eugene ATCT (EUG) President Anita Guilford, Region X Vice President Brad Davidson, Northwest Mountain Regional Vice President Alex Navarro III, HIO President Matt Schwartz and his wife Rebecca, Great Lakes Regional Vice President Drew MacQueen, Geoff Green (Portland TRACON, P80), P80 President Eddie DeLisle, Lukas Domoslawski (PDX), Southwest Regional Vice President Nick Daniels, Lisa Marshall (PDX) and her husband Kevin, Alaskan Regional Vice President Clint Lancaster, Western Pacific Regional Vice President Joel Ortiz, NATCA Executive Vice President Andrew LeBovidge, Travis Odehnal (PDX) and his wife Yessenia, and Kim Beckett (P80).
NATCA’s Onboarding Committee met on May 17, at the National Office in Washington, D.C. During their meeting the group discussed training for regional onboarding reps. They reviewed and talked about responses from onboarding feedback forms. They talked about coordinating with NATCA’s IT Committee and Elections Support Committee. They did planning around what is next for onboarding new FacReps, VPs, and Eboard members.

PHOTO: (from left to right) Participants in this meeting included Anchorage Center (ZAN) President and Alaska Region (NAL) Onboarding Committee Rep Robert Kindred; Northwest Mountain Region (NNM) Onboarding Committee Rep Sam Navarro (Seattle-Tacoma ATCT, SEA); Alternate Central Region (NCE) Vice President, Kansas City Center (ZKC) President, and NCE Onboarding Committee Rep Todd Mariani; Charlotte ATCT (CLT) President and Southern Region Onboarding Committee Rep Anthony Schifano; NCE Regional Vice President and Onboarding Committee Chair Aaron Merrick (Kansas City Center, ZKC); Great Lakes Region (NGL) Alternate Regional Vice President, Indianapolis Center (ZID) President, and NGL Onboarding Committee Rep Marc Schneider; New England Region (NNE) Alternate Regional Vice President, Hartford-Bradley ATCT (BDL) President, and NNE Onboarding Committee Rep Bryan Krampovitis; Oakland ATCT (OAK) President and Western Pacific Region (NWP) Onboarding Committee Rep Kristin Simms; and Region X (NRX) Alternate Regional Vice President and NRX Onboarding Committee Rep Edward Szczuka.
Houston TRACON (I90) member Joe Wright was working the Thursday evening arrival streams into Houston Hobby (HOU) and nearby Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base (EFD) when the pilot of a Piper Cherokee struggled to stay on the localizer for EFD and then lost his gyroscope in IFR conditions. The pilot worked to get back onto the localizer, but soon descended into a tight, steep turn. Wright saw his altitude drop rapidly, starting from 2,400 feet, then to 2,000 feet. “I asked him, ‘are you OK?’ and he said, ‘I don’t think we’re OK,’” Wright said. “That’s when I knew it was a dire situation.

“He seemed a little rattled and rightfully so. I knew, in my 26 years of aviation experience, with no gyro and those weather conditions, if you get disoriented it can go bad very quickly. My intention was to do the very best I could for him control-wise, but also keep him calm. If I got tense, it may have caused him to have a little bit of a problem in concentration.” What happened next was the incredible, safe conclusion to what Wright called the most traumatic event in his career, which he plans to retire from later this year. He will receive the 2021 Southwest Region Archie League Medal of Safety Award on June 17 in New Orleans.

Read more here. | Listen to a NATCA Podcast here where Wright recounts this event and talks about his career.

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**NCEPT Update: May 17 Panel Results Released**

The National Centralized Employee Requested Reassignment (ERR) Process Team has released the results of the May 17 panel. There were 103 selections made, two Article 124 approvals, and three mutual swaps approved. To view the selections list,
and for more information, please visit https://www.natca.org/ncept/.