Historical Committee Meets at National Office to Continue Cataloguing NATCA’s History

The charge of the National Historical Committee (NHC), which met last week at the National Office in Washington, D.C., is to catalogue, document, and archive the history of NATCA. “In order to understand what has been collected over the years, there needs to be a system in place to do this and I believe we made great strides in this endeavor,” said NHC Chair Ryan Herrick (Minneapolis TRACON, M98). “History can give the knowledge and perspective of where NATCA came from and can guide its actions in the future.”

Along with cataloguing, the committee began preparations for the 2023 Biennial Convention (June 20-22, 2023, Hollywood, Fla.) and how NATCA’s history can be put on display for members to view.

“One of the highlights for myself was to watch our small group dive into historical NATCA newsletters and just get enthralled with the articles, with lots of ‘holy cows’ and ‘that's so interesting,’” Herrick said. “It really puts into perspective what NATCA has accomplished in its nearly 35-year existence. The NHC hopes, in the near future, to have the newsletters digitized so access can be easier for all members.”
PHOTO: NHC members pictured, from left to right: Vice Chair Steve Weidner (retired, Washington Center, ZDC), Samantha Navarro (Seattle ATCT, SEA), Herrick, Kristena Jones (ZDC), Aaron Wilt (ZDC), Kelly Smith (Minneapolis Center, ZMP), and Elaine Poe (retired, Fort Worth Center, ZFW). Not pictured are committee members Della Swartz (retired, Engineers Alaskan Region), and Curt Howe (Engineers Northwest Mountain).

OSHA Committee Update: Education, Training are Recent Focuses

Education was the leading recent issue for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Committee. Chair Karena Marinas (Los Angeles Center, ZLA) reports the committee facilitated membership training earlier this month to highlight its various contract articles that apply to occupational safety and health. The training was delivered by Marinas, Great Lakes Regional OSHA Representative Xavier Rivera (Indianapolis Center, ZID), and NATCA’s Certified Industrial Hygienist Geoff Bacci.
Committee members also received training from Bacci on the management of epidemic diseases. “This is the same training that the National Executive Board received last month and offers our regional OSHA representatives the tools needed to face future health and safety issues pertaining to epidemic disease,” Marinas said.

Additionally, the Office of Workers Compensation (OWCP) Committee joined the OSHA Committee in facilitating its first in-person NATCA Academy training since 2019. “In 2020, we worked together to revamp and update the training content,” Marinas said. “This class presented our first opportunity to offer the new material since it had been approved by the National Training Committee. The class was an overwhelming success.”

Read Marinas’s full report here.

2021 Archie League Award Spotlight: Jeremy Hroblak, Scott Moll, and CJ Wilson, Los Angeles ATCT (LAX)

Numerous challenges presented themselves on the midnight shift of Aug. 19, 2020, with an inbound FedEx Boeing 767 on approach to Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) that had a retracted left main landing gear. LAX members Jeremy Hroblak, Scott Moll, and CJ Wilson, through their skill and professionalism, were able to address each of the challenges, contributing to the most successful outcome possible. For their efforts, the three members will be honored on June 17 in New Orleans with the Archie League Medal of Safety Award for the Western Pacific Region.

The captain of the flight, Bob Smith, wrote a letter describing the event from his perspective. He concluded it by stating, “As we say at FedEx to a team member for a job well done … Bravo Zulu! Thank you for your professionalism, and for your significant contribution to an aircraft incident that, because of your actions, ended with a safe landing and minimal damage to our aircraft.”
PHOTOS: (left to right) Scott Moll, Jeremy Hroblak, and CJ Wilson.

Read more here. | Listen to a NATCA Podcast episode here where Hroblak, Moll, and Wilson discuss this event.