



Rich Santa Meets with Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer

On Tuesday, May 24, President Rich Santa met with Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. During this meeting, Santa and Leader Schumer discussed many issues of importance to NATCA including staffing, hiring, training, and the professionalism of the controller workforce, especially considering



the recent challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. They also discussed the need for robust funding for the FAA and ensuring that the safety and efficiency of the National Airspace System continues to be at the forefront of deliberations in Congress. Leader Schumer assured Santa that NATCA will continue to have a critical voice at the table on important policy debates.

Varied Group of NATCA Reps at RT-1 Course

The NATCA Academy recently hosted Representative Training 1 (RT-1) in Las Vegas with 39 members in attendance. Nick Daniels (Southwest Regional Vice President, Fort Worth Center, ZFW), and NATCA Academy Instructors Jamaal Haltom (National Training Rep, Las Vegas ATCT, LAS), Martin Ramirez (Los Angeles Center, ZLA), Neil Caputo (Memphis Center, ZME), and Jason Arnold (ZME) led the 4 1/2-day course. Members who attend the course learn how to apply collaborative and traditional labor principles to real-life situations and about NATCA's expectations of local leaders.

"It was a very good class, as most of them are, but what stood out from this

class was their overall participation and activism," Arnold said. " They were a class of younger reps, which was invigorating and reassuring to know that the future of NATCA is in solid hands! It was also a varied class, since nearly all of the NATCA regions were represented, including Flight Service Stations and Region X members."



Representative Training I

Las Vegas | May 2022

Disaster Response Committee Meeting ‘Highly Successful and Productive’

The Disaster Response Committee (DRC) met in May at the National Office in Washington, D.C., and DRC Chair Tom Flanary called the meeting “highly successful and productive.” The first DRC meeting in two years began with team building, then continued with a review of the Disaster Relief Fund and upcoming needs. The group also reviewed current disaster supply inventory, where supplies are being stored, and how they are being maintained to ensure they’re readily available to all affected members when needed.

The committee discussed producing a video for membership awareness, education, and fundraising purposes. Additionally, they discussed in detail how they can best serve the membership in each region when a disaster occurs.

“This meeting enabled a lot of loose ends to be tied up and to solidify the DRC’s role to serve all NATCA members and their families in the event of a disaster,” said committee member Anthony Silver (Houston TRACON, I90). “This committee is more prepared to serve our NATCA family because we had the time to meet and plan face to face.”



Disaster Response Committee Meeting NATCA Headquarters | May 2022

PHOTO: (from left to right) Christopher Gallant (JFK ATCT, JFK), Alex Navarro III (Northwest Mountain Regional Vice President), Madeline Bostic (Wilmington ATCT, ILM), Woody Camp (San Juan CERAP, ZSU), Tom Flanary (Miami Center, ZMA), Brett Steinle (retired member), and Anthony Silver (Houston TRACON, I90).

Learn more about the DRC, including how to donate to the Disaster Relief Fund, [here](#).

2021 Archie League Medal of Safety Award Spotlight: Ingrid Owens, Brett Rolofson, and Taylor Rosenbaum, Kansas City Center (ZKC)

On a Thursday afternoon in September 2020 in the Prairie Area of Kansas City Center (ZKC), just six months into the COVID pandemic, ZKC was staffed with small teams of controllers working their shifts together for safety but still handling busy traffic volumes. ZKC



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member Ingrid “Inga” Owens was working a Yak 18T that was headed north toward Nebraska from Texas. The pilot encountered two big problems.

First, he was flying this aircraft for the first time, delivering it to its owner. It was burning fuel at a rate exceeding what he was told it would, leaving him with a shortage that led him

to declare an emergency. Second, he encountered IFR weather conditions in western Kansas airspace, with 200-foot minimum ceilings. Owens had fellow ZKC member Taylor Rosenbaum as her D-side controller. Member Brett Rolofson was working as the controller-in-charge.

“I remember at one point saying to Taylor, ‘I feel like this guy’s going to be a problem,’” Owens said. “I was just super relieved that when we asked if he was IFR-qualified, the answer was yes, because my fear was that he wasn’t and then I don’t know what we would have done.”

Owens, Rosenbaum, and Rolofson worked to help the pilot to a safe landing. For their efforts, they will receive the Archie League Medal of Safety Award for the Central Region on June 17 in New Orleans.

Read more [here](#). | Listen to a NATCA Podcast episode [here](#) where Owens, Rosenbaum, and Rolofson discuss this event.

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NATCA | 1325 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC 20005

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Sent by natcanationaloffice@natca.net