Have a Proud Juneteenth Commemoration!

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. From its Galveston, Texas origin in 1865, the observance of June 19th as the African American Emancipation Day has spread across our nation.

Today, Americans come together in remembrance, commemoration, appreciation, reconciliation, and celebration. We remember all our history. Not ignoring the parts that make us uncomfortable, we commemorate our ancestors who suffered and fought the horrific institution that was slavery. We appreciate the strength in the American spirit that was necessary to fight that evil and work to make our nation a more perfect union. We reconcile with the fact that we must continue fighting to fully realize equality for all Americans. Finally, we celebrate freedom.

On the Juneteenth holiday, we can work to understand what enslaved Black Americans went through, what their liberation meant for the country, and what that kind of progress means for us all. This sort of introspection is essential to making our nation, communities, Union, and workplaces the best they can be. Our Union embraces the Juneteenth commemoration. On this day, we commit to continuing to work toward greater equality within our Union for all our NATCA brothers and sisters.

Have a proud Juneteenth Commemoration!
Santa Meets with Rep. Rodney Davis, R-III.

On June 9, President Santa met with longtime labor champion, Rep. Rodney Davis, R-III. Rep. Davis is a senior member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee who has collaborated with NATCA since his first term in Congress in 2013. Since that time, Rep. Davis has fought for NATCA on many critical issues including the salaries, wages, and benefits of the controller workforce. In their meeting, Rep. Davis and President Santa discussed the upcoming FAA reauthorization bill, the challenges of NATCA members during the COVID pandemic and their perseverance, and how collaboration between aviation labor and Congress will be necessary to maintain the safest and most efficient National Airspace System (NAS), particularly given the increasing frequency of new entrants into the NAS.

NATCA Represented at IFATCA Virtual Annual Conference

The 61st Annual International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers’ Associations (IFATCA) Conference was held virtually May 23-26. Executive Vice President Andrew LeBovidge served as NATCA’s delegate to this conference. The conference focused on the Professional and Legal Committee (PLC) and Technical and Operations Committee (TOC) in an overhaul of the Technical & Professional Manual (TPM), which serves as a crucial guidance source for IFATCA members worldwide. TOC and PLC policy papers covered a vast array of topics, including Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) integration, TPM compliance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) guidance, and remote/virtual towers.

During the conference, NATCA member Jaymi Steinberg (Washington Center, ZDC) was elected by acclamation to serve as the TOC Chair. Also, former
NATCA Executive Vice President Trish Gilbert was confirmed for a new term as the Executive Vice President Americas (EVP AMA). In addition, NATCA President emeritus John Carr received an Executive Board (EB) Award for his work as EVP AMA from 2014 to 2021.

The next AMA Regional Meeting is scheduled for Oct. 18-20, in the Dominican Republic.

“We look forward to a year of rebuilding and are excited to be resuming in-person collaboration,” Steinberg said.

The Jamaica Air Traffic Controllers’ Association (JATCA) is slated to host the 62nd Annual IFATCA Conference in Montego Bay, Jamaica from May 8-12, 2023.

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**ATC Job Application Open June 24-27**

NATCA members: Share the news with your friends, family members and others – Do they have what it takes to be an air traffic controller? The application window opens nationwide June 24-27 for all eligible U.S. citizens. Prospective applicants can update their profile at usajobs.gov, and mark their calendar for the open application period.

**PHOTO:** Washington Center, ZDC, NATCA member Lillian Izquierdo