NATCA Announces First Enrollment Open Season for Long-Term Disability Program in Two Years

For the first time in two years, NATCA is beginning an enrollment open season for its popular UNUM group long-term disability (LTD) program. LTD insurance can be the most important part of your overall benefits package, and NATCA offers members the opportunity to purchase it at affordable group rates.

About the UNUM LTD program, NATCA Member Rich Chaves (Raleigh Durham ATCT, RDU) stated, “Thanks to this program, I knew that my wife and I would be financially safe and secure. This long-term disability insurance has been a lifesaver.”

Learn more about protecting yourself and your family and enroll today at: natcadisability.com.

NATCA Represented at AFL-CIO’s 2022 Convention

In June, union members and allies gathered in Philadelphia, Pa. for the 29th Constitutional Convention of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO). NATCA is one of the 57
Delegates from these unions come together every four years to select the Federation’s leadership and make decisions about AFL-CIO priorities.

Our Union’s delegates included President Rich Santa, Executive Vice President Andrew LeBovidge, Western Pacific Regional Vice President Joel Ortiz, National Safety Committee Chair Chrissy Padgett (Washington Center, ZDC), National Training Representative Jamaal Haltom (Las Vegas ATCT, LAS), former NATCA President Paul Rinaldi, NATCA’s Special Counsel to the President Eugene Freedman, and NATCA Labor Relations Director Nicole Vitale. NATCA’s delegates voted on resolutions and other matters pending before the body.

At the beginning of the Convention, there is a roll call for all 57 Federation unions. Santa made the response to the roll call for NATCA and said, “NATCA’s air traffic controllers and aviation safety professionals are here – We Guide You Home.”

PHOTO: (Right to left) Andrew LeBovidge, Eugene Freedman, Rich Santa, Joel Ortiz, Jamaal Haltom, Nicole Vitale, and Chrissy Padgett.
The most important business on the first day of the AFL-CIO’s 29th Constitutional Convention was the election of the Federation’s Executive Officers and its 55 Vice Presidents who make up the Executive Council, the body that makes policy and decisions between conventions.

Liz Shuler of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) was elected President by acclamation to serve as the first woman leader of America’s labor movement. Fred Redmond of the United Steelworkers (USW) was unanimously elected as Secretary-Treasurer, the AFL-CIO’s second highest officer. He becomes the highest ranking Black American officer in the history of the American labor movement.

Also, NATCA President Rich Santa was elected by acclamation as a Vice President of the AFL-CIO. He is only the second NATCA President to be elected Vice President of the AFL-CIO and serve on its Executive Council. Upon his election, Santa said, “I look forward to working with Liz and Fred to improve the lives of NATCA’s members and the lives of all of the members of the affiliated unions of the AFL-CIO.”

PHOTO: (Left to right) Fred Redmond & Liz Shuler

NATCA’s Efforts Recognized by the AFL-CIO

NATCA President Rich Santa was elected as a Vice President of the AFL-CIO. In this role, he will participate in meetings of the Executive Council to chart the path forward on union organizing, political, legislative, and other activities of the Federation.

Read more here.

At AFL-CIO Convention, NATCA President Santa spoke to support Resolution 15, Titled, “Support the Federal Workforce”
During Convention business, President Santa spoke to support Resolution 15, titled, “Support the Federal Workforce.” Among other policy priorities, the resolution called for of the AFL-CIO to “Advocate for stable, predictable funding stream for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Government shutdowns, the threat of shutdowns, and short-term continuing resolutions negatively affect the safety and efficiency of the National Airspace System. The FAA requires a stable, predictable funding stream that supports air traffic control services, staffing, hiring and training, long-term modernization, preventive maintenance, and ongoing modernization to the physical infrastructure that maintains a dynamic aviation system to provide services to all users, areas of the country, and all segments of the aviation community.”

Santa spoke passionately about the negative effects of the pandemic on our members as well as the how our members worked without pay through a 35-day shutdown. He called on the delegates to support federal workers and to advocate for the Administration’s political appointees to be confirmed by the Senate to promote effective labor-management relations. Santa concluded, “Everyday federal workers perform their duties in service to the U.S., and they should be able to do so without threats to their jobs, pay, and civil service protections. I urge the adoption of Resolution 15.” His calls were heard as the delegates overwhelming voted to adopt the resolution.

PHOTO: President Rich Santa

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President Biden Addresses AFL-CIO Delegates

On Tuesday, President Joe Biden joined the Convention. Biden told the assembled union representatives “I promise to you, for as long as I have this job, I will be the most pro-union president in history….Unions built the middle class. I am not joking, without unions there would be no middle class.” He called on Congress to pass the
Pro Act, which would strengthen the right to organize in the private sector, including the Federal Contract Tower program, and provide more teeth to the penalties for unfair labor practices committed by employers. He also addressed building the economy from the middle out, inflation, touted his successes including the American Rescue Plan, which protected Americans and their paychecks during the pandemic, and the bipartisan infrastructure law, specifically mentioning the money set aside for improvement at airports this year, something NATCA worked very hard to achieve. You can watch President Biden’s full speech [here](#).

**PHOTO:** President Joe Biden

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**Labor Secretary Marty Walsh Addresses AFL-CIO Convention Delegates**

On Monday, the AFL-CIO Convention welcomed Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh, a member of the Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA) and former head of the Boston Building and Construction Trades Council, to speak at the Convention. Secretary Walsh spoke about the right to organize and negotiate a free and fair collective bargaining agreement. He talked about the rights and benefits of being a union member and how it uplifted his family growing up and helped propel him to become a Boston City Councilmember and then Boston mayor.

**PHOTO:** Labor Secretary Marty Walsh
On Tuesday morning, the AFL-CIO welcomed voting rights advocate Stacey Abrams. Abrams passionately spoke about the links between voting rights and workplace rights. She spoke about how unions are workplace democracy in action and that local and national elections are an extension of that into the public space. Abrams also explained how the loss of voting rights and the disempowerment of people, and the empowerment of corporations, negatively affects everything, including rights at work.

PHOTO: Stacey Abrams

NATCA’s Delegates Joined Other Union Representatives to Support AFSCME Local’s Fair Collective Bargaining Agreement

During the AFL-CIO’s Convention, NATCA’s delegates joined other union representatives to support AFSCME Philadelphia Museum of Art local union 397 rally for a fair collective bargaining agreement.

PHOTO: NATCA National Training Representative Jamaal Haltom (Las Vegas ATCT, LAS), Executive Vice President Andrew LeBovidge, and Western Pacific Regional Vice President Joel Ortiz