



NATCA Leaders Represent Air Traffic Profession at Wingnuts Tarkio Airshow

Missouri Congressman Sam Graves and the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 1405, also known as the Wingnuts Flying Circus, host an annual fly-in in Tarkio, Mo., referred to as “the Greatest Little Airshow.” This month Central Regional Vice President Aaron Merrick and local NATCA members represented our Union and profession at the event. The airshow brings together general aviation pilots, aviation industry leaders, government officials, and Members of Congress to share their mutual passion for flying. During the event, Merrick talked about air traffic control issues on a panel led by Congressman Graves.

In conjunction with the event, NATCA President Rich Santa attended and met with Congressman Graves, and Executive Vice President Andrew LeBovidge joined local NATCA members for a nearby Kansas City solidarity event over the same weekend.



Wingnuts Airshow with Rep. Sam Graves Tarkio, Mo. | July 2022

“Stronger Together”: NATCA Disaster Relief Fund Fundraising Drive

NATCA established its disaster relief fund in 1992 in the wake of Hurricane Andrew in Florida. Thanks to the generosity of NATCA’s members, the fund has continued to grow, and many NATCA members have received much needed aid and assistance from the NATCA Disaster Response Committee (DRC). This month, and in anticipation of summer storms and other annual times of disaster, NATCA members are banding together to support the DRC and its efforts on behalf of our NATCA family throughout the country.



“Growing up in South Louisiana unfortunately makes you accustomed to dealing with disasters. You never truly understand the stress and emotions one goes through after having their home severely damaged unless it happens to you,” Houston Intercontinental ATCT (IAH) member Corey Soignet said. “While I can never prevent the damage, I can help alleviate some of the associated stress by providing meals, water, cleaning supplies, and even my labor. We are one Union, one family, and we are always stronger together.”

Learn more and sign up to donate at <https://www.natca.org/committees/drc/>.

I was immediately contacted by Tom Flanary who started organizing relief efforts for our membership. Volunteer teams made up of members from throughout the Southwest Region and beyond responded to clear yards, tarp and triage homes, and deliver supplies.



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NATCA Scholarship Winner Jessica Brandes Essay: “Band Together and Fight”

“**When a group advocates for a cause, it allows everyone who is supportive of the cause to band together and fight for it.**”



— 2022 NATCA Scholarship winner Jessica Brandes, child of Michael Brandes (Retired member, Chicago Center, ZAU)



Every year, NATCA offers a scholarship program for spouses, children, stepchildren, and legally adopted children of active, retired, and deceased members in good standing for at least two consecutive years. Unions empower people to advocate for better working conditions and policies on local, state and national levels, working

to achieve a brighter future for everyone. For 2022, students were asked to write in response to the prompt: “What is the difference between a group of people advocating for a cause versus one person speaking up for something they feel strongly about?”

Jessica Brandes, child of Michael Brandes (Retired member, Chicago Center, ZAU), is among the 2022 winners of the NATCA scholarship. Read the essay Jessica submitted [here](#).

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