NATCA President Rich Santa Speaks at Aero Club of Washington

NATCA President Rich Santa spoke to attendees of the Aero Club of Washington’s monthly luncheon on July 26. Santa addressed the Aero Club of Washington about ongoing challenges facing the National Airspace System (NAS), including air traffic controller staffing.

The Aero Club of Washington fosters and promotes interest in the principles and development of aeronautics and is dedicated to providing a forum for discussion of aviation and aerospace issues, as well as honoring the achievements of industry thinkers and leaders.

“As NATCA looks forward, we will be calling on Congress to address staffing and reporting issues,” Santa said. “As always, we will continue to be involved on issues that affect new technology and infrastructure. And we will be focused on new entrants into the NAS, including Advanced Air Mobility and UAS, and how they affect air traffic operations and our members. We look forward to working with many of you on our shared interests as this process advances.”

Read Santa’s full remarks here. | View the speech here.
NATCA Remembers Our PATCO Brothers & Sisters

Brothers and Sisters:

Forty-one years ago today, after 95 percent of its members rejected a contract proposal the Federal Aviation Administration's had offered five days earlier, the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (PATCO) decided to strike for safer work conditions, reliable equipment, adequate staffing levels, and fair work and pay rules. Nearly 13,000 controllers – about 85 percent of the union's membership and 79 percent of the workforce – honored the picket line. Two days later, President Ronald Reagan fired all striking controllers. About 875 controllers returned from the picket line to work before the firings, but 11,350 PATCO members stayed out and subsequently lost their jobs.

It's tough to imagine the difficult decision our union brothers and sisters faced as they took a brave and honorable stand for our profession and the safety of the National Airspace System (NAS). The costs to many of them and their families were profound and lasting. We honor their sacrifice, their commitment to our profession, and their bravery in fighting for union principles.

On this important anniversary, we ask our NATCA family to join us in remembering the sacrifice of our PATCO brothers and sisters. NATCA is
the Union it is today because our founders never forgot the great legacy of PATCO. We continue to be deeply humbled by their solidarity and commitment. We must not take our jobs or our union rights for granted. We honor them by continuing their legacy of protecting our profession and the NAS. We must fight every day to ensure the rights of NATCA members are always protected.

In Solidarity,
The National Executive Board

Upcoming Mobile Payment App Training

In September 2019, the NEB adopted guidelines governing the use by locals of mobile payment applications (such as Venmo, Cash App, or Zelle) as the means to reimburse members for appropriate union-related expenses, rather than traditional reimbursement by means of a paper check. Adoption of these guidelines was in response to the recognition that many members now primarily or solely utilize mobile payment applications for their banking needs.

Before offering a mobile payment application as a method of reimbursement, locals must: (1) notify their regional Finance Committee member and (2) participate in a remote training call with the national office.

The next scheduled trainings will be offered on the following dates:
- Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. ET
- Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2022, at 3:30 p.m. ET

Please register for the training you wish to attend here.

If you have questions about the guidelines or upcoming training schedule, please contact Law Fellow Camille Dannenhoffer-Lafage at cdlfage@natcadc.org.
Register Now for CFS 2022

Registration continues for Communicating For Safety 2022! CFS is returning to Bally's Las Vegas on Sept. 12-14 to bring together NATCA members, representatives from the FAA, and leaders of the aviation community to discuss an array of safety and modernization topics.

On August 9, the hotel room block will be cut off. After the cut-off, rooms will no longer be guaranteed and are subject to availability.

Register for CFS today here.

Keep up with all the latest news and information about CFS 2022 on our event webpage at natca.org/cfs.
NATCA holds enrollment open season for long-term disability program.

NATCA group long-term disability insurance from Unum provides all-important peace of mind in the event you lose your medical or are disabled. You insure everything else in your life that's important to you. Why leave your career and your financial stability uninsured? Enroll now, during NATCA's first open season in two years, at natcadisability.com.