



NATCA President Rich Santa Speaks at AAAE/USCTA's FAA Contract Tower Program Annual Conference



NATCA President Rich Santa spoke to airport management at contract tower airports, officials from airports interested in joining the FAA's Federal Contract Tower (FCT) Program, ATC-related companies, and other aviation stakeholders at the AAAE/USCTA's FAA Contract Tower Program Annual Conference on July 28. Santa addressed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and how NATCA and other key

stakeholders are involved in its implementation. He also talked about ongoing challenges facing the National Airspace System (NAS), including air traffic controller staffing and the CONTRACT Act, the bipartisan legislation that would provide an incentive for retired federal air traffic controllers to continue working as controllers at one of the 256 airports that participate in the FAA's Contract Tower Program without sacrificing a portion of their earned retirement benefits, specifically without their federal annuity supplement (social security supplement) being reduced or eliminated.

NATCA was a sponsor of the conference that brought participants together to discuss how the infrastructure bill will impact contract tower airports, efforts to address staffing challenges, and perspectives from Capitol Hill.

During his speech, he stated, "We expect the new BIL funding will allow

FAA and airport-owned towers to move forward with new projects and accelerate those already planned, including much-needed improvements to aging facilities, power systems, unstaffed infrastructure, and other needs. NATCA, as well as those of you who are in attendance today, need to be vigilant to ensure that FAA's F&E and AIP budgets provided for in the annual appropriations process are not reduced over the next five years while these additional BIL funds are committed to critical aviation infrastructure."

Read Santa's full remarks [here](#).

NSO FacRep Meeting Aims to "Educate to Advocate"

NATCA Southern Region (NSO) held a three-day meeting for all NSO FacReps in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., May 23-25, with NSO Regional Vice President (RVP) Jim Marinitti. The theme of the conference was "Educate to Advocate," and 70 representatives were in attendance, along with NATCA President Rich Santa and Executive Vice President Andrew LeBovidge.

"NATCA's membership is our voice," Santa said. "Our members deserve and they want information. And information is disseminated through you in this room, the FacReps."

"It was inspiring for me to see the energy and solidarity during our first full FacRep meeting since 2019," Marinitti said. "We cannot overstate the importance of investing in our membership and building the future Leaders of our Union."

Additional speakers included NATCA Director of Safety and Technology Tom Adcock, National Safety Committee Chair Chrissy Padgett, National Human Performance Representative Aaron Katz, NSO National Legislative (NLC) Representative Jenny Chhetri, NSO NLC Alternate Anthony Schifano, Training Committee Members Steve Wallace and Jamaal Haltom, Memphis Center (ZME) FacRep Chris Perdue, and NSO Labor Relations Representative Neil Caputo.

At the same time, NATCA's Union Synergy held a meeting in the same location, and joined the FacReps for a joint solidarity event after the meeting.

"Having Union Synergy meet at the same time, brief us as a committee, and joining us during our meeting and after-hours activities was invaluable. It reinforced that we are one Union and we are stronger together," Marinitti said.



NSO FacRep Meeting Fort Lauderdale | May 2022

Congratulations to Our Newest FacReps!

The NATCA Onboarding Committee welcomes and thanks all new NATCA leaders who have recently taken office for their terms as FacReps at their local facilities:

Eastern Region

Brian Hilbrandt (Stewart Federal Contract Tower, SWF)
Johnathan Missner (Manassas ATCT, HEF)

Great Lakes Region

Evan Alverson (Chicago Palwaukee ATCT, PWK)
Raul Guerrero (Chicago Midway ATCT, MDW)

Northwest Mountain Region

Nikolas Preusser (Grant County Tower, MWH)

Congratulations



to our Newest FacReps!
NATCA UNION STRONG

Southern Region

Dylan Laurenson (Fort Lauderdale Executive ATCT, FXE)

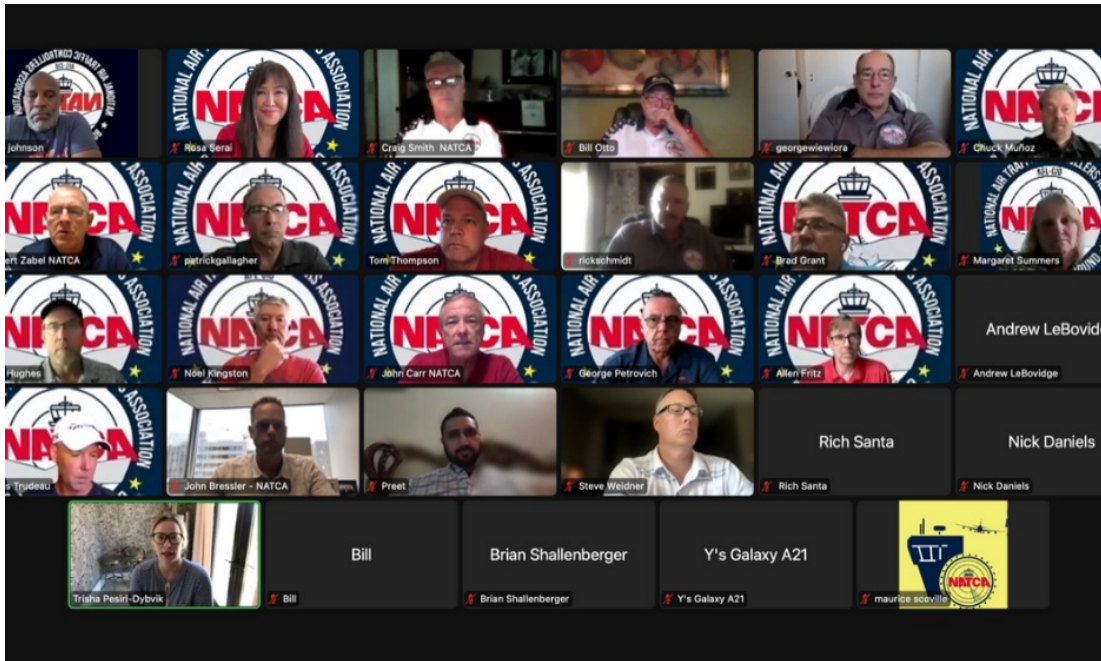
Trevor Thompson (Jacksonville Center, ZJX)

Southwest Region

David Salapata (Houston Center, ZHU)

NATCA Boots On The Ground Kicks Off 2022 Activities

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Boots on the Ground Kickoff

Nationwide | June 2022

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