



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

# Supporting Paid Parental Leave

NATCA continues to aggressively work on a technical correction to fix the loophole that inadvertently excluded Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) employees and five other federal employee workforces in the paid parental leave program that will be effective Oct. 1, enacted last December. We've been working with House and Senate leadership, members of Congress and staff, as well as relevant committees in the House and Senate, to address this issue, and several bills have been introduced. NATCA is currently advocating for the bill, H.R. 5885, Federal Employee Parental Leave Technical Correction Act, that would provide a technical fix and ensure the six workforces left out, including the FAA, will receive the 12 weeks of paid parental leave just like other federal employees.

This legislation was introduced on Feb. 13 by House Committee on Oversight and Reform Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., and committee member Carol Miller, R-W.Va.

This bipartisan legislation has 16 original co-sponsors: eight Democrats and eight Republicans. NATCA supports H.R. 5885 and is working with House leadership and the House Oversight and Reform Committee to advance this legislation out of committee and to the floor for a House vote. We will keep you updated as legislation regarding parental leave moves through the legislative process.

# Gathering Additional Support for H.R. 1108/S. 762

The Aviation Funding Stability Act (H.R. 1108 and S. 762) was introduced following the 35-day government shutdown that wreaked havoc on the National Airspace System and its workforce. If enacted, this legislation would ensure that the aviation system continues to fully operate, without interruption, in the event of a government shutdown. H.R. 1108 was introduced by Reps. Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., Chairman of the House T&I Committee, and Rick Larsen, D-Wash., Chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee. The lead Republican on the legislation is Rep. Bob Gibbs, R-Ohio, a senior member of the House T&I Committee. In the Senate, Senator Jerry Moran, R-Kan., introduced S. 762.

**H.R. 1108:** This bill, introduced on Feb. 8, 2019, has continued to gain support from both Democrats and Republicans and now has 280 co-sponsors. Co-sponsors can continue to be added to H.R. 1108 until the T&I Committee files an official "Committee Report," which is a document accompanying a bill that has been reported from a committee. The report contains an explanation of the

provisions of the bill, arguments for its approval, votes held in markup, individual committee members' opinions, dissenting opinions, cost estimates, and other information.

**S. 762:** 2019 NATCA in Washington (NiW) served as the launching pad for NATCA's advocacy on the Senate version of the legislation, S. 762, which is identical to H.R. 1108. So far, S. 762 has garnered 13 bipartisan co-sponsors.

## National Legislative Committee's First Meeting of the New Year



NATCA's National Legislative Committee (NLC) gathered last month at the National Office in Washington for their first meeting under the leadership of new NLC Chair Richard Kennington (NNM) and new Vice-Chair Trisha Pesiri-Dybvik (NWP). Both Richard and Trisha previously were NLC representatives from their respective regions. Stepping into Kennington's and Pesiri-Dybvik's roles as the NLC NNM and NWP reps are Jenny Benjamin and David Skarphol, respectively.

## NATCA in Washington 2020

NATCA in Washington (NiW) will take place March 23-25. The National Office staff, the NLC, and the NiW Planning Committee are busy preparing for another successful event where our top notch activists will spend time on Capitol Hill, advocating on behalf of our NATCA membership to elected officials about the critical work of air traffic controllers and aviation safety professionals. This year, NiW will focus on issues such as H.R. 1108/S. 762 and paid parental leave.

We are excited to announce the speakers who will appear at this year's NiW:

**Monday, March 23**

10:30 a.m. | AFL Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler

1:30 p.m. | Erica Hamrick, Deputy Chief of the Hatch Act Unit at the U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC)

## **Tuesday, March 24**

10:30 a.m. | Senator Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz.

11:15 a.m. | Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y.

[View agenda.](#)

The NATCA Charitable Foundation (NCF) has several activities planned at NiW.

[View more information here.](#)

Those members who aren't joining us at NiW can still help NCF by starting, or increasing, your NCF donation through the automatic payroll deduction.

[NCF payroll deduction form here.](#)

To be entered to win prizes and help your region in a competition that extends through Communicating For Safety in September, [sign up now.](#)

## **NATCA Academy Hosts Legislative Activism Training**



Last month, 28 NATCA members, representing all 10 NATCA regions, met in Las Vegas for NATCA's two-day basic Legislative Activism Training class (LAT). The students learned how Congress works, how bills are passed, and the basics of building relationships with their member of Congress. The students also learned about the Hatch Act and how it governs their political activity as federal employees. They practiced meeting with a congressional office in mock-meeting scenarios and learned how they can be active legislatively upon leaving the class.

In addition to the normal class curriculum, the LAT students attended a briefing on the "state of the Union" from NATCA President Paul Rinaldi and also heard about how the presidential executive orders are affecting federal unions from Southwest Regional Vice President Andrew LeBovidge. These 28 students left Las Vegas energized and ready to do their part as NATCA legislative activists.

To register for your next training course sponsored by the NATCA Academy, please visit the [NATCA Membership Portal](#). Once you have logged in, select "NATCA Academy" from the quick links. Then, select "2020 Courses."

If you have any questions, please email NATCA Training Coordinator Carolyn Kamara at [ckamara@natcadc.org](mailto:ckamara@natcadc.org).

# Hatch Act Tip of the Month

## Do Not Participate in Campaign Work on Federal Property

NATCA encourages its members to participate in campaign work. However, anything campaign-related, including actual campaign work, discussions about campaign work, or signing up or volunteering for campaign work, **MUST NOT** be done while on duty or on federal property. If you have questions about the Hatch Act, [ask your NLC member](#) or send your questions to [hatchactquestions@natca.net](mailto:hatchactquestions@natca.net).

## NATCA Activism in Local Districts

### ALABAMA: Member Strengthens NATCA Relationships



Pictured left to right: Alabama Congresswoman Terri Sewell, Alabama State Legislative Coordinator and Birmingham ATCT (BHM) Legislative Rep Antwan Acree, and Alabama Senator Doug Jones.

Alabama State Legislative Coordinator and Birmingham ATCT (BHM) Legislative Rep Antwan Acree attended an event for Alabama Congresswoman Terri Sewell and Alabama Senator Doug Jones. "I was able to talk with the staffers from each office and garnered support for aviation safety professionals," said Acree. "I helped strengthen the relationship between NATCA and each office and I consider that a great success."

## COLORADO: Members Attend Roundtable with Congressman Neguse



**Pictured left to right: Denver/Centennial ATCT (APA) Vice President Jamie Sanders, Northwest Mountain Region Legislative Rep and APA member Jenny Benjamin, and Colorado Congressman Joe Neguse.**

Colorado Congressman Joe Neguse recently hosted a labor roundtable, and Denver/Centennial ATCT (APA) Vice President Jamie Sanders and Northwest Mountain Region Legislative Rep and APA member Jenny Benjamin participated in the event. “We were able to thank the Congressman for his support during last year’s government shutdown and his sponsorship of H.R. 1108, with hopes that we can get it to the congressional floor and passed with this Congress,” said Benjamin. “We also talked about the Paid Family Leave Act and the bill, H.R. 5885, that would provide the fix for the six workforce groups that were left out. Congressman Neguse said he was going to look into getting on the bill as a co-sponsor, and since the event, has done so!

“We had the opportunity to hear from several other unions about their challenges, successes, and upcoming legislative efforts. The event was very informative.”

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## FLORIDA: Member Meets Congresswoman Frankel at Spring Baseball Game



Miami ATCT (MIA) member Vinnie Nuzzolo attended a spring training baseball game in West Palm Beach, Fla. "It was a World Series rematch between the Washington Nationals and the Houston Astros, and I had the opportunity to meet Florida Congresswoman Lois Frankel," said Nuzzolo. "I thanked her for co-sponsoring H.R. 1108 and talked with her about air traffic controller staffing."

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## **FLORIDA: Members Attend Event with Congressman Diaz-Balart**



**Pictured left to right: Miami ATCT (MIA) member Billy Kisseadoo, Florida Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart, South Florida State Legislative Coordinator and MIA member Brian Lenz, Tamiami ATCT (TMB) member Wil Kurver (TMB), and Southern Regional Vice President Jim Marinitti.**

South Florida State Coordinator and Miami ATCT (MIA) members Brian Lenz and Billy Kisseadoo, Tamiami ATCT (TMB) member Wil Kurver, and Southern Regional Vice President Jim Marinitti attended an event with Florida Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart. “We emphasized the importance of H.R. 1108 to the congressman and thanked him for supporting NATCA over the years,” said Lenz.

## **MINNESOTA: Members Thank Congresswoman McCollum for her Continued Support of NATCA and Discuss H.R. 5885**



Pictured left to right: Minnesota State Legislative Coordinator and Minneapolis Center (ZMP) member Mitch Becker, Minnesota Congresswoman Betty McCollum, ZMP member Ellen Johnson, and ZMP Legislative Rep Andrew Harrison.

Minnesota State Legislative Coordinator and Minneapolis Center (ZMP) member Mitch Becker, ZMP Legislative Rep Andrew Harrison, and member Ellen Johnson attended an event with Minnesota Congresswoman Betty McCollum. “We talked with the Congresswoman and thanked her again for her continued support of NATCA and for co-sponsoring H.R. 1108,” said Becker. “She said to this day, she is still getting flak from her committee for supporting it but said she would continue to stand with NATCA. We also talked to her about H.R. 5885, Federal Employee Parental Leave Technical Correction Act, and that we are looking for co-sponsors on that bill as well. She said she would definitely take a look at the bill.”

## NEVADA: Members Catch Up with Senator Rosen



Pictured left to right: Las Vegas TRACON (L30) Secretary Mathew Sells, L30 FacRep and Legislative Rep Anthony Borgert, Nevada Senator Jacky Rosen, and L30 member Stanley Williams.

Las Vegas TRACON (L30) FacRep and Legislative Rep Anthony Borgert, Secretary Mathew Sells, and member Stanley Williams recently met with Nevada Senator Jacky Rosen. “We had a great time catching up with Senator Rosen,”

said Borgert. “We discussed with her the importance of H.R. 5885 to our membership and asked when we might see something in the Senate on the issue, to which she responded that she could absolutely support the issue with us.”

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## **OHIO: Members Talk with Congressman Ryan about Cleveland Tower Site Visit**



**Pictured left to right: Cleveland Center (ZOB) Legislative Rep Ronnie Shonk, his daughter Teagan, Ohio Congressman Tim Ryan, Youngstown ATCT (YNG) FacRep and Legislative Rep Nick Yochman (YNG) YNG Secretary Casey Crees, and Nick and Casey's son Alex.**

Youngstown ATCT (YNG) FacRep and Legislative Rep Nick Yochman, Secretary Casey Crees, and Cleveland Center (ZOB) Legislative Rep Ronnie Shonk attended an event with Ohio Congressman Tim Ryan. “Congressman Ryan gave a short speech, thanked organized labor for attending, and discussed the future of his district,” said Yochman. “Afterwards, we were able to thank him for his continuous support of NATCA. We discussed him visiting Cleveland Tower, and he was interested in getting that visit set up. We did not have time to discuss much else with him, but I feel confident we can get his support with the correction to the Paid Parental Leave Act, H.R. 5885 in the near future.”

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## **WEST VIRGINIA: Members Attend Town Hall Meeting with Senator Manchin**



**Pictured left to right: Huntington ATCT (HTS) member Wesley Oliver, HTS Vice President Matthew Winne, West Virginia Senator Joe Manchin, and West Virginia State Legislative Coordinator and HTS FacRep Mickey Wilson.**

Huntington ATCT (HTS) FacRep Mickey Wilson, Vice President Matthew Winne, and member Wesley Oliver attended a town hall meeting with West Virginia Senator Joe Manchin. “We were able to hear Senator Manchin speak on issues affecting West Virginia and some national issues as well,” said Wilson. “We were pleased that he mentioned keeping West Virginia's air traffic control towers open during late night hours in his speech, and we were able to thank him personally afterwards for his support.”

## **RNAV Members Appointed as Delegates for Central Indiana AFL-CIO**



At a recent Central Indiana AFL-CIO meeting, President David Bride appointed delegates to serve on the committees of Political Education, Fundraising and

Special Events, Community Services and Outreach, and Indy Laborfest.

NATCA Retired NATCA Active Volunteers (RNAV) members Bob Zabel and Chris Trudeau were appointed to the Fundraising and Special Events Committee and the Community Services and Outreach Committee, respectively, and RNAV Chair Tom Thompson was re-appointed to chair the Committee on Political Education and appointed to serve on the Indy Laborfest Committee.



Congratulations to all three members that now serve on all four committees of the Central Indiana AFL-CIO.

## Boots on the Ground Member Feature: Bob and Valerie Butterworth

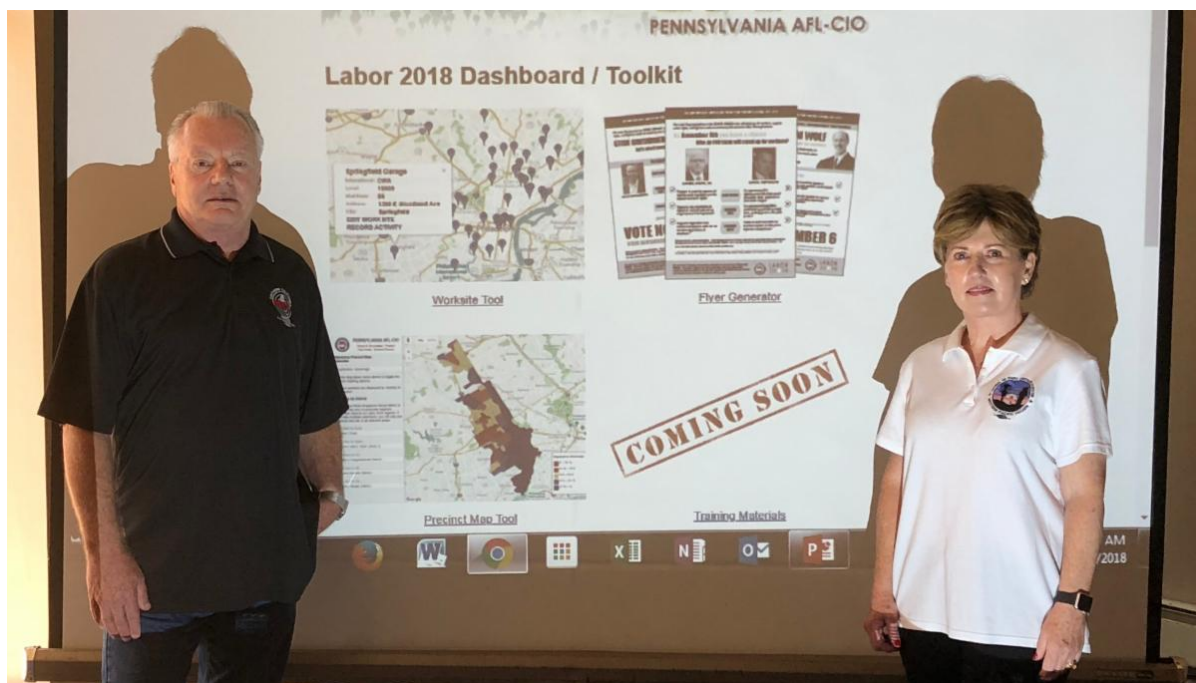


With the 2020 election season in full swing, NATCA's Boots on the Ground (BOTG) program is assembling its team of [Retired NATCA Active Volunteers \(RNAV\)](#) members and preparing to engage in the election process in several key states.

BOTG, led by Program Manager and RNAV Executive Committee Chair Tom Thompson (retired, Indianapolis Center), has been one of NATCA's most effective political activities since its inception in 2008.

Participating NATCA members work full time in the AFL-CIO's national grassroots canvassing program.

Retired members Bob and Valerie Butterworth have been two of the most dedicated members of RNAV and Boots on the Ground.



The Butterworths were selected to participate in BOTG in 2008. They participated

in 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018.

“We recognized that joining the Boots on the Ground program was an opportunity to continue our Union involvement and attempt to repay NATCA for everything that the Union has given us.

“Boots provides NATCA with the opportunity to participate on a national level with the AFL-CIO and to establish themselves as a valued asset. NATCA's participation over the past 10 years has proven how significant an impact a small but powerful and well-organized Union can make. We believe that democracy requires equal participation from everyone. The stakes for the federal employee are very high.



“Becoming familiar with the structure, administration, and internal processes of such a large number of unions associated with the AFL-CIO is, at first, a bit of a challenge. We discovered quickly that our brothers and sisters welcomed us with encouragement, guidance, and support, and it certainly simplified the process.

“Our message to future BOTG participants and NATCAvists is be a team player, expect to work hard, learn a great deal, and have some fun. BOTG is a rewarding experience and an opportunity to work shoulder-to-shoulder with the strongest union brothers and sisters on the planet!”

In Unity,

Bob and Valerie Butterworth