



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Training Enhances Our Activism

**By Richard Kennington, Chair, National Legislative Committee and
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The National Legislative Committee (NLC) charter tasks the NLC with providing the membership legislative training. At its core, all our training answers three basic questions:

- What's at stake?
- What are the benefits of legislative action?
- What are the risks of no action?

During the COVID pandemic, the NLC created

and delivered six new courses with nearly 20 virtual sessions to get the training out to as many members as possible.

With safety and health of the attendees as an utmost concern, we also were excited to conduct our first in-person legislative activism training class in nearly a year and a half this month in Las Vegas. Eleven activists from around the country attended. The attendees received two days of instruction about the basics of advocating for our profession, our pay, benefits and working conditions, and for the safety of the National Airspace System. The class had excellent dialogue, and the instructors were particularly impressed with the ability the students displayed during the congressional meeting role play. During this exercise, the activists attend a mock meeting with one of the instructors playing a member of Congress. But each meeting has specific challenges and is no easy task. Our activists used what they learned to navigate the challenges and were still able to deliver their messages successfully. Instructor and Southern Alternate Regional Vice President Jason Arnold (Memphis Center, ZME) said, "Our legislative future is in good hands with activists like these 11 members."

Relationship-building is at the core of our legislative curriculum. Everything we do legislatively is built on the foundation of strong relationships with members of Congress and staff. Strong relationships allow us to educate our representatives on issues that are important to NATCA. We are only as strong as the amount of activism our members put in. With 535 congressional offices, there are plenty of

opportunities to get involved. We just need an activist to step up and take on the responsibility of developing the relationship.

If you would like to help with NATCA's legislative success, we can use all the member activists we can get. There's a place for you. To find out how, contact your NLC member. You can find their information at natca.org/nlc.

Government Affairs Department Update

NATCA Advocates for Air Traffic Control Facility Improvements

President Biden and a group of bipartisan senators are attempting to reach agreement on a major infrastructure funding package. Negotiations have stalled over issues like transit funding and how to pay for the package, but Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., is hoping to start the process of considering this bipartisan legislation in the Senate in the coming days. It remains unclear whether a final, bipartisan agreement will be enacted into law. By way of background, earlier this year, President Biden introduced a proposal titled the "American Jobs Plan," which called on Congress to invest \$25 billion into our nation's airports, including \$5 billion in funding to upgrade Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) assets to ensure safe and efficient air travel, among many other infrastructure priorities. NATCA has been advocating for the urgent need for robust air traffic control facility upgrades to ensure the continued safety of the National Airspace System as Congress crafts infrastructure legislation. NATCA will continue to closely review and analyze any infrastructure proposal to ensure that it meets the needs of NATCA and our membership.

House Considers Appropriations Minibus, Anti-Labor Amendments Defeated

The House has been working to advance its version of the 12 annual appropriations bills, and this week the first spending bill package is on the House floor. That package, known as a "minibus," combines several appropriations bills, including the fiscal year (FY) 2022 Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (THUD) and the Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) funding bills. The House version of the THUD bill largely mirrors the President's budget proposal, which proposes funding increases for the FAA. Specifically, it proposes \$11.4 billion for the FAA Operations account. NATCA will continue to advocate for full funding for the FAA throughout the annual appropriations process.

During floor action on the minibus, the House considered over 200 amendments. Two of these amendments were anti-labor and would have restricted the ability of union members to collaborate and meet with agency officials using official time. NATCA immediately engaged key House members and staff on the Appropriations Committee, Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, Oversight & Reform Committee, as well as leadership offices, to express NATCA's strong opposition. The anti-labor amendments were defeated on the House floor.

In addition to the THUD bill, the minibus includes the House version of the FY

2022 FSGG appropriations bill. This bill has jurisdiction over federal employee pay raises. Continue reading below for an update on the 2022 federal employee pay raise.

NATCA Secures Key Changes to Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) Legislation

On Wednesday, July 28, the House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee approved bipartisan legislation, the Advanced Air Mobility Coordination and Leadership Act, introduced by Reps. Sharice Davids, D-Kan., and Garret Graves, R-La. The bill would establish a federal interagency working group consisting of DOT, FAA, and other federal agency officials and aviation stakeholders (including NATCA) to examine issues related to safety, operations, infrastructure, and security of AAM aircraft.

After reviewing an initial draft of the legislation, NATCA collaborated for several months with the bill's sponsors, Reps. Davids and Graves, along with T&I Chairman Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., and Ranking Member Sam Graves, R-Mo., to include critical changes that ensure the working group coordinates with NATCA. This allows NATCA to amplify the voice of our members as government and industry stakeholders evaluate the potential deployment of AAM. After today's passage in the T&I Committee, the next step for the legislation is the House floor.

H.R. 1108 Successor Bill Introduced

In the House, Transportation & Infrastructure (T&I) Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., Aviation Subcommittee Chairman Rick Larsen, D-Wash., and T&I Committee members Brian Fitzpatrick, R-Pa., and Bob Gibbs, R-Ohio, recently introduced H.R. 4042, the Aviation Funding Stability Act of 2021. This legislation would authorize the FAA to draw from the Airport & Airway Trust Fund (AATF) for 30 days in the event of a government shutdown. The bill is similar to H.R. 1108, the Aviation Funding Stability Act of 2019, which garnered 300 co-sponsors in the 116th Congress. NATCA joins many other aviation stakeholders in supporting H.R. 4042, and we thank those members of Congress who have introduced and co-sponsored the legislation.

Federal Employee Pay Raise Update

As mentioned above, this week the House is considering a minibus spending package that includes the House version of the FY 2022 Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) appropriations bill. This year, the legislation stays silent on an annual federal employee pay raise for FY 2022, which is essentially an endorsement of the President's proposed 2.7% pay raise included in his budget proposal. The administration has not yet offered details on locality adjustments, but it is expected that it will be communicated through the President's alternative pay plan at a later date. As a reminder, NATCA has endorsed legislation and signed onto coalition letters supporting a 3.2% pay raise for FY 2022. The Senate has not yet marked up its FSGG appropriations bill.

Upcoming Special Elections

NATCA encourages all members and their families to participate in the democratic process. [NATCA's Member Voter Center](#) is a year-round resource to find links on how to register to vote and continuous information about upcoming special elections. Below are the dates:

Ohio 11th and 15th Congressional Districts

Special Primary Election Date - Aug. 3

Special General Election Date - Nov. 2

Florida 20th Congressional District

Special Primary Election Date - Nov. 2

Special General Election Date - Jan. 11, 2022



Grassroots in Local Districts

KENTUCKY



"I had the opportunity to spend time with Kentucky Congressman John Yarmuth discussing current events happening in Washington, D.C. and Kentucky," said Cincinnati ATCT (CVG) FacRep and Kentucky State Legislative Coordinator John Buonadonna. "I discussed the CONTRACT Act of 2021 with him and why NATCA supports the

passage of this bill. Congressman Yarmuth is a friend of NATCA, and we are always grateful for the work he does on the Budget Committee and the Committee on Education and Labor."

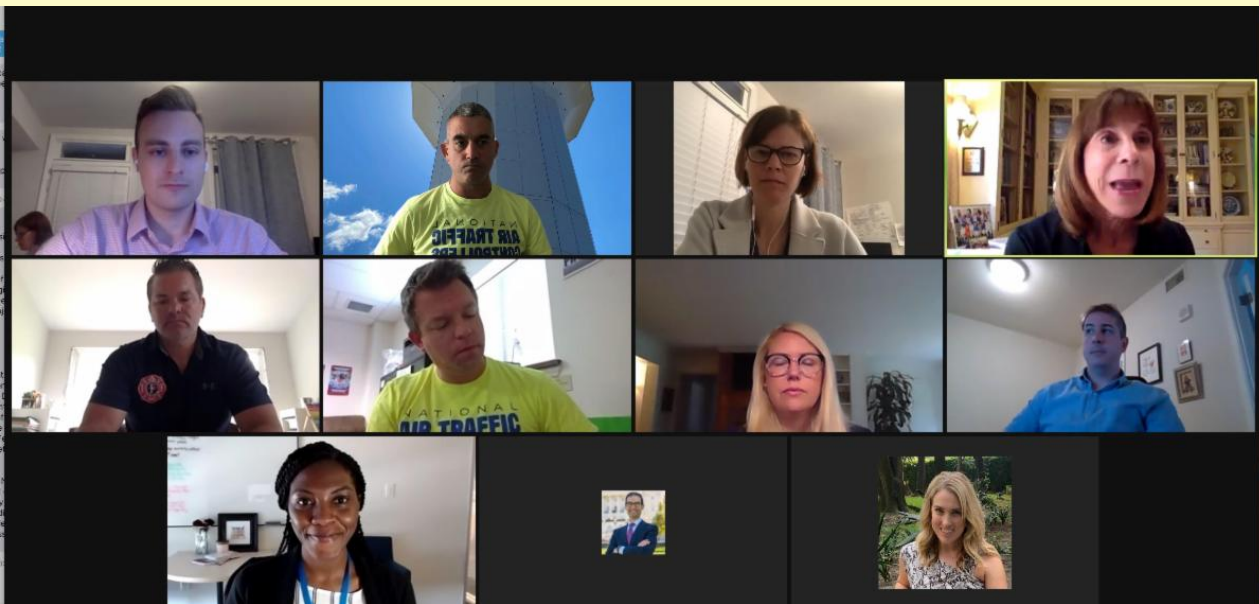
NEW ENGLAND



A team of New England legislative activists, including New England Regional Vice President Mick Devine, National Legislative Committee (NLC) Region X Rep Jason Holland, NLC New England Region Rep Andre Jean, Boston ATCT (BOS) FacRep Matt Morgan, and Bedford ATCT (BED) FacRep Ben Nutter, recently attended a virtual meeting with Massachusetts Congresswoman Lori Trahan and New York Congressman Hakeem Jeffries.

“The meeting went very well with both representatives giving a briefing on current events and conducting a Q&A session,” said Jean. “While at this event, we discussed many of NATCA's top issues including the upcoming infrastructure legislation and the need for robust funding of the nation's air traffic control facility infrastructure.”

NORTH CAROLINA



Greensboro ATCT (GSO) FacRep Ryan Hampton and Raleigh Durham ATCT (RDU) member and North Carolina State Coordinator James Walsh attended a virtual meeting with North Carolina Congresswoman Kathy Manning. “The meeting went extremely well,” said Walsh. “The congresswoman recognized NATCA immediately and mentioned that she was flying to go somewhere directly after the meeting.”

“I was able to address the congresswoman and talk to her about the new tower being built at GSO,” said Hampton. “She expressed great interest in seeing both the existing tower and the new one once it's safe to do so.”

“I thanked her for co-sponsoring H.R. 1283, Continuity for Operators with Necessary Training Required for ATC Contract Towers (CONTRACT) Act of 2021, and profiled the need for co-sponsors on the newly proposed Aviation Funding Stability Act,” said Walsh. “Her staff members were in attendance and made note of the legislation to review after the meeting.”

OHIO

Columbus, Ohio ATCT (CMH) Vice President and Legislative Rep Ben Hudak and member Mike Weekley recently met with Ohio Congressman Troy Balderson’s Legislative Assistant John Kohler, who is new to the Aviation Subcommittee portfolio but has served with the congressman since his first election. “Mike and I spent some time talking about the profession and explaining why NATCA is critical to the National Airspace System (NAS),” said Hudak. “John had lots of questions and seemed very interested in meeting again and taking a tour of CMH. We emphasized the need for robust funding for aging infrastructure in the NAS and explained how the deployment of new technology has been delayed in the past by government shutdowns.



“Our relationship with the Balderson office has been non-existent the past year or two, so we were very glad to reestablish communication.”

PENNSYLVANIA



Philadelphia ATCT (PHL) member and Pennsylvania State Coordinator John Murdock participated on a call with Pennsylvania Congresswoman Mary Gay Scanlon. “I thanked her for her continued support of NATCA,” said Murdock. “I also talked to her about H.R. 1283, the Continuity for Operators with Necessary Training Required for ATC Contract Towers (CONTRACT) Act of 2021, and potentially co-sponsoring it. She is planning on visiting the facility when we can get some tours going again.”

Legislative Resources

Ballotpedia: [Click here.](#)

National Legislative Committee: Roster, contacts, information - [Click here.](#)

State Legislative Coordinators contact list [Click here.](#)

U.S. Senate: Numbers of facilities, members, and bargaining unit members in each state - [Click here.](#)

U.S. House of Representatives: Facilities and numbers of members in each congressional district - [Click here.](#)

Legislative Updates on natca.org: [Click here.](#)

Archive of past monthly legislative updates [Click here.](#)