



**LEGISLATIVE  
UPDATE**



## **We Need You as a Member Activist**

**By Richard Kennington, Chair, National Legislative Committee and  
Trisha Pesiri-Dybvik, Vice Chair, National Legislative Committee**



The National Legislative Committee (NLC) just completed its first quarterly training for our State Coordinators. These sessions are meant to further NATCA's legislative agenda and will include other members of our legislative team in the future.

During this training, we examined the status of our

relationships with members of Congress and asked ourselves, "do we have a solid relationship with this person or are we simply an acquaintance?" An acquaintance is defined as, "a person one knows slightly, but who is not a close friend." It is NATCA's stated objective to have a relationship with each member of Congress. We discussed what it takes to accomplish this goal along with some commonalities that all successful relationships have.

The first is trust. We are honest and stick to the facts. We don't exaggerate. That has made NATCA well respected on Capitol Hill.

Second, relationships take time. Contacting our members of Congress once a year at NATCA in Washington or only when we have an ask of them isn't going to meet our objective. Building a solid relationship is a process and requires a time commitment. Our activists must attend fundraisers, invest some energy working on campaigns, and spend time with the member of Congress and their staff, getting to know each other on a personal basis.

The third common factor for every solid relationship, which is perhaps the most important aspect of relationship-building, is having a NATCA activist take it upon themselves to make it happen. We have always said that the member activist is the most important member of our legislative team and this is the reason why. When an activist commits to invest the time and energy required, incredible relationships can develop where they were never thought possible.

Southwest Region NLC member Corey Soignet told the participants, "There is no such thing as an impossible relationship, only ones that haven't developed yet."

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](http://natca.org/nlc).

## New NLC NATCA Website

### National Legislative Committee (NLC)

The National Legislative Committee (NLC) is responsible for organizing and implementing the Union's grassroots legislative efforts. The Committee is comprised of an appointed representative from each region and a chairperson and vice-chairperson elected by the committee. The NLC works with the Government Affairs Department to develop training sessions, recruit volunteers, and disseminate information about legislative activities.



#### Contact the NLC

NATCA National Legislative Committee  
1325 Massachusetts Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20005

► NLC Members

The National Legislative Committee (NLC) is proud to present its redesigned webpage at [natca.org/nlc](http://natca.org/nlc). It serves as a one-stop-shop for legislative information and resources for NATCA members. The new page has three sections: Legislative Activism, Educate, and Advocate.

The **Legislative Activism section** is a good resource to help NATCA members stay informed and engaged on NATCA's legislative efforts.

The **Educate section** includes available educational opportunities, information about how Congress works, and a voter guide that explains important legislation and how members of Congress voted.

The **Advocate section** is an in-depth resource guide to help our legislative activists take action. There is also a section specifically geared towards helping Facility Legislative Reps and State Coordinators be more effective. It includes, among other things, a link to the congressional map where members can get information about their representatives and congressional district. You will also find a link to order NATCA business cards.

We hope our new page is a useful resource for all NATCA members. Please reach out to your [NLC member](#) for information on how to be more involved or with any questions you have.

## John Bressler Named Director of Government Affairs

Deputy Director of Government Affairs John Bressler has been chosen to fill the NATCA National Office Director of Government Affairs position, effective immediately. We recently [featured Bressler in a March NATCA Insider](#), celebrating five years of employment with NATCA. We're excited to have him fill this new role.



## Government Affairs Department Update

### NATCA Advocates for Infrastructure Priorities

As Congress crafts infrastructure legislation, NATCA has been advocating for urgent air traffic control facility upgrades to ensure the continued safety of the National Airspace System. NATCA is strongly advocating for a robust funding authorization to bring air traffic control facilities up to date. Our Union surveyed all Facility Representatives at Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) facilities about the need for upgrades at their facilities. NATCA Government Affairs is using this information to support our request for the funding authorization.

Earlier this year, President Biden introduced a proposal, titled the “American Jobs Plan,” that calls on Congress to invest \$25 billion in our nation’s airports, including \$5 billion in funding to upgrade FAA assets to ensure safe and efficient air travel, among many other infrastructure priorities. Republicans and Democrats have been negotiating for many weeks in order to reach a bipartisan compromise on infrastructure legislation, but the window to reach a deal is quickly closing.

While the broader debate on infrastructure continues to play out, House and Senate committees of jurisdiction have been working on their respective versions of a highway bill, which would reauthorize federal highway construction and safety programs prior to the Sept. 30, 2021 expiration date. Those bills are on separate but parallel tracks to a broader infrastructure package. On Thursday, June 10, the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee approved its portion of the House highway bill, which will likely become the ultimate vehicle for the broader infrastructure package in the House. As the highway bill moves through the legislative process, there is a possibility that other types of infrastructure, including aviation, will be added. Therefore, NATCA will continue to advocate for our priority to bring air traffic control facilities up to date.

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### President's Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Shows Strong Support for FAA

In May, President Biden released his full budget proposal for fiscal year 2022 (FY

22), following release of the administration's "skinny budget" back in April. The president's FY 22 budget supports strong funding for the FAA (specifically, \$5 billion for repairing FAA facilities and \$11.4 billion for the Operations Account). The president's budget is an outline of his priorities and allows the appropriations committees in Congress to officially begin their work. While President Biden's budget does not have the force of law, it serves as a blueprint for Congress to work on the 12 annual appropriations bills.

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## **NATCA Activists Build Bipartisan Co-sponsor List for CONTRACT Act**

NATCA's field activists have been contacting members of Congress in the House and Senate to encourage co-sponsors on S. 419/H.R. 1283, the Continuity for Operators with Necessary Training Required for ATC Contract Towers (CONTRACT) Act of 2021. So far, there are 52 co-sponsors in the House and 47 co-sponsors in the Senate. NATCA supports this bipartisan legislation, which was introduced by Sens. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., Jerry Moran, R-Kan., and Patty Murray, D-Wash., in the Senate, and Reps. Rodney Davis, R-Ill., and Julia Brownley, D-Calif., in the House. The CONTRACT Act would provide an incentive for retired federal air traffic controllers to continue working as controllers at the 256 airports that participate in the FAA's Federal Contract Tower (FCT) Program. NATCA represents controllers at 116 of those towers.

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## **NATCA Signs Letter Supporting 3.2% Pay Raise for Feds**

The Federal-Postal Coalition sent a letter to House and Senate appropriators urging them to include a 3.2% pay raise for federal employees (2.2% across the board plus a 1% average locality pay) in the FY 22 Financial Services and General Government appropriations bill. As you may recall, earlier this year, NATCA endorsed the FAIR Act, legislation that would provide a 3.2% pay raise for federal employees if enacted.

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## **House Passes NOTAM Legislation with NATCA Amendment**

On Tuesday, June 15, the House passed H.R. 1262, bipartisan legislation that would, if enacted, establish an FAA task force to determine improvements to the Notice to Airmen (NOTAMs) system, which provides critical information to pilots regarding potential hazards in the National Airspace System. NATCA proposed a clarifying amendment to the bill before it was considered on the House floor to specify that the labor representatives on the proposed taskforce include an FAA air traffic controller representative. The NATCA amendment was accepted and H.R. 1262 passed under suspension of the rules in the House. It will now head to the Senate for consideration.

**BOTG Member Yvonne Pino Helps Lead Successful Member-to-Member Program in New Mexico Election**

NATCA Boots On The Ground (BOTG) member Yvonne Pino was contacted by New Mexico's state AFL-CIO leadership in April, asking if she was available to help run the member-to-member program for the 1st Congressional District's special election, which occurred June 1. "When they contacted me to run the program, I did not hesitate," said Pino. "I come from a VERY politically inclined family and LOVE working with other like-minded people." Due to Pino having worked the New Mexico AFL-CIO program in previous election cycles, it was decided to make the effort an official BOTG assignment.



By all accounts, the involvement of Pino and BOTG program in the special election was instrumental and very successful. The member-to-member program officially ran for the month of May, and Pino reports that she worked 8-9 hours a day. She helped set up and attend weekly zoom meetings and set up and participated in approximately 10 phone banks, 20 literature drops, and three candidate events.



**U.S. Representative-elect for New Mexico's 1st Congressional District Melanie Stansbury with BOTG member Yvonne Pino**

Pino also reported numerous compliments from member participants and an ever-improving relationship with NATCA and state AFL-CIO leadership. All involved were very appreciative of Pino's and NATCA's BOTG assistance.

"I am always amazed at the commitment the volunteers have to doing this work," said Pino. "Most of my volunteers were elderly and some are still working in their 70s, and yet they came daily to help us get the word out, that there even was an election. Many people didn't realize we had one

going on. But listening to some of the conversations was so gratifying. I am truly inspired by them!"

"Our Boots members worked through many unique challenges during the 2020 election cycle," said BOTG Program Manager Tom Thompson. "It was the program's ability to adapt and overcome that helped to highlight how truly valuable BOTG members like Yvonne can be under both ordinary and unique circumstances."

## 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:



**Texas 6th Congressional District**  
Special Runoff Election - July 27

**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

### KANSAS



Kansas City Center (ZKC) Legislative Rep Jami Davis attended a quarterly labor meeting with Kansas Congresswoman Sharice Davids. "I told the congresswoman that NATCA supports H.R. 1283, the Continuity for Operators with Necessary Training Required for ATC Contract Towers (CONTRACT) Act of 2021 and asked her to consider co-sponsoring the bill," said Davis. "She responded that she co-sponsored the bill in the previous Congress and that she would expect to support it this time as well."

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### NEW JERSEY

Atlantic City ATCT (ACY)  
Legislative Rep Mark  
Vattilana and ACY FacRep  
and New Jersey State  
Legislative Coordinator TJ  
Woodyard attended an  
event for New Jersey  
Congressman Donald  
Norcross (pictured left).  
"Accompanying

Congressman Norcross was New York Congressman Sean Maloney (pictured right), and we were able to speak with both of them,” said Woodyard.

“We briefly discussed current projects at ACY with Congressman Norcross and thanked him for all of his support.

Congressman Maloney mentioned that he had worked on legislation to help streamline hiring new controllers and asked us if we had seen good results from that. We told him of our experiences at ACY—an influx of new hires that came directly from the military with prior experience, and that we greatly appreciated all of his support. We told both congressmen that once able, we would invite them to our facility to see our operations, and they both said they look forward to doing that when the time comes.”



Woodyard also attended a virtual event for New Jersey Congressman Donald Payne. “The congressman said he has been focusing a lot of energy in the healthcare field and was proud of recent legislation that he helped with related to colorectal cancer,” said Woodyard. “He also spent some time discussing his work on the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials and said they are looking to have something done on infrastructure by the August recess. He also mentioned that he had been invited to the White House to help the president with this bill. I was able to speak with him and thanked him for his continued support of NATCA.”

## NORTH CAROLINA



Charlotte Douglas ATCT (CLT) FacRep and Southern Region Alternate NLC Rep Anthony Schifano participated on a virtual call with North Carolina Congresswoman Kathy Manning and several labor organization presidents from around North Carolina. “Congresswoman Manning wanted each of us to highlight some of the challenges we face in our respective trades and professions, and to update her on any pending legislation that would benefit or harm our respective fields,” said Schifano.

“This was a great way to once again build a relatively new relationship and outline the issues specific to NATCA and our workforce. We were able to convey the importance of the infrastructure of our facilities and airports. We emphasized the importance of a stable funding stream and how important predictability of funding was in all of the projects contained within the National Airspace System. We were also able to discuss H.R.1283, the Continuity for Operators with Necessary Training Required for ATC Contract Towers (CONTRACT) Act of 2021, and explained exactly what the bill addresses and to consider supporting it. Her chief of staff said they were going to look into it right away.”

Raleigh Durham ATCT (RDU) Secretary and North Carolina State Legislative Coordinator James Walsh recently spoke with North Carolina Congressman David Price via Zoom. “The meeting went great,” said Walsh. “We have a great relationship with Congressman Price and his staff. It was notable that I was selected first to address the Congressman. His staff member recognized my name and NATCA shirt and gave me priority to speak. This is another good example of why developing relationships is important with members of



Congress. I asked the congressman to co-sponsor H.R.1283, the Continuity for Operators with Necessary Training Required for ATC Contract Towers (CONTRACT) Act of 2021. He was impressed and said he would get back to us with an answer.”

## NATCA in Washington Registration Opens July 6

The National Legislative Committee, National Office Government Affairs Department, and the NATCA in Washington (NiW) Planning Committee are excitedly planning for a return to our nation’s capital for NiW 2021. This year’s event will be held Oct. 4-6 at the Marriott Marquis in Washington, D.C., just down the street from the NATCA National Office.



Registration for NiW 2021 opens on Tuesday, July 6, and will close on Tuesday, Aug. 17. As we move closer to the event, we will continue to put all news and information on the [NiW webpage](#).

## 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](#).

**NATCA in Washington 2021:** [Click here](#).

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

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

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