



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Hatch Act Warning: *Please do not view this information in a federal facility, using a federal government-owned computer, or on work time. Also, do not distribute, display, or post this information in a federal facility.*

Rest in Peace Justice Ginsburg

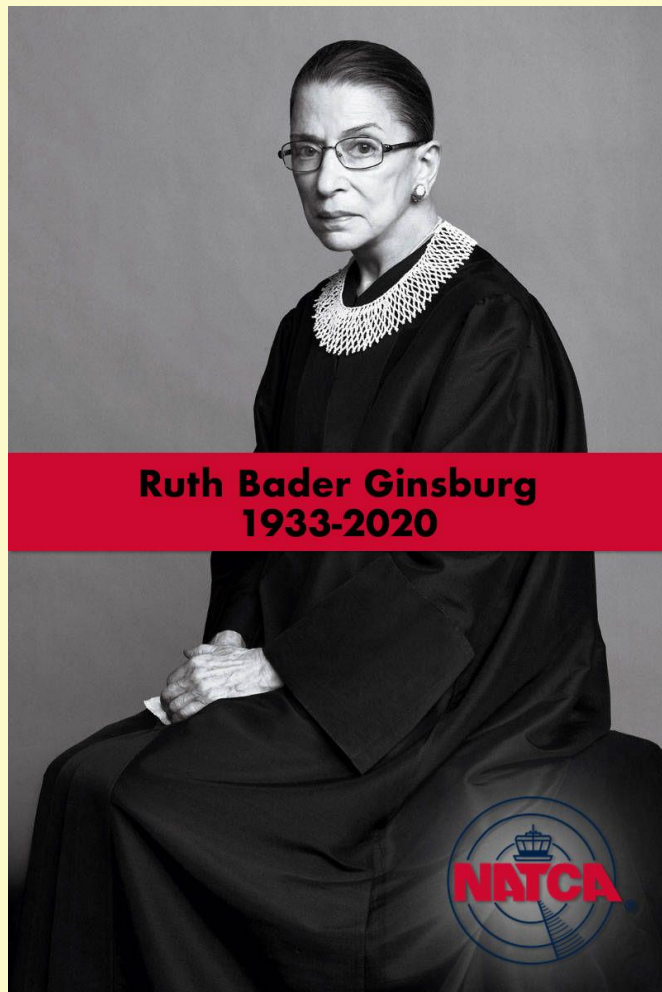
Brothers and Sisters:

We share your grief at the passing of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She was a towering champion for civil rights and a steadfast defender of the proposition that prejudice should have no place in American life, demanding instead that all must be treated equally. From her early, groundbreaking work regarding gender discrimination through her 40 years as a jurist, Justice Ginsburg applied her considerable skills and intellect to persuade others to rethink and abandon outmoded stereotypes.

We mourn and feel great sadness, but we must not despair. We are grateful for her effect on our lives and our country and appreciate the resolve and determination she brought to the task of moving our nation toward the ideal of "a more perfect Union."

We honor her life's many accomplishments and legacy as one of our nation's greatest civil rights and progressive heroes by being motivated by her to become more involved. Ginsburg said, "Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."

Remember her! Together, we can ensure that the ideals for which she stood are nurtured and strengthened. Join us, and take this moment to make a plan to vote and encourage your family and friends to also vote. Also, join your NATCA brothers and sisters in volunteering through our Union's Campaign 2020 and the



Retired NATCA Active Volunteers (RNAV) Boots On The Ground efforts to support the many important campaigns happening right now.

[NATCA Voter Info Center](#) | [NATCA Campaign 2020](#) | [Boots On The Ground](#)

Government Affairs Update

The following is an update from NATCA's Government Affairs Department:

Congress Approaches Sept. 30 Funding Deadline

A government funding bill must be passed and signed by the President by the end of this month in order to avoid a government shutdown on Oct. 1. On Friday, Sept. 18, House and Senate negotiators reached a tentative deal on a Continuing Resolution (CR) that would fund the government through Dec. 11, however talks are still ongoing and uncertain. NATCA remains vigilant and continues to urge Congress to prevent a government shutdown while advocating for a stable and predictable funding stream. Government Affairs is also advocating for a solution to ensure the continued solvency of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund as part of the CR in order to support the FAA so that it can continue to operate and maintain the National Airspace System (NAS).

COVID Relief Bill Remains Elusive

The health and safety of NATCA's members is critical in order to ensure a safe and efficient NAS. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, NATCA has been seeking protections for essential aviation workers. NATCA's senior leadership and the FAA continue to collaborate on ways to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on the NAS and the air traffic controller workforce. NATCA's Government Affairs staff has been advocating for legislation to ensure the safest possible working conditions for air traffic controllers and other essential aviation safety professionals.

In May, the U.S. House of Representatives introduced and passed a bill (H.R. 6800, "the HEROES Act," also known as "CARES 2.0"). The proposal contains many provisions that would help protect NATCA's members during the pandemic. However, this legislation has not advanced beyond the House and the lack of bipartisan agreement between Congress and the White House has delayed enactment of any additional COVID-19 relief legislation. Negotiations for another COVID relief package have largely remained stalled between Democrats and Republicans, and it is unclear if another COVID relief bill will be enacted before Election Day. Nonetheless, NATCA continues to advocate on behalf of our members for these critical priorities.

Update on Paid Parental Leave for FAA Employees

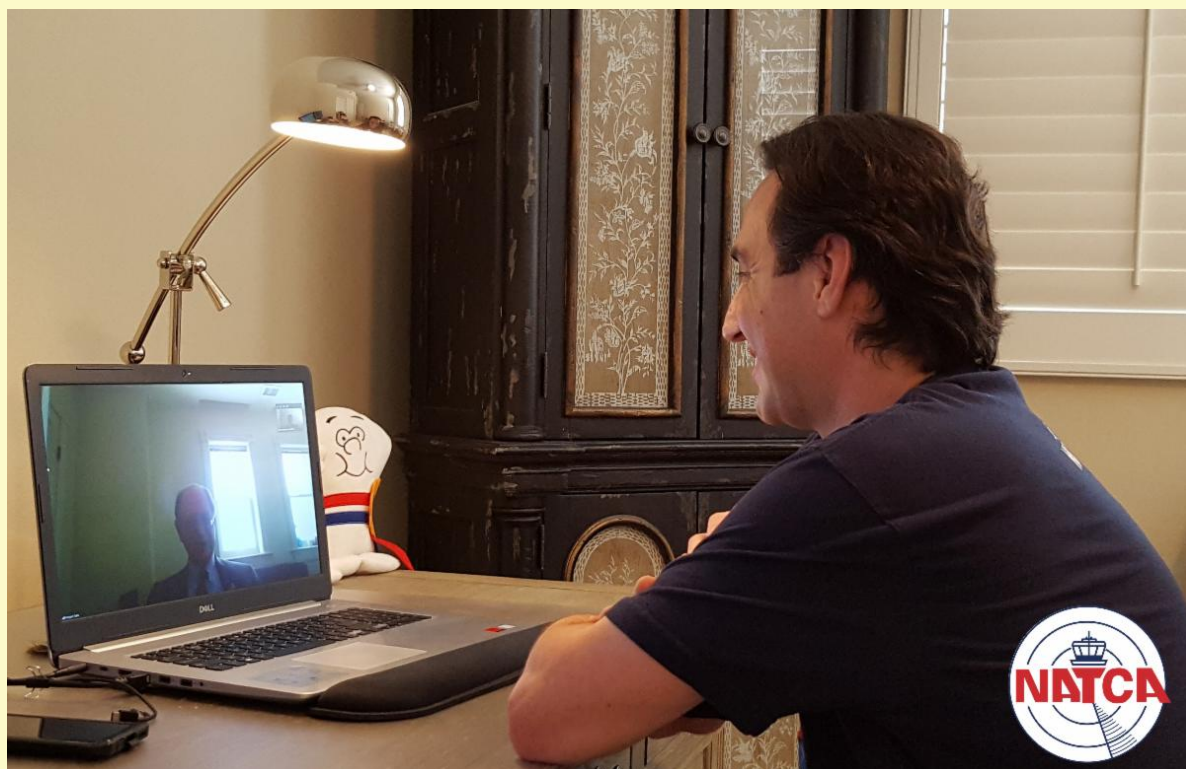
As you may recall, NATCA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the FAA in May to provide 12 weeks of paid parental leave (PPL) for qualifying events occurring on or after Oct. 1, 2020. On September 3, 2020, NATCA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the FAA that implements PPL for BUE's. This benefit covers all members employed by the FAA.

NATCA's Government Affairs staff is working to ensure that this benefit is codified in law for both current and future FAA workforces. This is why NATCA continues to aggressively seek a technical correction to fix the loophole that inadvertently excluded FAA employees and five other federal employee workforces from the 12-week paid parental leave proposal enacted last December as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020 (FY 20 NDAA; P.L. 116-92). NATCA has successfully secured the technical correction in the House version of the FY 2021 NDAA bill, which is now headed to "conference" with the Senate version of the legislation. As a reminder, a final bill must be agreed upon in Congress before being signed into law by the President.

Similar to last year, the NDAA has faced delays this year, and final action is not expected on the legislation until after Election Day. NATCA's Government Affairs staff continue to advocate for the paid parental leave technical correction and is looking at all other legislation as possible avenues to secure this fix.

Virtual Grassroots in Local Districts

CALIFORNIA



Van Nuys ATCT (VNY) member Peter Kasabian recently received a special call from California Congressman Brad Sherman. "I was thinking it was one of his staffers wanting to discuss aviation," said Kasabian, "but lo and behold, the voice on the other end said, 'Please hold for Congressman Sherman.' All the training I've received from NATCA's National Legislative Committee on building a relationship really came to fruition. The congressman and I chatted briefly about the upcoming election, and I updated him on the increasing traffic count at Van Nuys Airport. At the end of the conversation, Congressman Sherman stated how he has always supported NATCA. I thanked him for all that he does. It was a pleasant conversation, and I was proud for doing my part for our Union."

A few days later, Kasabian was able to update the congressman with the latest

operational numbers for VNY. “He seemed impressed with the latest VNY average operational count, and we discussed likely contributing factors: an increase in flight training and an increase in private jet travel due to limited airline options for first-class flight travelers. Additionally, we discussed the steps VNY has taken to remain operational and safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. The congressman expressed that he is ‘95%’ confident that a CR will take place before the current budget expires on Sept. 30.”

GEORGIA



Atlanta ATCT (ATL) member Blake Locke, Savannah ATCT (SAV) member Nick Matthews, and Atlanta Center (ZTL) member Christopher Smith attended a virtual event with Georgia Congressman Earl “Buddy” Carter. “We briefly discussed the effects of the coronavirus pandemic and how our workload has remained steady despite the reduction in commercial air traffic,” said Smith. “Congressman Carter is a co-sponsor of H.R. 1108 and has been a longtime friend of NATCA. We were sure to thank him for his continued support for our organization.”

ILLINOIS



Illinois Congressman Rodney Davis joined nearly 30 NATCA members from across his district and the state of Illinois for a NATCA only ZOOM call. “The congressman briefed the members on a variety of subjects, including his own experience with COVID-19,” said Chicago Center FacRep Toby Hauck. “He spoke about the COVID Relief Bill and the effects the pandemic has had on the country. He also expressed his gratitude for the job we do day in and day out: keeping the National Airspace System safe.”

KENTUCKY



Lexington ATCT (LEX) member Elida Bermudez recently had a Zoom meeting with Kentucky Congressman Hal Rogers. Bermudez stated, "I thanked [the congressman] for his continued support and discussed with him our COVID work schedule and how it enables us to 'contain' a possible case of COVID, all the while allowing us to support the local flying community."



Kentucky Congressman John Yarmuth has been a friend of NATCA since his congressional career began in 2007. Greater Cincinnati ATCT (CVG) FacRep John Buonadonna participated in a one-on-one Zoom meeting with the congressman which provided ample time to catch up and discuss issues important to NATCA members. "Congressman Yarmuth was concerned with how aviation specialists were being impacted by COVID-19," said Buonadonna. "We discussed day-to-day examples of how the pandemic has changed the lives of NATCA members, which provided an opportunity to address how NATCA's collaborative relationship with the Agency and agency leadership has really helped the organization through this national crisis."

PENNSYLVANIA



NATCA Pennsylvania State Legislative Coordinator Chuck Zielinske and NATCA Pennsylvania Campaign Lead Greg Waitkus attended a virtual event for Pennsylvania Congressman Conor Lamb. “Congressman Lamb, who is on the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee and a friend of NATCA, spoke about how important transportation is to the economy,” said Zielinske. “He also stressed the importance of labor unions and thanked us for our work.”

NEVADA



NATCAvists in Action! Las Vegas TRACON (L30) members Anthony Borgert, Dan Hauptman, Patrick Skogen, and Stanley Williams were out pounding the pavement, doing a literature drop in Southern Nevada.

NEW JERSEY

Atlantic City ATCT (ACY) FacRep and New Jersey State Legislative Coordinator TJ Woodyard recently participated on a call with New Jersey Congressman Andy Kim and New Jersey Senator Cory Booker. “I took a brief moment to introduce myself, thanked both the congressman and senator for their support of NATCA, and provided a very brief synopsis of our situation regarding COVID-19 at ACY,” said Woodyard.



TENNESSEE



Bristol Tri City ATCT (TRI) Vice President and Legislative Rep Ray Castaldini attended a virtual meeting with Tennessee Congressman Jim Cooper. “The meeting was fairly small with only 10 participants, including the congressman,” said Castaldini. “I introduced myself as a NATCA controller at TRI, and we talked about the TRI City Airport, mask mandates in Nashville, and COVID-19 news. I thanked the congressman for his continued support for our organization. Overall, it was a great experience, and I was glad to be a part of it.”



Chattanooga ATCT (CHA) Vice President Rushelle Bradfield Arbogast participated on a Zoom call with Tennessee Congressman Chuck Fleischmann. “I had a great meeting with Congressman Fleischmann,” said Bradfield Arbogast. “I thanked him for his continued support for NATCA and for co-sponsoring H.R. 1108. He thanked us for all we do and said he is always impressed with how well we do our job. He went on to say that our job is not easy, but we make it look easy. He also made a point to say that we are always there whenever he needs ‘cheerleaders’.”

Hatch Act Tip of the Month

The Hatch Act prohibits federal employees from using their official authority or influence to affect the outcome of an election. But how does this apply to NATCA members? What influence do we have?

Federal employees, including NATCA members, may not wear anything identifying themselves as federal employees when engaging in partisan political

activity. This includes wearing an FAA badge when engaging in partisan political activity.

You also may not reference that you are an FAA, DOT, or federal government employee while engaging in partisan political activity. This includes listing your federal facility. For example, it is improper to say, “as an air traffic controller at Memphis tower, I support candidate X.”

All congressional visits to federal facilities must be coordinated with your NLC Rep who will work with the FAA to receive all of the necessary approvals. We cannot invite a partisan candidate to a facility for a campaign related purpose.

On social media, federal employees may include their official titles or positions and where they work in their social media profiles, even if they also include their political affiliation or otherwise use their account to engage in political activity. However, federal employees may not use their official titles or positions when posting messages directed at the success or failure of a political party, candidate in a partisan race, or partisan political group.

NATCA Academy Virtual Learning: Upcoming Legislative Classes

We have upcoming legislative classes scheduled as part of our NATCA Academy Virtual Learning program:



What You Need to Know About Funding the FAA

Sept. 23, noon EDT

Course Description: Having experienced the longest shutdown of the federal government in history, many members were curious how we got there and what can be done to prevent it in the future. NATCA has been advocating for a stable, predictable funding stream for years but many don't understand why. This is your opportunity to learn about the U.S. budgeting and appropriations processes so that you understand the issue and can educate your fellow NATCA members.

NOTE: *This course is Hatch Act friendly.*

NEW!

Money in Politics: A Necessary Evil?

Sept. 25, 1 p.m. EDT

Course Description: Do you think there is too much money in politics? Have you wondered why the Supreme Court allowed super PACs? These questions and others will be explored in this class. We will dispel myths surrounding this topic and participants will be able to explain why the system is the way it is.

NOTE: *This course is not Hatch Act friendly. Please do not attend this course while on duty or in a federal workplace.*

To register for these classes: Please go to portal.natca.org. Once you have logged in, select “List of Events” from the Events menu tab. Then, select “NATCA Academy Virtual Learning.”

For a full list of all upcoming Academy Virtual Learning classes, [please click here](#).

Boots On The Ground Activities

The COVID-19 pandemic is creating numerous unusual challenges for everyone, including NATCA's Boots On The Ground (BOTG) program. BOTG members continue to work closely with the AFL-CIO at state and national levels to educate union members about where candidates stand on the issues important to labor. BOTG members all across the country have been heavily involved in phone banking, text banks, and literature drops. See below for the most recent state updates.



There are volunteer opportunities for Retired NATCA Active Volunteer members with availability now through early November. The AFL-CIO and NATCA are looking for election cycle volunteers to help in various capacities including:

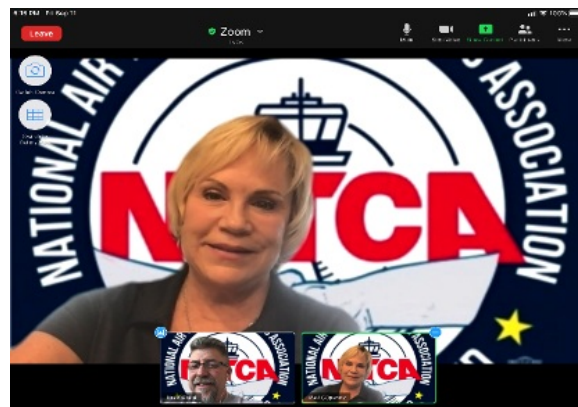
- Educating union members on labor endorsed candidates,
- Getting out the vote,
- Various administrative related duties,
- General assistance in support of local labor council activities, and
- Taking action in legislative activities.

If you are interested in a flexible, no obligation way to give of your time in support of NATCA and the labor movement in your area, please fill out the following [survey](#) so we can identify your possible volunteer opportunities.

No experience is necessary, instructions provided. Note: There is no pay, mileage, or reimbursement available with this volunteering. This is voluntary and requires only as much time as you are willing to donate.

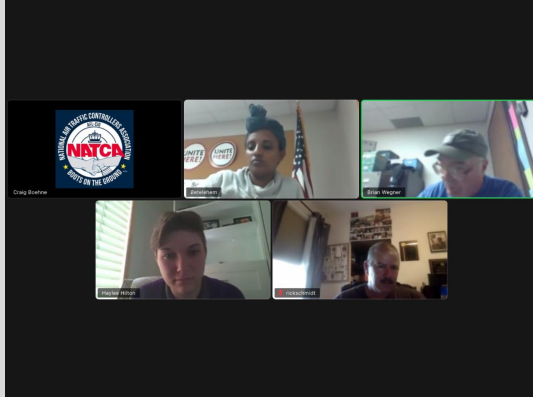
FLORIDA

"As we move into our second phase of the election cycle, you can feel the momentum building." -Penny Lloyd



MINNESOTA

"The energy I have witnessed in the first two months amongst staff, volunteers, and voters has been nothing short of amazing! I have no doubt whatsoever that Minnesota



labor will play a monumental role in the outcome of this election."
-Craig Boehne

NEVADA

"August was a month of phone banking, making sure members are registered, ensuring the right address is in the voter database, and getting ourselves known in the Nevada labor circles. I must have made several thousands of phone calls and had some challenging, some energizing, and some emotional talks with people of all ages and walks. What I have noticed is that we are all one people and want change." -Rosa Serai



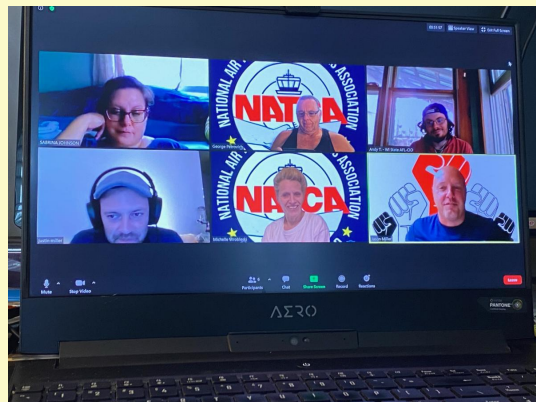
NORTH CAROLINA

"Text banking in one week included over 25,000 texts to talk about vote by mail. We were able to get through all 25,000 in less than an hour. The consensus so far is that the text banking is a more efficient use of our time and ability to reach more union members."
-Margaret Summers

VIRGINIA

"While I have talked about one union in particular, this kind of work and cooperation is happening with all the unions that we work with. NATCA has

made a name for itself in Virginia that will never be forgotten." -Craig Smith



WISCONSIN

"Our Wisconsin labor 2020 team on our weekly call. NATCA is front and center." -George Petrovich

Visit the Member Voter Center, Your One-Stop-Shop for All Information to Register & Vote

NATCA has a Member Voter Center at www.natca.org/vote. It's our Union's one-stop-shop for all the information you'll need to register and vote in your state. We recently added links to enable our members to track the status of their mail-in ballot. We have also added links to find your polling place should you choose to vote on Election Day.

Our Union can't support those who support us in the NATCA

Majority and make decisions that affect us if NATCA members don't participate in the electoral process. Participation starts by ensuring that you, your family, and your friends are all registered to vote. Just as important, especially during the pandemic, is understanding your state's process for remote voting and early voting. This will allow you to participate in this year's election and ensure your safety. We encourage you to check out these voting resources.



Beat the Rush! Skip the Line! Avoid the Crowd!



HAVE A VOTING PLAN

- ☒ Verify that you are registered to vote
- ☒ Know the voting options in your state
- ☒ Vote early, stay safe!

VISIT
NATCA.org/vote

Legislative Resources

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](#).

