



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Congress Adapts to its New 'Normal'

The uncertainty brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic has required Congress to develop new and innovative ways of conducting business. The House has adopted rules that allow virtual committee work, including hearings and markups, as well as proxy voting for members of Congress who are unable to travel to Washington, D.C. for in-person voting. Although the Senate has not adopted the same rules and continues to conduct its business in person, social distancing and live-streamed committee work have become standard operating procedures.

There is limited or no public access to House and Senate office buildings, meaning only congressional members and staff are allowed. These limits have dramatically altered interaction with Congress. NATCA's Government Affairs staff members are continuing our advocacy and outreach virtually, by holding meetings with members of Congress and their staff through phone calls or video calls until the Capitol re-opens to visitors. NATCA's Government Affairs staff also have been tuning into all virtual committee work relevant to NATCA members and the National Airspace System.

The congressional schedule continues to be modified as a result of the pandemic. Congress faces a slew of deadlines for must-pass legislation before the end of the year, including the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), fiscal year 2021 appropriations bills, as well as surface transportation (more on this later in this update) and water reauthorization measures. The Senate also continues to advance and confirm judicial nominees. As the calendar inches closer to the November election, significant amount of time in late summer and early fall will be reserved for "District Work Periods."

Virtual Grassroots NATCA Activism

The pandemic has also required a new and innovative way for our NATCAvists to continue the important work of building and maintaining the Union's relationships with members of Congress and their staffs. Below is our report this month on that effort, taking place around the country.

EASTERN REGION: New Jersey

New Jersey State Coordinator TJ Woodyard (Atlantic City, ACY) met with New Jersey Congressman Andy Kim (left) recently. "I was able to spend some time



discussing our local situation at ACY, and the Congressman noted during his remarks to the group that he recalled seeing first-hand the close quarters that we work within during his visit to ACY back in the fall," Woodyard said. "He fully understands the challenges we face in keeping our members safe because of the confined space. He is very clearly engaged in our concerns, and remarked that he is committed to ensuring our members have a voice to help ensure that we get what we need as we move into whatever the new normal looks like for us through the pandemic and into the future."

EASTERN REGION: New York

Alternate National Legislative Committee Eastern Region Representative Dave Romano and fellow New York Center (ZNY) member Rich Yao participated in a Zoom meeting with New York Congressman Tom Suozzi (right). There were many other participants in the meeting, but Romano said they stood out with a yellow NATCA background on their screens. "He mentioned us multiple times either by name or as 'the air traffic controllers.'"



GREAT LAKES REGION: Michigan



Detroit ATCT (DTW) member Matthew Arington participated in a Zoom roundtable meeting with Michigan Congresswoman Elissa Slotkin (left). The meeting, Arington said, "pretty much revolved around a status update of COVID-19 and what the Congresswoman is doing (CARES Act, HEROES Act, etc.) to help front line workers and constituents."

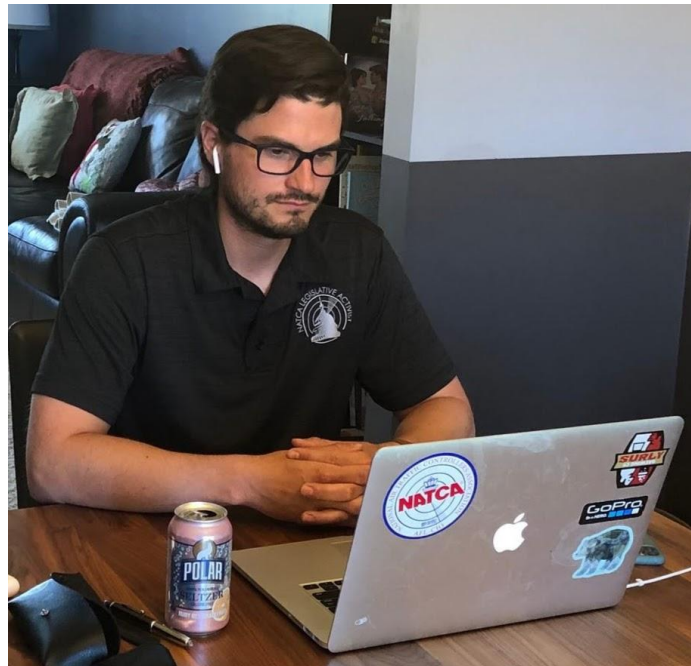
GREAT LAKES REGION: Minnesota



Rochester, Minn., ATCT (RST) FacRep Chris Barrie attended his first virtual meeting with Minnesota Congressman Jim Hagedorn. "I introduced myself to him as the local president of NATCA and a constituent who was born and raised in Rochester, Minnesota," Barrie said. "I took a moment to thank him for his support on H.R. 1108 which allows the FAA to draw on funding from the aviation trust fund in the event of an interruption in funding."

"Representative Hagedorn responded by saying that he fully supports our organization on the issues. He talked about his time as a patient at the Mayo Clinic and demonstrated an understanding of how vital the Rochester Airport is in Mayo's operation. He also spoke briefly about seeking adequate funding for airport construction projects."

Wyoming Congresswoman and House Republican Conference Chair Liz Cheney also was in the meeting.



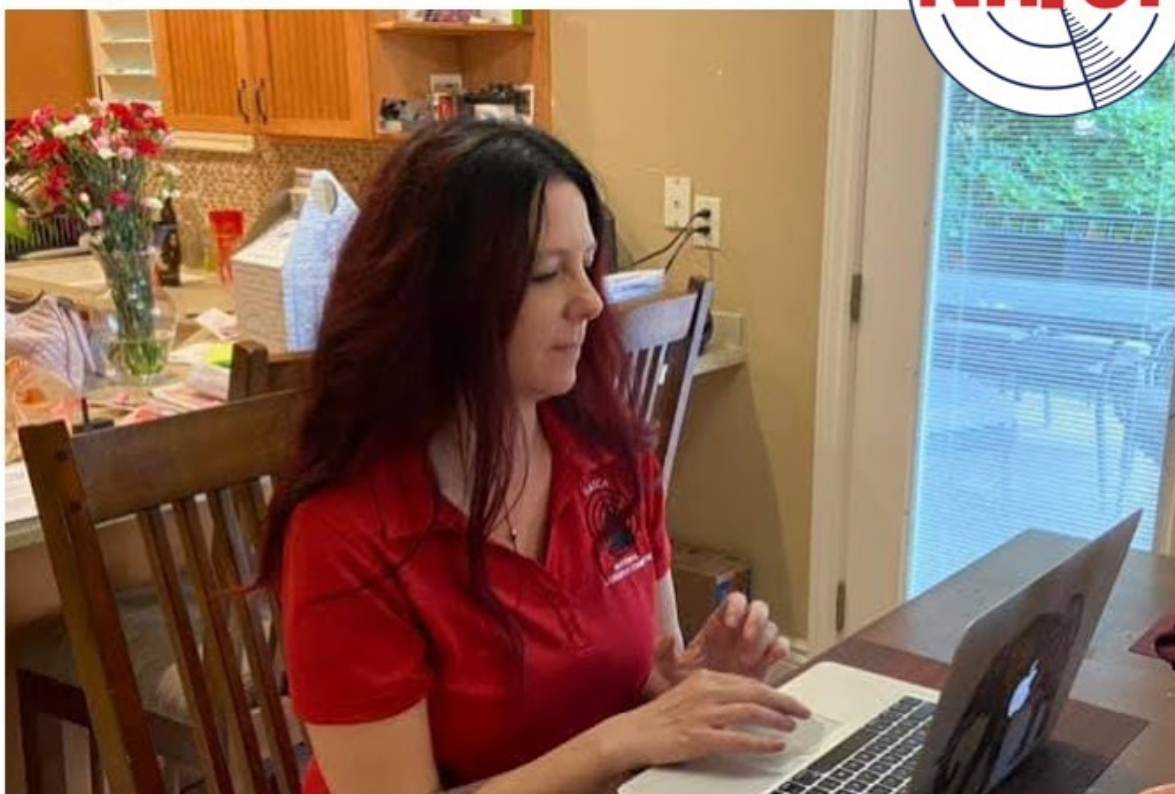
NEW ENGLAND REGION: Rhode Island



Providence ATCT (PVD) members Jamie Green (pictured top right) and Kurtis Fotheringham (top row, second from left) joined a virtual town hall hosted by Rhode Island Congressman David Cicilline (between Green and Fotheringham. "Kurtis and I were able to thank Congressman Cicilline for all of his support not only for NATCA but for Rhode Islanders as well," said Green, who serves as the New England Region mentee on the National Legislative Committee. "We discussed the dynamic scheduling and our ability to social distance and continue air traffic responsibilities to maintain safety, not only for aircraft but for our personnel as well."

Said Fotheringham: "We explained the importance of our ability to negotiate with our Agency counterparts and how important it was for everyone to be on the same page as we moved forward with our scheduling and planning. He then commended us on all of our efforts and wanted to share his gratitude and thanks to all controllers for their hard work and dedication to the safety of the flying public."

NORTHWEST MOUNTAIN REGION: Utah



National Legislative Committee Northwest Mountain Region Representative Caryn Morrison (Salt Lake Center, ZLC) and ZLC member Tyler Ellis met on Zoom with Utah Congressman Chris Stewart, and two of his staff members. "I introduced Tyler to the group and then we spoke about traffic and dynamic scheduling," Morrison said. "I thanked the Congressman for his support on H.R. 1108. He said that he doesn't think we need to worry about a shutdown any time soon, but that he is worried about the economy and we need to get the airlines flying again soon."

SOUTHERN REGION: Georgia



National Legislative Committee Southern Region Representative Jenny Chhetri (Atlanta ATCT, ATL) had a virtual meeting with Georgia Congresswoman Lucy McBath, who was a Delta Air Lines flight attendant for 30 years. Her husband is still active in the profession. "I thanked her for co-sponsoring H.R.1108," Chhetri said. "She supports funding for air traffic controllers because she understands just how important we are to the National Airspace System. She also applauded us for our professionalism during the 35-day government shutdown. We talked about how Atlanta air traffic controllers have adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic in order to prevent the spreading of the illness."

SOUTHERN REGION: Georgia, South Carolina

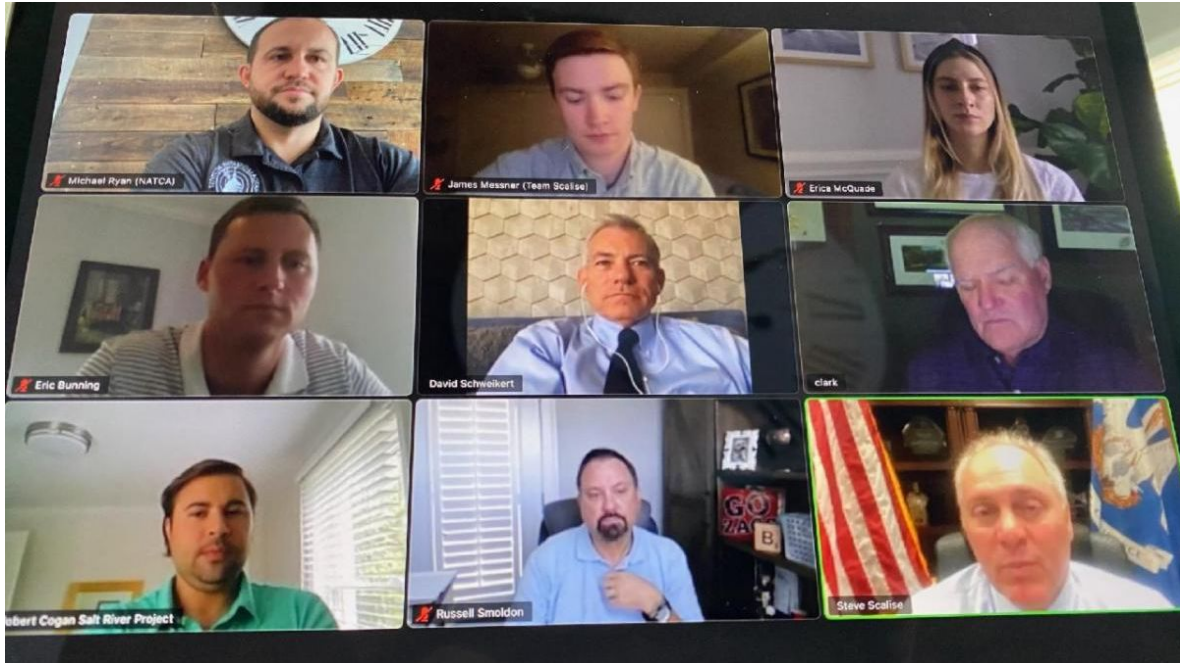
NATCA South Carolina State Coordinator Matt Trimble (Columbia, S.C., ATCT, CAE) and activist Adrienne Turley (Atlanta ATCT, ATL) joined National Legislative Committee Southern Region Representative Jenny Chhetri for a Zoom conference with Congressmen Sanford Bishop of Georgia (pictured far right) and Jim Clyburn of South Carolina



(near right). "Our organization got a shout-out as they acknowledged the importance of our profession and we were thanked for our professionalism," Chhetri said. "Both members of Congress remained somber as they addressed the death of George Floyd, in addition to other deaths at the hands of law enforcement. They condemned the violent protests, riots, and looting and assured Americans that justice will be served. They also discussed the need for accessible, affordable healthcare and education, and the importance of voting

was emphasized."

WESTERN PACIFIC REGION: Arizona



NATCA's Arizona State Coordinator, Mike Ryan (Phoenix TRACON, P50; pictured top left) joined Arizona Congressman David Schweikert and House Minority Whip Steve Scalise of Louisiana on a Zoom call last week. They discussed a variety of topics including COVID-19-related items and a possible new stimulus package.

WESTERN PACIFIC REGION: California

Southern California TRACON (SCT) member Christina Munro had a phone meeting last week with California Congresswoman Katie Porter (right). Munro is the contact for the Congresswoman's office on aviation-related questions. Munro said they discussed the Congresswoman visiting the facility when it is safe to do so after it opens back up for visitors. "She said one of her favorite things is going on tours because she really gets to learn about a lot of things and uses what she's learned as teaching moments for her constituents who call to complain about things they don't fully understand," Munro said.



Hatch Act Tip of the Month

Do not solicit members for the NATCA PAC while you or they are on duty or on federal property. Do not distribute, fill out, hand in, or collect NATCA PAC forms while on duty, including official time, or in a federal building, including the NATCA office.

House \$1.5 Trillion Infrastructure Plan Includes ATC Facility Maintenance

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee approved its version of surface transportation reauthorization legislation (H.R. 2, the Invest in

America Act) on June 18 by a party line vote after a two-day markup. NATCA's Government Affairs staff covered this markup, which was live-streamed, closely monitoring the over 300 amendments offered to ensure no amendments were adopted that would negatively impact NATCA or our members.

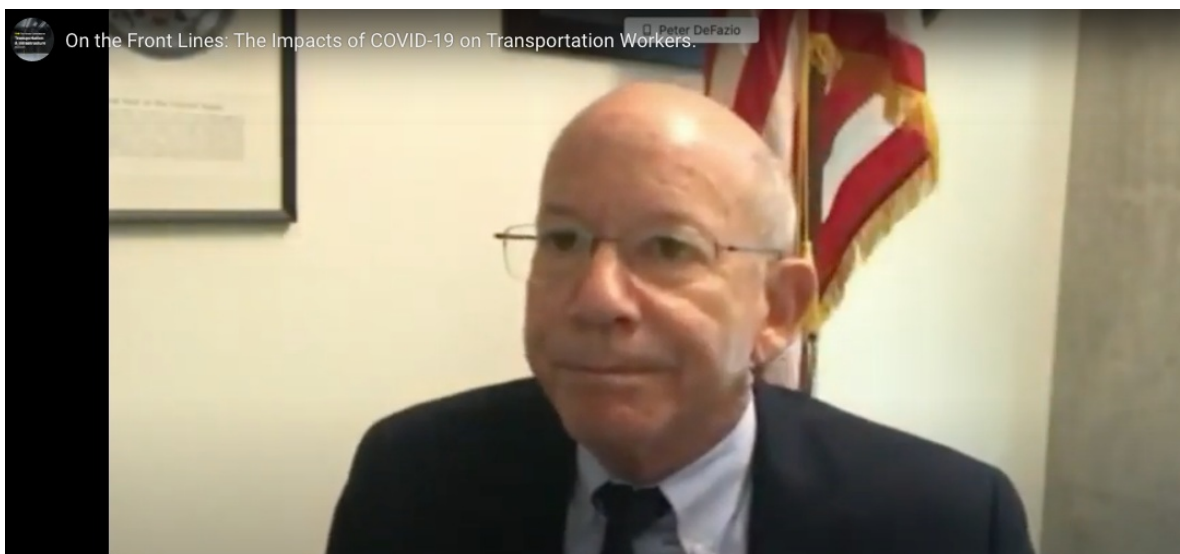


The text of this legislation was inserted into a larger \$1.5 trillion infrastructure bill proposed by House Democrats, which is expected to come to the House floor for a vote before the July 4th recess. In addition to surface transportation provisions, the infrastructure bill includes sections on aviation, broadband, water and energy, housing, and schools.

Significant to NATCA, the infrastructure bill proposes a \$1 billion authorization in general funds to bring air traffic control facilities up to standard. NATCA has been advocating for increased funding for facility maintenance or replacement, and the inclusion of this language is a positive step forward. The broader path forward to sign the infrastructure bill into law and secure this proposed funding for air traffic control upgrades is still unclear, and the proposal faces many hurdles in the legislative process.

As the infrastructure bill moves forward in the legislative process, Government Affairs staff will continue to work with members of Congress and staff on this critical legislation and will fight in support of it and any other policies that benefit NATCA members. Stay tuned for updates.

Congress Debates Air Travel in the COVID-19 Era



As air travel ramps up to meet a modest yet increased demand during the pandemic, Congress has been debating health and safety policies for the aviation industry. NATCA's Government Affairs staff members have been tuning in to virtual committee hearings regarding these topics. In early June, a House Homeland Security Committee hearing debated temperature checks and masks on airplanes, while a House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee hearing and a House Oversight and Reform hearing analyzed the impacts of COVID on transportation workers and essential workers, respectively. *(Pictured above during the hearing: House T&I Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio, D-Ore.)*

Meanwhile, NATCA's senior leadership and the FAA continue to collaborate on ways to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on the National Airspace System (NAS) and the air traffic controller workforce. Our Union continues to fight for the health and safety of our members. Government Affairs staff has been advocating for legislation to ensure the safest possible working conditions for controllers and aviation safety professionals who operate and maintain the NAS.

To that end, in May, the House passed its latest stimulus package, H.R. 6800 (the HEROES Act), commonly referred to as "CARES 2.0." The proposal contains many provisions that would help protect NATCA's members. However, the package is not expected to become law due to lack of bipartisan agreement. Nevertheless, it is the first step in the process. Congress continues to deliberate its next steps on legislation related to COVID-19, but a path forward is not yet clear. NATCA will continue to fight tirelessly on behalf of our members to raise the volume on these critical priorities.

NATCA Advocates for Paid Parental Leave for FAA Employees

NATCA continues to advocate for 12 weeks of paid parental leave for FAA employees. Specifically, Government Affairs staff is aggressively working towards a technical correction to fix the loophole that inadvertently excluded FAA employees and five other federal employee workforces in the paid parental leave proposal enacted in December as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (NDAA; P.L. 116-92). Government Affairs staff has been working with congressional leadership, members of Congress and staff, as well as relevant committees, including the Armed Services Committees in the House and Senate, to address this issue. All potential legislative vehicles are being considered.

[NATCA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the FAA in May](#) to provide 12 weeks of paid parental leave for qualifying events occurring on or after Oct. 1, 2020. This benefit covers all members employed by FAA. In the meantime, the work being done by Government Affairs staff is to ensure that this benefit is codified in law for both current and future FAA workforces.

Look for updates here as a potential fix for paid parental leave moves through the legislative process.

UPDATE: H.R. 1108, the Aviation Funding Stability Act

To provide for funding from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund for all Federal Aviation Administration activities in the event of a Government shutdown, and for other purposes.

NATCA's Government Affairs staff is working with House leadership and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee staff to ensure the Aviation Funding Stability Act (H.R. 1108) comes to the House floor for a vote. NATCA's field activists and Government Affairs staff are expecting to engage in a final push to secure additional co-sponsors on this important legislation.

As a reminder, H.R. 1108 was introduced following the 35-day government shutdown that wreaked havoc on the National Airspace System (NAS) and our workforce. As COVID-19 continues to impact our country, NATCA's #1 goal continues to be to run the safest and most efficient airspace system in the world, while at the same time protecting the health and safety of our members who operate it. The pandemic has added another layer of uncertainty to the future of the NAS. Now more than ever, business is not usual, and H.R. 1108 is critical legislation that would provide some certainty.

H.R. 1108 has gained broad, bipartisan support and now has 293 co-sponsors, which brings it over the threshold that clears a path to the House floor. A final push for more co-sponsors would further raise the volume on this important legislation as we urge House leadership to bring it to the floor for a vote. Meanwhile, NATCA continues to advocate in support of S. 762, the Senate companion bill. Both bills will expire at the end of this year, when the 116th Congress adjourns.

NATCA Academy Virtual Learning: Upcoming Legislative Classes

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



Hatch Act: Not Knowing it Could Cost You Your Career!

July 8, Noon EDT

Course Description: When you were hired by the federal government, you agreed that you will not engage in certain political activity. Violating the Hatch Act puts you at risk for termination from the agency. But everyone seems to have their own definition of "political activity" so how do you know what you can and cannot do? This class will teach you that. During this fun and educational hour, we will look at real situations encountered by NATCA members and give attendees a clear understanding of the laws that govern our participation in the political

process.

You Hate Politics Too? Let's Talk

July 28, Noon EDT

Course Description: Do you hate politics? We understand why you might feel that way but since it affects our careers, let's discuss it. In this class, we will explore commonly held myths about politicians, the legislative process, and the importance of elections. Participants will understand why NATCA must be engaged politically and that no one can advocate for our profession like us.

To register: 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



On June 17, NATCA Boots on the Ground (BOTG) program members lined up their vehicles in Indianapolis and participated in the AFL-CIO's Workers First Caravan for Racial + Economic Justice. Pictured above are BOTG Program Manager Tom Thompson and Craig Smith (top). They joined in solidarity with our AFL-CIO brothers and sisters nationwide by participating in this event, an all-out action of national solidarity calling for implementation of [America's Five Economic Essentials](#) and

passage of the HEROES Act.

The day of action called for bold policies to confront the three crises facing America: a public health pandemic, an economic free fall and long-standing structural racism.



NATCA in Washington 2020



NATCA in Washington is scheduled for Dec. 9-11, 2020. [Click here](#) to visit the NiW page for updates.

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 2020: [Click here](#).

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

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

