



Paul Rinaldi & Trish Gilbert **TEAM UPDATE**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

During the Apollo 13 mission 50 years ago, NASA was faced with a potentially deadly crisis. What was to have been the third lunar landing became a struggle to safely return the crew when their spacecraft was crippled by an oxygen tank explosion. It required quick thinking and action from the highly-trained, highly-skilled professionals at the top of their craft. The enduring triumph of the Apollo 13 mission is their teamwork, ingenuity, determination, and sheer will. It has been termed "NASA's finest hour."



*BEST
WISHES*

FOR A PEACEFUL AND SAFE
HAPPY NEW YEAR

In 2020, our members have displayed similar traits in facing our own crisis; professionals at the top of their craft working together. In this case, the mission has been mitigating exposure to the virus at work while simultaneously protecting each aircraft under our control. Every move we have made this year has

been with the safety of NATCA members and the continued safe operation of the National Airspace System as the highest priorities.

We have relied upon a decade's worth of building a strong collaborative relationship with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). We have endeavored to work efficiently and effectively with the Agency to navigate each challenge we faced through the COVID-19 pandemic. Most notably, just two weeks after the start of the pandemic in the United States and the rapid reduction of air traffic volume, NATCA and the FAA agreed to a national flexible schedule initiative to help ensure the health of our members. It was the result of a monumental collaborative effort with the Agency and tireless work from our NATCAvists across the country.

It has been difficult for

each of you in your facilities. Social distancing is often impossible for many of you, and we've seen the virus affect over 260 facilities. We worked with the Agency to coordinate cleaning and reopening protocols each time an infection is confirmed. No matter how big the distractions, NATCA members have stayed intensely focused on our important work.

With so much out of our control in 2020, one thing has remained firmly in our Union's members' grasp: incredible teamwork. No matter what was going on or what was asked of you, there was only one response we heard: "Whatever you need, I'm there."



Away from the facility, that same spirit of camaraderie and union solidarity was also on full display. Our members responded to a series of natural disasters by donating time, money, and supplies. In addition, nearly 50 facilities returned the support that other unions provided to us during the last government shutdown, by providing meals, protective equipment, and other supplies to medical personnel and other emergency responders dealing more directly with

the pandemic. Our members also gave generously to the NATCA Charitable Foundation (NCF) in a series of drives put together in the absence of the Union's main events that normally supply a large amount of NCF's yearly donations. While this sort of support and kindness always has been a hallmark of our Union family, it is especially noteworthy this year when so many people are suffering in so many ways.



2020 also was a national election year. We overcame the obvious challenges to our Union's ability to conduct grassroots activism during the Election 2020 campaign to still make our collective voice heard loud and clear. We look forward to a brighter future for our country. Together in solidarity, we can accomplish anything.

Now, the time is drawing near for the end of what has been for so many a genuinely challenging year. The new year already offers much hope and optimism. Our professions will play a vital role as drugmakers and governments undertake the distribution of billions of vaccinations globally. As FAA Administrator Steve Dickson said earlier this month, aviation is the key to jumpstarting our economy again, and the FAA workforce – which he termed “civil service at its best” – will be on the front lines of ensuring the vaccine is delivered safely and efficiently. “We may someday look back and call this our finest hour,” Dickson said. The New York Times calls the role of aviation in the vaccine delivery “one segment of a global relay race.”

The stakes could not be higher. We know each of you take your role in this massive and historic undertaking very seriously, like every other challenge you meet on the job. You are our nation's modern-day NASA Mission Control, exhibiting teamwork, ingenuity, determination, and sheer will.



Our members are so resilient and we're so proud of you for being able to continue doing the job as aviation safety professionals during this extraordinary and unprecedented time. Aviation is vital to beating back this virus and certainly vital to the economy of the United States.

We wish each of you and your families a safe, healthy, prosperous 2021. Happy New Year!

In proud solidarity,

Paul Rinaldi
President

Trish Gilbert
Executive Vice President

16th Annual Archie League Medal of Safety Awards Winners' Spotlight

New England Region: Dave Chesley, Boston TRACON (A90)

Late on a mid-summer evening, over the ocean and in the fog, pilot Lihan Bao was flying a short final ILS approach to Runway 24 at Martha's Vineyard (MVY), her second time flying into that airport. The tower had just closed for the night. Shortly after her VOR receiver began to swing left to right, Bao saw a group of bright lights which distracted her. She turned left a bit to try to go back to the approach course but it didn't work, and a few seconds later she and her passenger heard a noise. She had hit something.

Lihan was at 400 feet and started to lose



directional control of the Cessna 172 (N677DM). She added full power right away and tried to bring the wings level. Then, she radioed Boston TRACON (A90) and declared an emergency. On the other end of the mic was someone perfectly qualified to assist her, eight-year veteran controller Dave Chesley, who is also an experienced pilot and flies his own home-built aircraft, a single-engine Murphy Moose, with his wife, Jody, who is also a controller (Boston ATCT, BOS) and pilot.

Chesley maintained a calm, reassuring demeanor throughout the entire incident. He guided Lihan with clear instructions as she diverted to Otis Air National Guard Base (FMH), which had a long runway, a 24-hour facility, and was reporting VFR conditions.

“He gave me headings and altitudes with the voice that made me believe we would survive,” she said.

Chesley works the Legacy Cape airspace in the South Area of Boston TRACON (A90), where he also serves as the NATCA area rep. He grew up in Maine surrounded by a wealth of aviation knowledge and experience. One of his grandfathers was a gunner and dive bomber in World War II. His other grandfather owned small planes and flew outdoor sports enthusiasts to spots in remote northern Maine to hunt and fish.

Lihan had departed with her friend from Caldwell Airport (CDW) in New Jersey. The initial weather report for MVY was VFR conditions but that changed while Lihan was in the air. She decided to land at Groton-New London Airport (GON) in Connecticut and filed an IFR flight plan for the second leg to MVY.

Chesley said it was a fairly normal approach. “It wasn’t until about a two-mile final that things changed,” he said. In one radar return, the aircraft had made a 90-degree left turn.



“I thought to myself at the time that this was either a bad radar return or something could be wrong,” he said. Two more radar returns confirmed the latter. Chesley could tell that Lihan wasn’t flying the published missed approach procedure. The turns, climbs, and descents were erratic. He made two attempts to reach her, with no response. Then came the emergency call and Chesley said Lihan reported they had struck something (later determined to be a tree, causing serious damage to the wing) and the aircraft was uncontrollable. “It’s certainly not the words you want to hear as a controller,” he said. “It’s one of your worst nightmares.”

“He could hear that my voice was shaking and tried to calm me down,” Lihan said.

Chesley knew that as a pilot, you train for emergency scenarios and you learn to never stop flying the airplane. He focused on assisting Lihan with just flying the airplane, maintaining a straight and level attitude, and getting to a safe altitude so they could then figure out their options. With the terrible

weather at MVY, Chesley knew another landing attempt there was not the safest option. Low ceilings, fog, poor visibility: “The cards were stacked against us,” he said. Fortunately, to the northeast was FMH and its 8,000-foot runways.



“He told me he would guide me to an airport 15 miles away (FMH), which was VFR there with long runways, and I can land (at) any runway I want,” said Lihan, who was able to get control of the aircraft. “I applied full right rudder and full right aileron to keep my wings level.”

Others in the A90 operation assisted in coordination with FMH, allowing Chesley to concentrate on assisting Lihan. She made a soft landing at FMH “thanks to everyone’s help,” she said.

“A lot of times they say we’re fortunate in this industry that we don’t have to take our work home with us,” Chesley said. “I would agree 99 percent of the time but it’s these instances that you do take home and you do replay over and over in your head, wondering ‘what if I had said this, or what if I had done that and how it could have affected the outcome. Fortunately, I’m very thankful it turned out the way it did and hats off to the pilot for doing such a phenomenal job.”

Chesley is the third NATCA member from A90 to win the Archie League Medal of Safety Award, joining [Jesse Belleau](#) (2018) and [Ken Hopf](#) (2005).

New England Region Archie League Winner Podcast



Hear Chesley tell his story, and discuss his efforts to guide the Cessna pilot to a safe landing, in the latest episode of the NATCA Podcast. [Click here](#) to listen.

View the transcript of the podcast [here](#).

Notice of Election & Election Rules for the 2021 NATCA National Election

NATCA is sharing the notice for the 2021 NATCA National Election of the following officers of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association:

- NATCA President
- NATCA Executive Vice President
- Regional Vice President, NATCA Alaskan Region
- Regional Vice President, NATCA Central Region
- Regional Vice President, NATCA Eastern Region
- Regional Vice President, NATCA Great Lakes Region
- Regional Vice President, NATCA New England Region
- Regional Vice President, NATCA Northwest Mountain Region
- Regional Vice President, NATCA Southern Region
- Regional Vice President, NATCA Southwest Region
- Regional Vice President, NATCA Western Pacific Region
- Regional Vice President, NATCA Region X

In accordance with Article VII of the NATCA National Constitution, the NATCA National Election Committee ("NEC") has established rules for this election. You can see these rules in their entirety [here](#). In addition, a printed copy of this election notice and these rules will be mailed to all active NATCA members in early January.

Apply for a College Scholarship Today!

NATCA Scholarship Program

A graphic for the NATCA Scholarship Program. It features the NATCA logo (a circle with a ship's wheel and the text 'NATCA') in the top left. To the right of the logo, it says 'Application deadline: March 1'. Below this, the words 'SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM' are written in large, bold, red letters. To the right of the text, there is a white box with black text that reads: 'Open to children, spouses, stepchildren, and/or legally adopted children of all active, retired, and deceased members who have continuous good standing as a member for at least two years.' Below this, it says '— Essay question: What has NATCA been able to attain on behalf of the professionals we represent through advocacy, collaboration and negotiations?'

 Application deadline: **March 1**

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Open to children, spouses, stepchildren, and/or legally adopted children of all active, retired, and deceased members who have continuous good standing as a member for at least two years.

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Essay question:
What has NATCA been able to attain on behalf of the professionals we represent through advocacy, collaboration and negotiations?

NATCA offers a scholarship program for spouses, children, stepchildren, and legally adopted children of active, retired, and deceased members with continuous membership in good standing for at least two years. This scholarship is for full-time attendance at accredited colleges and universities within the United States and its territories for an undergraduate degree program.

Applicants must apply in writing to the NATCA

National President no later than March 1 for the college/university attendance in 2021, and submit a qualifying 500-word essay.

During a crisis, like COVID-19, many workers have been able to perform their work from home. Many essential workers, like air traffic controllers, are unable to do so. Describe in 500 words or less: **“What has NATCA been able to attain on behalf of the professionals we represent through advocacy, collaboration and negotiations?”**

NATCA will notify applicants as to whether they will receive the scholarship by April 30, 2021. For details about the NATCA Scholarship Program, including the application, [click here](#).

Union Plus Scholarship Program

Over 3,200 students in union families have received nearly \$5 million in money for college through the Union Plus Scholarship Program. Awards are based on outstanding academic achievement, personal character, financial need, and commitment to the values of organized labor. At a time when many families have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, Union Plus is especially glad to support hardworking students as they further their educations and pave the path for future success.

The 2021 Union Plus Scholarship application is open and entirely online, allowing students to complete the application in stages and save answers before submitting. The deadline to submit your application is Jan. 31, 2021.

To access the Union Plus scholarship application, [please click here](#).

Step Into 2021 with the NCF Step Challenge

A promotional poster for the NCF 45 Day Step Challenge. At the top, it says "NCF 45 Day Step Challenge" in bold yellow and black text, followed by "January 2nd - February 15th, 2021" and "All Proceeds to Benefit the NATCA Charitable Foundation". Below this is a graphic with "Zoom OUT OF 2020" and "and Step Into 2021" with a calendar. The text "Steps To Join Are Easy: Register Here: bit.ly/NCFstep2021 (\$25 Donation)" is prominent. It also says "**Follow Instructions in Your Receipt**", "Create or Join a Team and Start Walking Jan 2nd!", and "Don't Have a Team? Join the NATCA Charitable Foundation's Team". It lists "Prizes Awarded to Top Steppers and Top Teams" and "Random Prize Drawings for All Registered Walkers". At the bottom, it says "Like NCF on Facebook and Instagram for Updates on Challenges and Prizes" and features a QR code, a "Sponsored by Sky One FEDERAL CREDIT UNION" logo, and the "NATCA Charitable Foundation" logo with social media links for Facebook and Instagram.

NCF 45 Day Step Challenge
January 2nd - February 15th, 2021
All Proceeds to Benefit the NATCA Charitable Foundation

Steps To Join Are Easy:
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Prizes Awarded to Top Steppers and Top Teams
Random Prize Drawings for All Registered Walkers

Like NCF on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for Updates on Challenges and Prizes

Sponsored by [Sky One](#) FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

[Facebook.com/NATCACharitableFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/NATCACharitableFoundation) [Instagram.com/NATCACharitableFoundation](https://www.instagram.com/NATCACharitableFoundation)

The NATCA Charitable Foundation (NCF) 45-Day Step Challenge will run from Jan. 2 through Feb. 15, 2021. By signing up and participating in this challenge, you will help raise money for NCF, which supports so many amazing charities across the country. You will also get the chance to compete in some friendly competition, while getting the chance to win some amazing prizes. The more people involved, the more money raised and the bigger the prizes!

Anyone can sign up to compete in this challenge. Invite your friends, family, co-workers, kids, etc. You don't even need an

activity tracker; a smartphone is the only equipment required to participate.

Prizes will be awarded to both individuals and teams. Not only will prizes be given to the top three steppers, but there will also be random prizes awarded throughout the challenge, via random drawings. The top three steppers will receive a Visa/American Express gift card. The top two teams will receive donations to their team's charity of choice. The top team will also be awarded with a trophy for bragging rights. You can compete both individually and/or on a team of your choice. Don't have a team? Come and join the NCF Team! We encourage friendly competition by having facility teams challenge other facilities. However, you have the option to compete with the group or committee of your choosing. All teams, large and small, have a chance to win for their chosen charity, as the winner is calculated by average steps for the team. Which facility/team will claim victory and come out on top?

Registration is open now and there is no registration deadline. To participate, [simply click here to pay your \\$25 registration fee](#) Follow the link and instructions in your receipt in order to join the step challenge on the MoveSpring app. Set up your profile, join your preferred team or create one

Pushing the Workforce Forward and Turning the Pandemic Challenge into an Opportunity



How do we push the workforce forward and turn the pandemic challenge into an opportunity? Trish represented the Union to address that question during a panel discussion Dec. 10 at the Air Traffic Control Association's virtual annual conference. She emphasized the importance of developing the workforce of the future by influencing the decisions young people make now in choosing a career.

The key to getting them into aviation careers, Trish said, is to enable them to see professionals doing the job and even try their hand through simulations. That will lead to interest and developing a passion for the profession. "I feel blessed," Trish said, "because air traffic control is not a job to me. It's who I am and I have loved it every single day."

The panel was moderated by Kate Lang (pictured top left), Director of the FAA's Europe, Africa and Middle East Region in the Agency's Office of International Affairs, and also included FAA Deputy Assistant Administrator for Human Resource Management Beth Mack (lower right), FAA Staff Director for Aviation Workforce Outreach Chris Sharp (lower left), United Airlines Executive Vice President for Human Resources and Labor Relations Kate Gebo (lower middle), and electrical engineer Kyle Marcolini.

Trish is extremely honored to represent NATCA on the Women in Aviation Advisory Board (WIAAB), formed earlier this year. She told the panel that they meet regularly and are working on providing solid recommendations, not just for outside of government but inside as well to "move the dial" on the numbers of women in aviation jobs. "Gender numbers are poor across aviation except for flight attendants," she said. "The question is how do we move the numbers on other professions? The most challenging part is getting real data." She said one important thing she hopes is on the horizon is getting school counselors

and teachers to encourage youth to seek these aviation careers.

Help Support the NATCA Disaster Relief Fund

NATCA established a disaster relief fund in 1992 in the wake of Hurricane Andrew in Florida. Following the devastating 2017 hurricane season, NATCA formed the Disaster Response Committee (DRC) to manage the disaster relief fund and organize the relief process for NATCA members affected by a disaster. Due to the generosity of our membership, our fund has continued to grow and has provided assistance to those members affected when disaster strikes.



However, due to the extreme challenges of 2020, we need your help today to replenish the funds. We have set a goal of raising \$25,000 by the end of first quarter 2021.

The DRC worked diligently through this year assisting our members and their families with unprecedented challenges. [Please make a donation and/or buy a T-shirt](#). All proceeds will go directly to the fund, which is managed by the DRC.



The DRC stands ready to assist fellow NATCA members at all times. Your donation is always greatly appreciated. [Learn more about the Disaster Response Committee](#).

Record Numbers Sign Up in Unum Campaign

HANDLE WITH CARE.

This is the package
NATCA delivers to
you. Will you
protect it?



THANK YOU MEMBERS!

Like most things in 2020, NATCA's Unum long-term disability open enrollment period was challenging. With the COVID pandemic, we were unable to educate members about this important benefit at our Union's national, regional, and local events. We had to change the way we reached members about how this plan protects their income.

We had help from every corner of NATCA to make this possible: the National Executive Board, the NATCA Membership Board of Trustees, the National Benefits Committee, the NATCA National Office Public Affairs staff, the National Training Committee, the Union Synergy Committee, our NATCA Families group, our partners at Southern Insurance Group (SIG) and National Insurance Services, FacReps and other activists all across the nation. Working together, they all made this a success. What does success look like? Membership Board of Trustees Chair John Bratcher (Fort Smith ATCT, FSM), explains below:

"We started out with a goal of signing up 500 members. When we closed the initial enrollment period on Nov. 30, we hit exactly 500. That was unexpected and amazing considering what we've faced throughout 2020. When we got an extension of 10 days, we started asking what was the largest single enrollment total? After some research, we discovered back in 2012, we signed up 562 members. I was sure that we could rise to that challenge over the next 10 days. With all the fantastic work by all our members and partners, I am honored and excited to say that we not only reached that goal, but we blew it out of the water! **Our 2020 final results of new enrollees is 602!**

"Rest assured that our members are more protected now because of this program. Thank you to my NATCA family. I hope you are staying safe and have an enjoyable holiday season!"

Celebrate 2021 with Union-Made Products



Union-Made
NEW YEAR'S
Celebrations

WINE

- Charles Krug
- Chateau Ste. Michelle
- C.K. Mondavi
- Columbia Crest
- Gallo of Sonoma
- St. Supéry

BEER

- Anheuser-Busch
- Black Eye Ale
- Busch
- Carmel Wheat
- Clear Creek Ice
- Dundee Craft
- Icehouse
- Landshark Lager
- Miller
- Pabst
- Pyramid
- Red Dog
- Red Tail Ale
- Sam Adams
- Shergill IPA
- Shock Top

MORE AT:

AFLCIO.ORG/MADEINAMERICA

AFL-CIO

As you prepare to toast — safely, and at home — the end of 2020 (FINALLY) and the beginning of the promising new year of 2021, make sure you're celebrating with union-made libations. [Click here](https://aflcio.org/madeinamerica) for more information.

Operation Traffic Counts Across the U.S.

Aviation System Performance Metrics (ASPM)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2020

ASPM77 Airport Ops

-22.0%

41,593 CURRENT OPS
53,323 SEASONAL AVG

Core Airport Ops

-26.6%

25,246 CURRENT OPS
34,387 SEASONAL AVG



Center Ops

-20.4%

var from baseline

91,649 CURRENT OPS

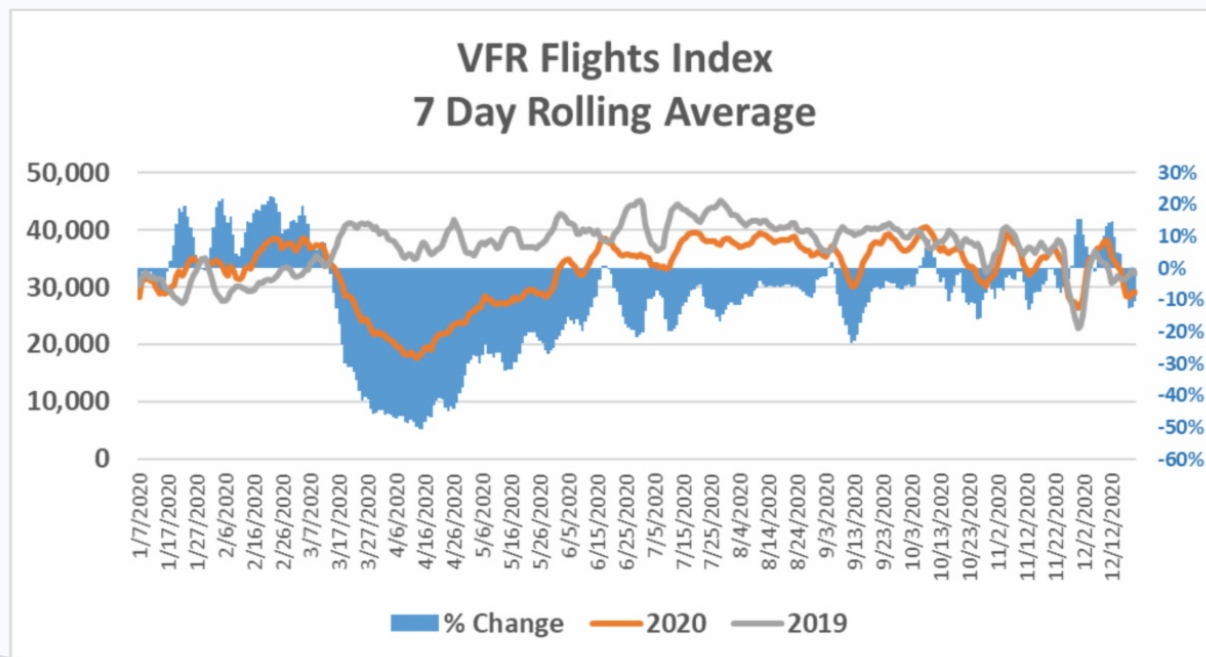
Top 7 TRACONs

-22.2%

var from baseline

22,694 CURRENT OPS

SOURCE: Federal Aviation Administration



Revised Date for Proposed Amendments for 18th Biennial Convention



As a result of the rescheduling of NATCA's 18th Biennial Convention in Houston to May 25-27, 2021, the time period to submit proposed amendments to the NATCA Constitution and/or resolutions for consideration at the Convention has been extended to 11:59 p.m. EST on Monday, Jan. 25, 2021. In accordance with Article XIV,

Section 1 of the NATCA Constitution, this new date for the submission of proposed amendments is 120 days prior to the beginning of the Convention (Tuesday, May 25, 2021).

As a reminder, all proposed amendments are required to be sent to Executive Vice President Trish Gilbert (tgilbert@natcadc.org) for submission to the National Constitution Committee.

All proposed amendments already submitted will remain in consideration at Convention provided the author is still a member in good standing. There is no need to re-submit any previously submitted timely amendments. The Constitution Committee will create a new booklet that will be mailed out to all members following the Jan. 25, 2021 deadline.

Members with questions about this process should contact their [Constitution Committee representative](#) or NATCA General Counsel Marguerite L. Graf (mgraf@natcadc.org).