



Paul Rinaldi & Trish Gilbert

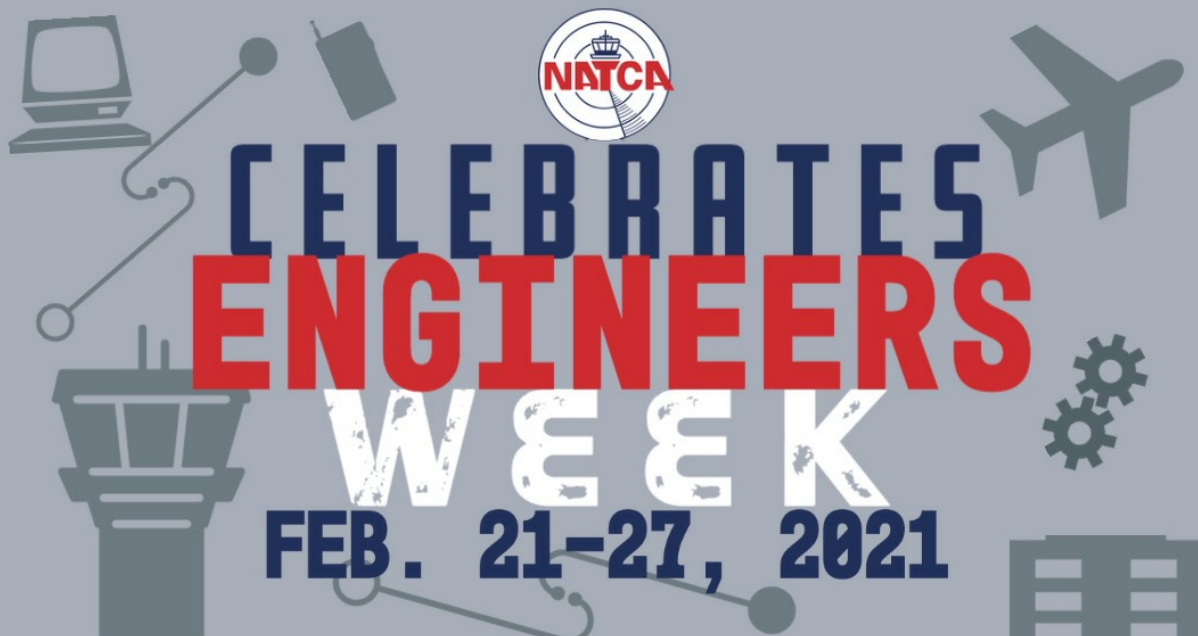
TEAM UPDATE

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Happy Engineers Week!

Feb. 21-27 is Engineers Week, a recognition and celebration of the accomplishments of people in engineering professions. The week was founded in 1951 by the National Society of Professional Engineers to increase understanding of and interest in engineering and technology careers and to help ensure a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce.

Engineers Week gives our Union the opportunity to recognize the diversity of engineering professionals we have within our NATCA family across multiple lines of business. NATCA represents 10 different bargaining units in Region X with 51 different job classifications. These professionals work in Engineers and Architects, Aircraft Certification, Airports Division, and Information and Technology (AIT). Region X members are located and involved in every aviation-related activity in the National Airspace System (NAS) across the nation and U.S. territories.



This week on NATCA's social media channels, we're sharing videos of Region

X members talking about the work they do for the NAS. Today's video features NATCA member Evonne McBurrows, a civil engineer from the Detroit District Office in Engineer/Great Lakes Region (EGL). McBurrows discusses the work she and other Airports Division professionals do, and how it directly affects air traffic. Projects range in size from large changes to runways and taxiways, to smaller ones like updating faded airport markings. The McBurrows video can be seen [here](#).

These videos were developed by NATCA's Union Synergy Committee, as part of their "Know Your NATCA" effort. This program is intended to highlight the diversity of aviation safety professionals that are a part of our NATCA family. If you are not already a member of the Union Synergy Facebook group, all active and retired NATCA members can join the private group [here](#).



The following members will be featured this week (in the order that their videos will be posted).



**Evonne McBurrows,
Civil Engineer
Engineer/Great Lakes
Region (EGL)**

In her video, Evonne McBurrows, an Airports Division Region X member from the Detroit District Office, discusses how their work directly impacts air traffic. She says the projects range in size from large changes to runways and taxiways, to smaller ones like updating faded airport markings.



**Don Smith, Electronics
Engineer & Local
President, Engineer/
Aeronautical Center (EAC)**

When technicians in the field encounter an unsolvable problem, where do they turn? In his video, Don Smith (of Second Level Engineering) explains how they help both remotely and onsite, oftentimes nationally, and even occasionally internationally.



Della Swartz, Aerospace Engineer, Engineer/Alaska Region (EAL)

In her video, Della Swartz of Aircraft Certification speaks with Region X RVP Brad Davidson about the engineer's role and how their reach extends worldwide.



Joe Henn, General Engineer, Engineer/Eastern Region (EEA)

In his video, Joe Henn, a general engineer with Technical Services in the Eastern Region working out of New York TRACON, describes the wide range of knowledge and experience required to help take care of projects in field facilities. He explains that the projects can involve civil, electrical, and mechanical engineering work.



Anthony Barksdale, Electrical Engineer, Engineer/Southern Region (ESO)

Anthony Barksdale is an electrical engineer with Engineering Services in the Eastern Service Area (Engineer/Southern Region [ESO]). In his video, Anthony discusses his interactions with other NATCA members in the field, his problem solving approach, and the types of



Corey Glaze, Aviation Technical Systems Specialist & Local Vice President, Engineer/Northwest Mountain Region (ENM)

Corey Glaze of Mission Support Planning and Requirements is the lead planner from the Western Service Area, supporting Northern California. In his video, Corey describes how he works with Air

electrical projects that he works on to help protect the Air Traffic Operation.

Traffic and Tech Ops, as well as airports, and local and state governments to ensure all plans for changes to airports are integrated and successful. Corey says this includes "Everything, ranging from communications systems to surveillance systems to navigation systems." He explains, "We have a direct hand in ensuring that those systems are coordinated and improved in such a way that it's allowing Air Traffic to do their job without any surprises."

We applaud the work and dedication of all our members in Region X. We are proud to be their union brothers and sisters. We wish everyone a happy Engineers Week!

In solidarity,

Paul and Trish

Support Our Members Facing Severe Conditions in Texas Through the Disaster Relief Fund

The NATCA Disaster Response Committee (DRC) is actively working to help our Texas members in dire conditions after severe weather.

NATCA's Disaster Relief Fund aids members who have experienced catastrophic losses of property and helps provide a lifeline during those most desperate times. NATCA will work directly with affected members to help them purchase food, gasoline, or any other supplies that might be required. We will have volunteers ready to deliver supplies as soon as we know the need.

The **NATCA Disaster Response Committee** is actively working to help our TX members in dire conditions. If this applies to you, we urge you to contact us! We are mobilizing supplies and will respond as quickly as weather and road conditions allow us.

Stay Safe!

drc@natca.net



[Please consider donating to the NATCA Disaster Relief Fund](#) For more information, please [visit the DRC page](#) or email drc@natca.net.

Longtime Government Affairs Leader to Depart NATCA After 20 Years of Service

NATCA's Director of Government Affairs

Jose Ceballos has announced that he will be leaving our Union as of March 5 to pursue a new professional opportunity. Jose has been an integral part of NATCA's political and legislative efforts for 20 years and his contributions to NATCA's successes in those areas have been invaluable. Jose's leadership of the Government Affairs Department resulted in many significant achievements by department staff, working with leadership and activists, on behalf of NATCA's members and the organization.



Jose was raised in a union family. His grandmother — the matriarch of his family, who facilitated the immigration into the United States of his mom and dad and entire family — was a proud member of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) 1199. Jose found being a member of NATCA's staff very rewarding and enjoyed interacting with our Union's members and their 'can do' mentality. His favorite memory of his time at NATCA remains working to get our membership "out" of the White Book.

About Jose, Paul said, "Success in Washington, D.C., and particularly on Capitol Hill, is all about relationships, and there has been nobody better at forming, growing, and strengthening relationships on both sides of the aisle than Jose. This Union has been incredibly fortunate and well-served to have Jose leading our robust government affairs efforts for 20 years, which is more than half of the life of NATCA itself. His record of legislative successes for NATCA will forever be a part of our rich and wonderful history. I can't thank him enough for his efforts on behalf of our membership, our represented professions, and the safety of the National Airspace System."

Trish added, "Before I was elected Executive Vice President and serving as the National Legislative Committee Chair, I had the privilege of working closely with and getting to know Jose. He is one of the most savvy political, legislative, and government affairs professionals in the business. He is on 24/7 as his passion for achieving the best results for the members of our Union never wavers. We thank him for his service and extreme loyalty. He will always be a member of the NATCA family and hold a special place in my heart. We will miss him immensely, but wish him great success and happiness in his future endeavors and opportunities."

NATCA's National Legislative Committee (NLC) Chair Richard Kennington agreed, "We are sorry to see Jose leave us, but we are excited for the opportunities that lay in front of him. His talents, knowledge, and expertise

have helped to guide NATCA to new heights of respect and admiration on Capitol Hill, and we were fortunate to have been able to claim him as one of our own. His personality and charisma made him popular with our activists. He will be missed at events such as NATCA in Washington, legislative classes, or Mini Lobby Weeks where his leadership endeared him



to our members. Jose will always bleed NATCA and as his influence expands with this new move, we look forward to working with him in this new capacity."

NATCA's NLC Vice-Chair Trisha Pesiri-Dybvik concluded, "As a young activist, I admired Jose's work ethic and was impressed by his grasp of knowledge surrounding the issues most important to NATCA. During my years on the NLC, I've gotten to work more closely with him and have greatly appreciated his level of dedication and commitment. He has always made time for our members. Jose truly understood the power of our collective voice and used it to its fullest extent to forward NATCA's legislative agenda. I have learned a great deal from him personally over the years, and feel so fortunate that our members have had his expertise and experience for so long. We wish him much success in his future endeavors and will miss him tremendously."

NATCA thanks Jose for his years of dedication and commitment to NATCA, its members, and its mission. We wish him much success in his new professional position!

APA, NLC Member Jenny Benjamin Represents NATCA & Describes Working During Pandemic

[Visit ttd.org](https://www.visit ttd.org)

Jenny Benjamin
 Controller, Denver/Centennial Tower

1.4K views 0:04 / 2:18

#CovidTransportationStories: Jenny Benjamin, Aviation
 Frontline transportation workers share their experiences working on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic, & what they need from Congress to keep themselves, their passengers, & their families safe.

NATCA member Jenny Benjamin (Denver-Centennial ATCT, APA, and our Northwest Region Representative on the National Legislative Committee) shared her story as part of the effort earlier this month by the Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO (TTD) to highlight the challenges faced by U.S. workers across all

transportation sectors during the COVID-19 pandemic. The video project,

called #COVIDTransportationStories on Twitter, was organized in conjunction with the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee hearing on the topic that was held on Feb. 4. Benjamin's video stood out and was highlighted by other media including in an article by Politico about the hearing. In her video, Benjamin stated, "I work in a small round tower about 14 feet across. At times, there are almost 10 people in that small space." She continued, "Despite our efforts to mitigate exposure, we've seen the virus affect 300 FAA facilities nationwide." Watch the full video [here](#).

Florida Members Collaborate Across the State to Safely Handle Traffic from Super Bowl LV



With creativity, thoroughness, and complete preparation — without ever meeting in person — NATCA-represented air traffic controllers, traffic management coordinators, and staff specialists in Central Florida successfully executed one of the biggest challenges of the year: safely and efficiently handling air traffic for Super Bowl LV.

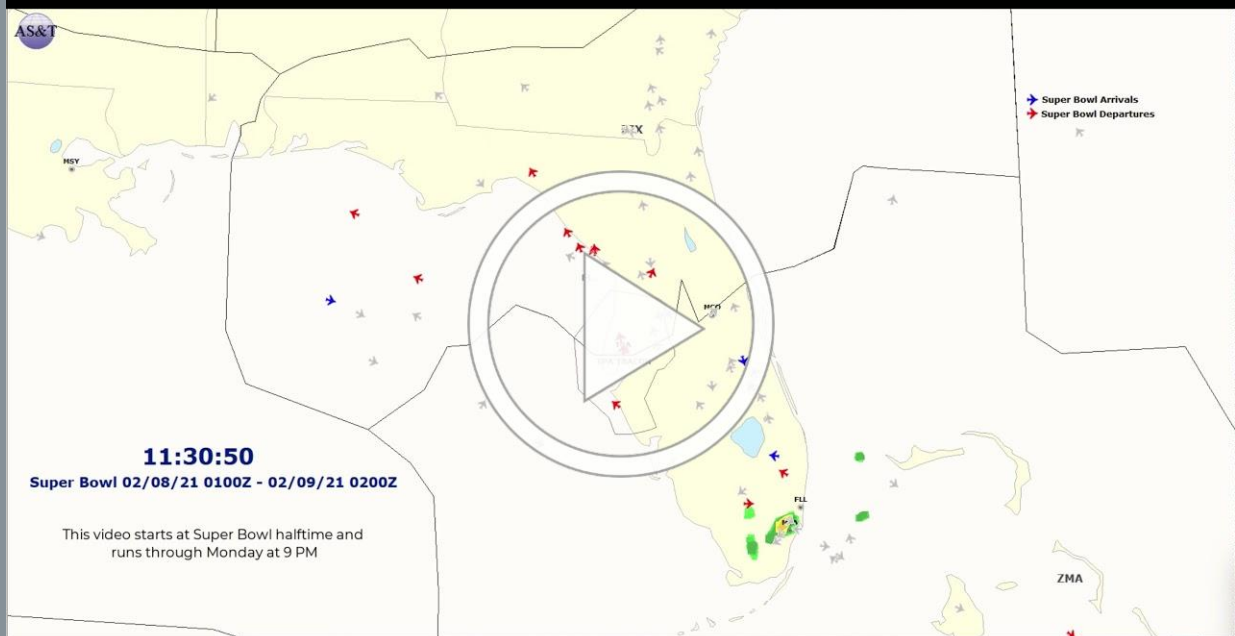
"Like everything else in COVID-19 times, this year's Super Bowl planning was especially challenging," said Tampa ATCT (TPA) FacRep Jen McCoy. "We

had excellent workgroups that designed flow and procedures to facilitate the extra traffic, but we still had to figure out how to safely bring in extra staffing to handle the workload."

With Super Bowl LIV hosted in Miami Gardens, Fla., South Florida NATCA members helped their neighboring brothers and sisters at Federal Contract Towers (FCTs), Fort Myers ATCT (RSW), and TPA by including them in the planning process in anticipation of Tampa hosting Super Bowl LV in 2021.

The extra planning experience was useful especially because during a pandemic, "this was the Super Bowl of the unknown," said TPA Super Bowl Planning Committee Lead Sean Graber. "Collaboration throughout our facility and between Jacksonville Center (ZJX), Miami Center (ZMA), TPA, Orlando ATCT (MCO), and other agencies and facilities had to be at its highest with everything changing constantly."

"Overall, it was a complete success, thanks to the dedication of our local NATCA members, and the solid teamwork with our outstanding neighboring facilities," said TPA Vice President James Solano.



“Building on last year's success of collaboration and communication, we were able to incorporate the same mentality this year when dealing with the 2021 Super Bowl in Tampa,” said ZMA FacRep Tom Flanary. “Because of our relationships that we've built up between our facilities, we saw no differences between the success of handling the operations at both Super Bowl locations. We've constantly pushed the mentality that we need to work together with our other facilities that are adjacent to our airspace, so that we're all working towards one goal.”

TPA temporarily transformed its combined Tower/TRACON into effectively two different facilities. With a tower team and a TRACON team, the planners designated different break rooms and restrooms, and limited exposure enough to greatly reduce the chance of an interruption of service.

“It turned out to be a really fun week!” McCoy said.



Clockwise starting with upper left: TPA members Joseph Fraser, Alex Winston, Evan Lawton and Fraser, and Lauren Alexander-Farler.

Changes in procedures, flow, staffing, and traffic count were fluid and changing constantly due to COVID-19 restrictions in the facilities and airspace. With such frequent last-minute updates, NATCA aviation professionals collaborating around the state's air traffic facilities held emergency calls almost daily to ensure the safety and integrity of the air traffic system was maintained despite the circumstances.

"These challenges were met with professionalism by all the workgroup members," Graber said. "I could not be more proud of this group and look forward to working with every single member involved on future projects."

"The Super Bowl planning committee went above and beyond to pull this event together remotely," said Solano. "It was awesome to watch our controllers step up and successfully work the Super Bowl event after spending the better part of the year working reduced traffic due to COVID-19."

ZSE Archie League Winner Says Previous Job as 911 Operator Prepared Him Well for ATC

It's always fascinating to us to hear the stories of how our members came into their safety critical professions and how they developed the skills and the mindset needed to be great at their jobs.

Seattle Center (ZSE) member Josh Fuller's previous job as a 911 operator in Raleigh, N.C., for two years seems tailor-made in preparing him for a career like air traffic control, where dealing with the regular

pace of a shift can suddenly turn to talking to a pilot with an emergency situation. That's what happened on the Saturday afternoon before Thanksgiving in 2019 when Fuller, who also has pilot experience, was at the end of his shift. That's when Idaho VFR-rated pilot Tim Bendickson called ZSE in urgent need of help as he got caught in fog and severe icing and narrowly missed multiple peaks in the mountainous terrain. Fuller kept Bendickson calm and collected during a two-hour flight assist that stretched from daylight to early evening.



"I have taken thousands of 911 calls that were pretty serious in nature," Fuller said. "I've dealt with everything from someone who's just witnessed a murder, to someone who had just been robbed, to someone having a baby. Everything you can think of."

"At some point, your body gets trained not to let your adrenaline get you too worked up. That's the real benefit of it. You maintain a level head, you can think through things, and you can still be logical about things without letting your nerves take over."

Fuller is in the sixth year of his FAA career, all spent at ZSE. He and fellow ZSE members Byron Andrews, Brian Hach, Ryan Jimenez, and Michael Sellman worked as a team to help Bendickson to a safe landing. For their efforts, they are the 2020 recipients of the Archie League Medal of Safety Award for the Northwest Mountain Region. We'll have much more on this save in the upcoming issue of the NATCA Insider, including a podcast episode featuring the five members and Bendickson discussing the event together.



We're currently seeking nominations for the 2021 Archie League Medal of Safety Awards. Any member can nominate another member who was involved in the best saves that have occurred at your facilities since June 1, 2020. [Click here](#) for the nomination form.

New Virtual OSHA Webinar: Airborne Transmission of Viruses

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased our awareness of disease transmission. The CDC advises to maintain social distance, wear a mask, and wash your hands frequently. But what about airborne transmission from a virus suspended in the air for an extended time?

A new OSHA webinar, titled "Airborne Transmission of Viruses," will be held Feb. 24, at 1 p.m. EST. This technical webinar will examine:



- The relative risk of transmission from multiple sources;
- The role of a building's HVAC system in airborne transmission;
- Seasonal adjustments to HVAC systems that can increase air exchange rates; and
- Alternate technologies that claim to kill or collect viruses in the air.

This webinar will focus on applications dealing with the current pandemic and will also apply to seasonal flu and cold issues.

Visit the [NATCA Membership Portal](#) to sign up for this course or any of the NATCA Academy Virtual Learning courses. Once you have logged in, select "List of Events" from the Events menu tab, then select "NATCA Academy Virtual Learning." If you have any questions, please contact [Chrissy Padgett](#).

2021 NATCA National Election and Rules

2021 ELECTIONS

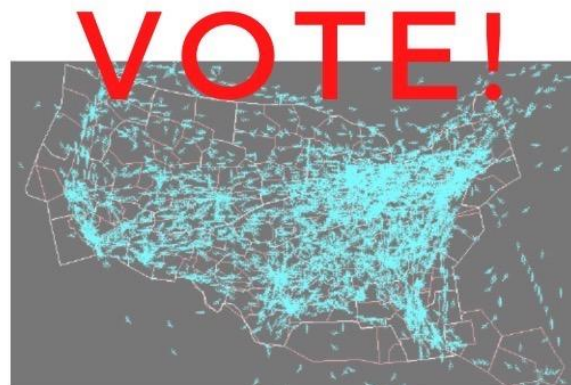


NATCA 2021 ELECTION SEASON IS HERE!
OUR NEXT NATCA **PRESIDENT, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT** AND
THE **REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS**, SHALL BE NOMINATED AND
ELECTED FOR THE NEXT 3-YEAR CYCLE.



- NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5 PM EDT **MARCH 31, 2021**
- NOMINATIONS MUST BE ACCEPTED BY 5 PM EDT **APRIL 30, 2021**
- MEMBERS SHALL VOTE BY MAIL-IN BALLOTS
- BALLOTS SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED ON **JUNE 21, 2021**
- IF NEEDED, DUPLICATE BALLOTS MUST BE REQUESTED BY **JULY 16, 2021**
- BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 9 AM EDT **JULY 30, 2021**
- BALLOTS WILL BE COUNTED ON **JULY 30, 2021**, WITH REPORTING NO LATER THAN 48 HOURS FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THE COUNT.

**NEW OFFICERS
SHALL TAKE
OFFICE ON
**SEPTEMBER 1,
2021****



No matter if it's your first NATCA election or your fifth, one thing is always true: participating in the process is important. Get to know the candidates that are running, understand how the voting process works, and most importantly, **VOTE!** You have a unique voice that NATCA wants to hear.

NATCA elections provide the perfect opportunity to make your voice heard.

[Click here](#) to see the election rules and [click here](#) for election information.

"We have faced unprecedented challenges this year, personally and professionally. We cannot allow our elections to get lost in all the madness. Voting is important. Every NATCA member's voice matters." — Joe Lolio, NATCA Election Committee

The 2021 NATCA National Election is for 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 Region X
- Regional Vice President, NATCA Southern Region
- Regional Vice President, NATCA Southwest Region
- Regional Vice President, NATCA Western Pacific Region

Louisiana Members: Special Election Happening in March

A special election will occur in Louisiana on March 20 to fill two vacant congressional seats. Below are important dates and information regarding this special election.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR LOUISIANA SPECIAL ELECTION

Voter Registration Deadline

(online)

Feb. 27

Deadline to Request an Absentee by Mail Ballot

(online or in writing)

March 16 (by 4:30 p.m.)

Deadline to Return an Absentee by Mail Ballot

(must be RECEIVED by Registrar of Voters no later than)

4:30 p.m. March 19

Early Voting

Begins – March 6

Ends – March 13

(excluding Sunday, March 7)

Visit natca.org/vote for further details on the information above.

NOTE - Deadlines do not account for U.S. Postal Service delivery times. If voting by mail, request your ballot as soon as you are able, and return your completed ballot without delay to ensure it arrives in time to meet your state's deadline to be counted. ****

Union Synergy Discussion on Involvement



LaKecia Shuron (RDG)



Aubrey Farrar (DCA)



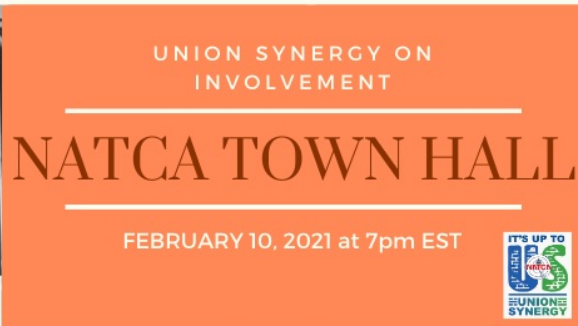
Eric Yates (ZID)



Dawn Johnson (ZTL)



Andrew LeBovidge (NSW RVP)



Adrienne Turley (ATL)



Jamie Sanders (APA)



Brad Davidson (NRX RVP)



John Bratcher (FSM)



Stephen Cooper (CLT)

More than 570 NATCA members watched the second Union Synergy (US) Committee virtual town hall on Feb. 10, a discussion on how NATCA can continue to engage our membership, further build our volunteer army, and inspire the next generation of members to step up and help propel us into the future.

In case you missed it, [you can view the full Town Hall discussion](#) on the member-only US Facebook group.

If you're not already a member of the Facebook group, [you can join here](#).

March 1 Deadline for NATCA Scholarship

NATCA offers a scholarship program for spouses, children, stepchildren, and legally adopted children of



active, retired, and deceased members in good standing for at least two consecutive 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](#).

Operation Traffic Counts Across the U.S.

Aviation System Performance Metrics (ASPM)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021

ASPM77 Airport Ops

-48.9%

26,771 CURRENT OPS
52,429 SEASONAL AVG

Core Airport Ops

-52.1%

16,219 CURRENT OPS
33,868 SEASONAL AVG



Center Ops

-47.7%

var from baseline

60,525 CURRENT OPS

Top 7 TRACONs

-46.1%

var from baseline

15,211 CURRENT OPS

SOURCE: Federal Aviation Administration

