



**Paul Rinaldi & Trish Gilbert**

## **TEAM UPDATE**

### **Retired Member Steve Hartsoe Presented with Dale Wright Award**

Brothers and Sisters:

On July 20, we were honored to virtually join an award presentation at the joint regional meetings for the Central Region (NCE), New England Region, and Region X in Kansas City. NCE Regional Vice President Aaron Merrick presented Steve Hartsoe with the Dale Wright Award for Distinguished, Professional, and Exceptional Career Service to NATCA and the National Airspace System.

We first presented the award to Wright at our 14th Biennial Convention in Denver in 2012. Wright was NATCA's former director of safety and technology. The award honors an extraordinary, positive impact made on our ability to call the U.S. National Airspace System the world's safest. It symbolizes a career devoted to service to NATCA and safety. [View the previous winners here.](#)

Hartsoe started his Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) career in 2000 at Cedar Rapids ATCT (CID), where he served as FacRep for a brief time. He moved to St. Louis TRACON (T75) in March 2003 and worked there for the remainder of his career before retiring at the end of 2019. Hartsoe was in the Air National Guard when he got hired by the FAA.

Hartsoe's best friend, retired T75 member Chad Wilson, was in the Guard with him and was already a controller with the FAA. Wilson always talked about NATCA when the two men were together. So when Hartsoe got hired, he said there was no doubt he wanted to be a part of an organization that Wilson spoke of so highly.

Hartsoe was a part of the National Drug and Alcohol Team and was a national finance rep for the Central Region. He was part of national training teams, teaching for the NATCA Academy on drug and alcohol issues. He also worked on the National Collaboration Team; took part in the Terminal Automation Modernization and Replacement Team; and was a regional drug and alcohol lead, a regional Training Review Board (TRB) lead, a local Professional Standards rep, and was a local secretary and treasurer for four years.



It is in the area of training where Hartsoe really made a difference for NATCA. With his passion for training, Hartsoe worked tirelessly on getting the NATCA/FAA TRB course developed and played an integral role as the lead cadre instructor for NATCA in the initial rollout of the course. Hartsoe wrote a lot of the TRB's standard operating procedures. He had previously written training plans for the Air Force bases at which he was stationed. National Training Representative Jamaal Haltom said he recognized Hartsoe's willingness to work and his desire to share information. Hartsoe's knowledge and way with people always stood out even amongst other outstanding subject matter experts, and because of that, he was instrumental in making the TRB course the success that it is.

Those who know Hartsoe best say he is very thorough and very fair and has always been committed to ensuring that people are successful. He is easy to talk with, has a pleasant demeanor, and was a good ambassador for NATCA and liaison between controllers and the Agency.

Congratulations, Steve, for this well deserved honor. And thank you for your service to our great Union.

In solidarity,

Paul Rinaldi  
NATCA President

Trish Gilbert  
NATCA Executive Vice President

# 2021 Retirement Benefit Briefings Update

Due to the increase in COVID-19 cases across the country and out of an abundance of caution for the safety of our members, the decision has been made to cancel the remaining in-person Retirement & Benefits Education Seminars for 2021. The safety of our membership, their families, and our benefits partners is of the utmost concern. In order to fulfill your retirement and career education needs, the National Benefits Committee (NBC) has scheduled monthly virtual sessions for the remainder of 2021. These sessions contain 100% of the information presented in person.

While we understand that a face-to-face in-person seminar is ideal, we appreciate your understanding during these difficult times and hope you enjoy the virtual versions.

The virtual seminars are loaded in the NATCA portal, and you may register at <https://portal.natca.org>. If you previously registered for an in-person seminar, you do not need to do anything concerning that registration as the national office has canceled your registration for you.

We hope you will visit the [NATCA Portal](#) and sign up for one of the virtual sessions listed below.

If you have any questions about this or any of the other benefits offered by NATCA, please reach out to the National Benefits Committee at [benefits@natca.net](mailto:benefits@natca.net).



**NATCA Advantage**  
**A FINANCIAL MASTERY & RETIREMENT BRIEFING**  
**FOR MEMBERS AT ANY CAREER STAGE**

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**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18th, 9a Central**  
**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th, 9a Central**  
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26th, 1p Central**  
**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18th, 1p Central**  
**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17th, 9a Central**

**LEARN HOW TO MAXIMIZE YOUR BENEFITS TO**  
**MEET YOUR GOALS**

Whether you're building for your future in retirement or ready to put your retirement plan into action, we are here with information to help.

Personalized Benefits Report available for all attendees.  
 Spouses are encouraged to join us!

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**AND THE BASICS OF LONG-**  
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**REGISTER ONLINE AT:**  
**[HTTPS://PORTAL.NATCA.ORG](https://portal.natca.org)**

For questions or problems with registration contact:  
 Lisa Head, Membership Services Coordinator  
 (202) 628-5451  
 lhead@natcacdc.org

**Paul Speaks at Contract Tower Webinar**



**CONTRACT TOWER**  
**PROGRAM WEBINAR**

JULY 22, 2021, 2-4 P.M. ET // ONLINE

Paul once again addressed participants of the annual meeting of the U.S. Contract Tower Association (USCTA) an affiliate of the American Association

of Airport Executives (AAAE). It works to enhance aviation safety at smaller airports – including at the 116 Federal Contract Towers represented by NATCA – and coordinates contract tower issues with Congress, the Department of Transportation, the Federal Aviation Administration, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), and the Government Accountability Office (GAO). The 2021 meeting took place virtually and attracted USCTA members from around the nation.

The 30-minute talk was a discussion between Paul and AAAE Senior Vice President for Government Affairs Brad Van Dam about a variety of issues, including problems related to stop and go funding, advocacy efforts around infrastructure legislation in Congress, controller staffing issues, the importance of continuing training, and the safe integration of space launches into the NAS.



While introducing Paul, USCTA’s Program Chair Todd Woodard described Paul as “an effective advocate for his members and a strong voice for aviation safety and an incredible partner of the USCTA.” Woodard added, “[USCTA] couldn’t have the successes we have without him pulling on or pushing on a bill right alongside us. And I just want to thank him personally, as the chair of the association. Paul has done an incredible job of building relationships with airports and other aviation stakeholders. We deeply appreciate how NATCA, USCTA, and AAAE have been able to work together on so many issues over the past 12 years.”

Regarding the efforts to pass the infrastructure bill in Congress, Van Dam commended Paul for his recent testimony before the Senate Aviation Subcommittee and NATCA for its advocacy efforts in general. “I thought you just did an exceptionally effective job of laying out the challenges that you see at your facilities around the country... Thank you for a job well done up on the Hill. Putting a human face and the impacts that it has on your members to have some of these leaking roofs and HVAC systems that just aren’t up to par and broken elevators really helps drive home the case for why we need a massive investment in our aviation infrastructure.”

As the session wrapped up, AAAE Board Chair Larry Krauter also commended

Paul and Trish. He said, "Paul, one of the things that comes to mind in my 33-year career in our industry is how you and Trish have transformed NATCA into an organization that really is so highly respected for its ability to partner and its advocacy and education efforts on the Hill, but also throughout the industry. And one of the ways to describe you and Trish, that I think hasn't been said yet, is just honorable. You've always kept your word to us. You've been a great partner. You have, in my view, lifted up the organization, and you have placed it into a really good situation that has a very good future ahead of it."

## Participate in NCF's \$25,000 Regional Charity Competition

The NATCA Charitable Foundation (NCF) is excited to announce its \$25,000 charity giveaway.

1. Sign up to donate to NCF via [the tax-deductible payroll deduction \(1187\) form](#) or increase your per pay period amount that you already donate.

2. Receive an opportunity to vote for one of three charities, selected for your region.

3. All three charities per region will receive a donation through NCF. The charity that receives the most votes in each region will receive a \$1,500 donation. The other two charities in each region will each receive a donation of \$250, totaling \$2,000 in donations per region.

4. The winning region will be decided by the greatest percentage increase of NCF donations via payroll deductions based on the number of members in the region, to ensure fairness.

5. The winning region's charities will receive an additional \$5,000 donation through NCF--\$3,500 additional for the charity with the most votes and \$750 for the other two charities, totaling \$7,000 in donations to the winning region.

Sign up [using this link](#) and [check out the charities](#) that NCF currently supports in your region. The NATCA Charitable Foundation is YOUR charity. Show your support and make a difference today!



**\$25,000 Charity Giveaway  
& Regional Competition**  
**Which region will win?**



## MCAS Cherry Point Members Vote to Ratify CBA

We are very happy to report that our members at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point (NKT) voted earlier this month to ratify a new collective bargaining agreement (CBA).

We are proud of this CBA, which we believe to be fair and reflective of the cooperative and collaborative relationship between the parties at NKT. Thank you to all who participated in this ratification process.

NKT holds a special place in NATCA's history. It was the first non-FAA facility to be organized by the Union. On Sept. 6, 1990, NATCA was certified by the Federal Labor Relations Authority to represent NKT.



## FAA Air Traffic Controller Hiring Bid

**WANNA BE**  
**an air traffic controller?**

**APPLY AT USAJOBS.GOV**  
**JULY 30 – AUG. 2, 2021**



On Friday, July 30, the FAA plans to accept applications nationwide from people interested in becoming air traffic controllers. Applicants must be U.S. citizens, speak English clearly, and be no older than 30 years of age (with limited exceptions). They must have three years of progressively responsible work experience, or a Bachelor's degree, or a

combination of post-secondary education and work experience that totals three years. They are also required to pass a medical examination, security investigation, and FAA air traffic pre-employment tests. Applicants must be willing to work anywhere in the United States. Agency staffing needs will determine facility assignment.

Accepted applicants will be trained at the FAA Academy in Oklahoma City. Active duty military members must provide documentation certifying that they expect to be discharged or released from active duty under honorable conditions no later than 120 days after the date the documentation is signed.

Those interested in applying should visit [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov) to start building their application and [www.faa.gov/Jobs](http://www.faa.gov/Jobs) for more information.