



Paul Rinaldi & Trish Gilbert **TEAM UPDATE**

Brothers and Sisters:

[Juneteenth](#) is the commemoration – on June 19 every year – of the date on which news of the end of slavery reached the enslaved people in the Southwestern United States. On June 19, 1865, about two months after the Confederate general Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox, Va., Gordon Granger, a Union general, arrived in Galveston, Texas, to inform enslaved African Americans of their freedom and that the Civil War had ended. General Granger's announcement put into effect the Emancipation Proclamation, which had been issued more than two and a half years earlier on Jan. 1, 1863, by President Abraham Lincoln.

This holiday has been celebrated by African Americans since the late 1800s. Today, Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement. The holiday traditionally is marked with celebrations, guest speakers, picnics and family gatherings, and is a time for reflection and rejoicing. In cities

across the United States, people of all races, nationalities, and religions are joining hands to truthfully acknowledge a period in our history that shaped and continues to influence our society today.



This week, President Biden signed into law S. Res. 269, designating June 19, 2021, as "Juneteenth Independence Day." It is now the 11th annual federal holiday. Article 28 of NATCA's CBAs with the FAA apply to this new holiday. The new holiday is in effect under the terms of our CBAs with DOD. We are working with the FCT employers to implement the holiday in accordance with our negotiated agreements, and we are granting Juneteenth Independence

Day as an additional holiday for our NATCA employees.

In solidarity, we stand with other labor unions and civil rights groups in celebrating the decision to recognize Juneteenth Independence Day as a new national holiday. On Juneteenth 2021, we join in calling for an end to systemic bigotry, discrimination, and racial injustice.

Paul Rinaldi
President

Trish Gilbert
Executive Vice President

NATCA Celebrates 34-Year Anniversary By Recognizing the Unsung Heroes of Our Union

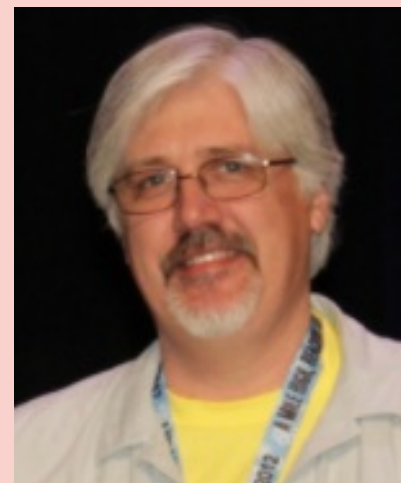
Today, NATCA is proud to celebrate the 34th anniversary of our certification by the Federal Labor Relations Authority as the exclusive bargaining representative of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) air traffic controllers.



Throughout our history, NATCA's growth and success has been marked by individual efforts of leadership, vision, and dedication that – joined together with other members' work – lifted the Union into the

best position to represent our members. Some of those individuals are widely known, but many are not.

NATCA's National Historical Committee looked through our Union's history – early and recent – to identify examples of extraordinary efforts by NATCA members that may not be well known by our membership. As we celebrate our anniversary, we are beginning a series of stories in NATCA's publications to honor these “unsung heroes.” We'll introduce you to many of them throughout the rest of this year. Today, we start with our first highlighted individual – retired member Russ Miller.



Russ, a former FacRep from Fort Worth Center (ZFW), was part of a group of NATCA activists that were instrumental in helping the Union begin building a collaborative working relationship with the FAA beginning in 2010 following the implementation of the 2009 Red Book collective bargaining agreement. It was a role seemingly made for him and his expertise, having served in both local leadership roles and on the first NATCA Reloaded Committee.



Who Are The Unsung Heroes in Your Facility?

Do you know a NATCA member whose efforts have helped our Union move forward in an important way, without a lot of notice?

We want your help identifying unsung heroes. Let us know who they are and tell us about what they are doing to lift up your local and NATCA as a whole. Email us at

publicaffairs@natcadc.org.

Happy 34th Anniversary to NATCA! We are so proud to represent each of our members. We've come a long way together and we are excited about the journey ahead.

Wishing NATCA Dads a Happy Father's Day!

On Father's Day, NATCA is proud to highlight the fathers and fatherly figures who love and help raise our young NATCA family members, while keeping our National Airspace System the safest and most efficient on the planet. [Click here](#) to see the 2021 Father's Day album.



"In fatherhood we know the elemental magic and joy of humanity."



Paul to Testify Before Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation Subcommittee on Aviation Safety

On Wednesday, June 23, at 2:30 p.m., the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation Subcommittee on Aviation Safety, Operations, and Innovation will hold a virtual hearing titled, “Aviation Infrastructure for the 21st Century.” Committee Chair, Sen. Maria Cantwell, D.-Wash., has invited Paul to testify. Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, D.-Ariz., will preside over the virtual hearing. In addition to Paul, other witnesses will include:

- Tucson Airport Authority President and CEO Danette Bewley,
- Southwest Airlines Vice President for Real Estate Paul Cullen, and
- RAND Corporation representative Benjamin Miller.

The hearing will address the state of existing aviation infrastructure, the differing needs of and resources between smaller and larger

airports, and plans for maintaining and modernizing aviation infrastructure. Topics such as analyzing aviation infrastructure in the context of a post-COVID-19 environment and evaluating aviation infrastructure funding options will be considered.



U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, & TRANSPORTATION

Paul has been asked to address the current state of U.S. air traffic control facilities and offer any recommendations NATCA has regarding the modernization of the U.S. air transportation system as a core component of aviation infrastructure.

NATCA members may view this hearing via a live stream. Witness testimony, opening statements, and a live video of the hearing will be available [here](#).

The Final Transition to STARS

Nearly two decades after the initial deployment of the Standard Terminal Automation Replacement System (STARS), NATCA and the FAA have marked a collaboration milestone on National Airspace System (NAS) modernization: the completion of the deployment waterfall. The last facility was Grand Canyon ATCT (GCN), marking the deployment of STARS G4 and G4 ELITE at nearly 150 TRACONS and 470 towers.

STARS provides air traffic controllers throughout the NAS with a state-of-the-art radar display system, giving controllers the tools to improve efficiency, increase service to the user, and enhance safety. STARS was the automation system chosen by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to help move the NAS into the future and meet the goals of NextGen.

“Unfortunately, the first installation of STARS was halted due to a lack of funding,” said NATCA National Terminal Automation Modernization and

Replacement (TAMR) Rep and Minneapolis TRACON (M98) member Kyle Ness. "Once funding was restarted, Allentown ATCT (ABE) was the first facility to cut over to STARS in 2014."



The road to full deployment has been marked by the Union and the Agency meeting unique challenges at many facilities. For example, at Joshua Control Facility (JCF), they have some characteristics of an en route center on one side, and terminal radar control on the other, with a huge amount of airspace in contrast to the typical TRACON. They used REHOST prior to STARS. REHOST was a radar system specifically designed for the facility years ago to accommodate all its nuances: high performance military aircraft, civil aircraft, commercial flights, rockets, UAVs, and space missions like the Virgin Galactic first commercial flight into orbit.

"Since JCF has extensive airspace, it requires multiple radar sites," said JCF FacRep Chrissy Lewis. "Despite all of the challenges leading up to the day of transition, I could not be prouder of the professionalism, dedication, teamwork, and motivation from all the members on that day. Kyle and Denver TRACON (D01) member Jason Rose were right there to help and were supportive through the whole process."

Atlanta TRACON (A80) member Jon Bealles, who assisted with his facility transition, said they developed a training plan based on plans done at other facilities and then added their own site-specific information. "Once our members were trained, we had a STARS scope put in at a backup location on the floor," he said. "Controllers had a chance to work with it and get comfortable before we made the big cutover."

Added Ness, "With the STARS system in place, there is now a single automation platform in the terminal NAS. Software and hardware maintenance is improved, new controller functionality is deployed more quickly, training is simplified, all resulting in cost-savings to the Agency. STARS is a system capable of growth and many enhancements are yet to come that will help controllers do their job successfully. This helps us to ensure a better and safer NAS."

AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Shuler to Speak at Biennial Convention in Houston

We are very excited to announce that our union sister and dear friend Liz Shuler, the AFL-CIO's Secretary-Treasurer since 2009, has graciously accepted our invitation to address NATCA's 18th Biennial Convention in Houston. It will be her first appearance before NATCA's supreme convention body



since 2014 when she spoke to our 15th Biennial Convention in Minneapolis.

[Liz is the AFL-CIO's second ranking officer](#), the first woman elected to the position, and the youngest woman ever on the federation's Executive Council. She is the federation's chief financial officer and oversees its operations.

She started her career in Portland, Ore., as a proud union organizer and local union activist with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 125. Prior to her election as Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO, Liz worked her way up

through the ranks of IBEW honing her mobilizing, policy, legislative, and leadership skills, winning critical labor and progressive legislative fights on the West Coast, and ultimately gaining executive leadership experience at IBEW's international headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Liz's passion for broadening the union movement drives her to reach to the rising American electorate - young workers, women, people of color, and immigrants - and re-introduce unions to America. In addition to overseeing the federation's operations and finances, Liz leads at the AFL-CIO on initiatives around the future of work, workforce development and training, industrial union councils, and women and young workers' economic empowerment. Liz is committed to busting myths to show the labor movement's diversity and innovative approaches to the workplace of the future, and the meaningful improvements a union voice on the job can bring to working families and our economy.

Throughout our 12 years of working with Liz, she has always had our back and strongly supported our members through both good times and challenges, such as the 2019 government shutdown. She led a rally of labor union women leaders to support government workers at AFL-CIO headquarters at which Trish spoke. She also led a panel discussion about COVID-19 with labor leaders including Paul during a call with news media in April 2020. The intent of the call helped to demonstrate solidarity among union members during the pandemic and educate the media and public about the risks these essential workers were taking to perform their jobs.

Said Liz: "We think that, too often, the media is focusing attention on so many other aspects of the crisis beyond just what workers are experiencing on the front lines and are experiencing this in so many other ways day to day. They're heroic acts. They're acts of courage, showing up for work every day and continuing to provide the services that our country needs, and keeping others safe."

Convention at a Glance

DATES: Tuesday, Aug. 10, through

Thursday, Aug. 12, with an opening reception on the evening of Monday, Aug. 9.

REGISTRATION: [Register or modify existing registrations here.](#)

SITE: Marriott Marquis in downtown Houston. [Make your reservation here.](#) Your event registration does NOT get you a hotel room at the Marriott Marquis. Hotel room reservations must be made separately. The deadline to reserve your room at the Marriott Marquis is July 15.

COMPLETE INFORMATION: [View our biennial convention webpage here.](#)

STREAMING ONLINE: Members can watch the convention live or on demand on the members side of our natca.org website. We will provide a link when we get closer to the event.

SAVE THE DATE: NATCA's 19th Biennial Convention will be held June 20-22, 2023 at The Diplomat, in Hollywood, Fla.



Collaboration Was Reason J-CAT Ensured Our Facilities Were Clean and Safe During COVID-19

One of the most effective processes we put in place collaboratively with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) during the pandemic was the Joint Air Traffic Operations Command, known as the Joint Crisis Action Team, or J-CAT. These are used for major events like hurricanes, but during the COVID-19 national emergency, it was used in the form of a call to have all stakeholders including NATCA and aerospace medicine on the line to make a determination on the level of exposure and its effect on the workforce and overall operation.

The J-CAT process worked well in ensuring that affected facilities were clean and safe for employees to return. Each of our regional vice presidents and so many of their local facility representatives were a part of this process. We thank each of them for their dedication and hard work to represent the best interests of our members during the pandemic.

CNN Story on Facility Cleanings Includes NATCA

The issue of facility cleanings also drew positive national media attention last week. CNN posted an online story touting the benefits of the cleanings, particularly how the FAA says they have helped avoid more than 165 ATC Zero incidents and reduced flight delays.

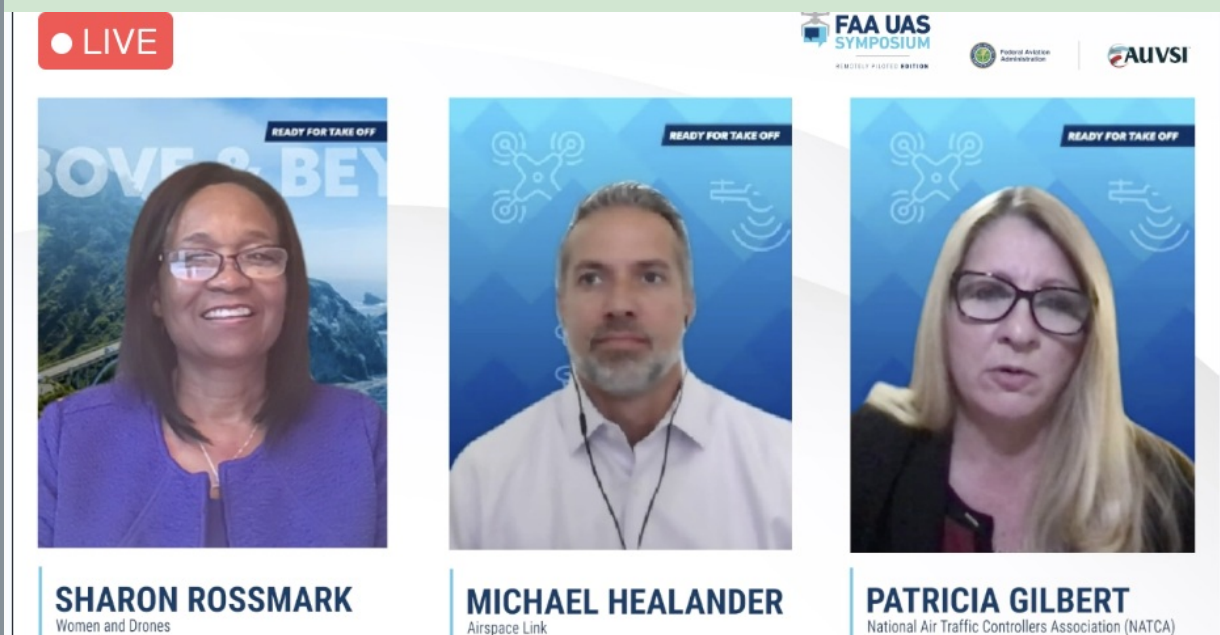
We provided a statement praising the collaboration that took place and how we believe the procedures keep our employees and their families safe. Here is the portion of our statement, attributable to Paul, which CNN used in the story:

“Rinaldi noted air traffic controllers are essential workers and during the pandemic ‘have continued to go to work each day, keeping our system operating safely and efficiently and continuing the vital transport of people, cargo, and the Covid-19 vaccine. The type of work we perform does not allow for social distancing and requires shared workstations.’”

[Read the full CNN story here.](#)

Trish Talks Diversity at the FAA UAS Symposium

Trish had the opportunity to speak last week at the virtual FAA UAS Symposium. Her panel – Diversity and Drones in Aviation – discussed how diverse teams and inclusivity are pathways to enhance safety and success for individuals and businesses.



Aviation has connected people in ways that no other industry can, and drones will connect us even more, said Trish. And although women are not well-represented in the new entrants and aviation occupations, we as an industry have to figure out if are we uniquely positioned now, with this new industry coming into the airspace, to bring in a diversified workforce, to have better innovations, better outcomes, and safer integrations.

“Diversity and inclusion should definitely be a part of this conversation,” said Trish. “It has been proven that diversity creates a culture that is more innovative. This is important in the drone community and makes aviation and new entrants safer, but we have to continue to evolve.”

Trish also talked about labor shortages in parts of the aviation professions as an opportunity to hire more diverse talent. “It’s important for governments, companies, labor unions, and educational institutions to look at the barriers preventing women from entering careers in aviation,” she said. “We need to come together to make sure we are reaching into our schools, making them aware that these are careers for everyone. We also need to make sure we are diversifying decision-making in our industry, as well as on boards, and with

hiring.”

Trish told the panel that aviation is the safest mode of transportation and diversity can make it even safer with an engaged and valued workforce. “The best and the brightest can be very diversified. Now is a great opportunity in aviation to reach out to a lot of that talent.”

NCF Pride Fundraising Results

To honor Pride Month, the NATCA Charitable Foundation (NCF) once again raised funds and awareness for the LGBTQ+ Community. In May, NCF sold 163 NATCA Pride shirts and raised \$1,130. All proceeds from this fundraiser along with a \$2,000 additional donation from NCF will support the following three charities providing assistance to LGBTQ+ young people:

- SMYAL (Supporting and Mentoring Youth Advocates and Leaders) supports and empowers lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region.
- New Alternatives for LGBT Homeless Youth increases the self-sufficiency of LGBTQ+ homeless youth in New York City by enabling them to transition out of the shelter system to stable adult lives.
- The Los Angeles LGBT Center provides transitional housing, host homes, educational opportunities, life mentoring, and employment services to the thousands of LGBT young people experiencing homelessness in L.A.



About this fundraising promotion, NCF President Corrie Conrad said, “This fundraiser aligned well with NCF’s goal of seeking out smaller charities that help the underserved communities where NATCA members live and work. I am pleased that we were able to organize this effort to celebrate Pride Month and help these worthwhile charities do their important work. Happy Pride!”

Find out more about NCF [here](#). Help us make a difference and donate today!

Register for CFS Today!



Registration is ongoing for Communicating For Safety (CFS) 2021. We are returning to Bally's Las Vegas on Sept. 27-29 to bring together our members, representatives from the Federal Aviation Administration, and leaders of the aviation community to discuss an array of safety and modernization topics. We're working to fill the agenda with engaging panels and again make this the best safety conference on the aviation calendar.

The event registration process will include making your hotel reservations. There is no need to contact Bally's to reserve your room.

[Click here to register!](#)