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Our new reality in these unprecedented times leaves mothers acting as parent, professional, teacher, and more on an enhanced round-the-clock schedule. In many cases, it's without the help of extra care providers, family, and friends. The unexpected extra time with your families comes with gratitude and worry for what we don't know about the risks of the present and what our collective future holds for years to come.

In honor of Mother's Day, we asked one of our devoted NATCA moms, Atlanta Center (ZTL) member **Mylinka Brogdon**, to share her experience navigating these troubled waters, while continuing to provide dedicated service and professionalism in support of our National Airspace System. She is mother to Camille (15) and son Dylan (2) (not pictured).

What have been your biggest challenges associated with COVID-19?

The biggest challenges have come from ensuring the safety and protection of my children and elderly mother. As a mother, we try to do anything possible to mitigate risk for them. COVID-19 has been difficult because there has been very little understanding of it. The biggest challenge came with

ensuring that I was doing all that I could to protect them from the circumstances and the environment.

Your proudest moments throughout this struggle?

My proudest moments are when I think about the fact that we — as a profession, a community, a county, a state, a region, and a nation — have banded together during this pandemic and made things happen even when resources and options have been limited or unavailable.

What are you most looking forward to about life returning to normal?

I am definitely looking forward to traveling freely again and having the opportunity to network with my cohorts. This time away from the world and all of its furnishings will inexplicably make each moment hereafter that more sweet.



How are your kids taking the change in schedules and circumstances?

The kids are actually loving the fact that I have more time to spend with them. We have been able to do so many more activities together as a family sans the world around us being open.

How is working at Atlanta Center different than usual? What hasn't changed at all?

With the crew schedules in place, we're not able to commune with our work family much. We are so used to being a significant part of each other's lives. Love them or hate them, we're family. What hasn't changed at all is our dedication and love for what we do.

Dawn McFalls

**Merrill Field
ATCT (MRI)
Alaskan Region**

Dawn, with son, John (13), and daughter, Adrienna (12).



Marlene Mariel Vasquez

Miami Center (ZMA)
Southern Region

Marlene, with daughters Emma (8) and Isabel (6).



Mary Waltman

El Paso ATCT (ELP)
Southwest Region

Mary, with her son, Zaiden (5).



It's a Boy for Insider Editor Brandi Teel!

National Office Public Affairs Coordinator Brandi Teel, the editor of the NATCA Insider, and her husband, Dulles ATCT (IAD) member Jamaal Teel, welcomed a baby boy, Aaron, to their family on May 5, joining daughters Claire and Sarah.



[View Our Mother's Day Photo Album Here](#)

Welcoming a New Facility Into the NATCA Family: MCN

The NATCA National Organizing Committee is proud to announce the addition of a new facility into the NATCA family: the Federal Contract Tower (FCT) at Middle Georgia Regional Airport in Macon, Ga. (MCN).

“Our main reason for joining NATCA was because of the collective bargaining on pay and working conditions,”

MCN air traffic controller John Williams said. “We were also interested in what NATCA has to offer regarding legal advice and services and personal representation when needed. Other reasons included health and safety concerns that may arise and equality in the workplace.”



MCN is run by Robinson Aviation (RVA), Inc. The Middle Georgia Regional Airport has a long and rich history, which dates back to World War II. In March 1940, the U.S. Army began construction on Cochran Army Airfield, which officially opened in October 1940. The base became a joint training facility for the U.S. Army Air Corp and the British Royal Air Force. In 1946, the airfield was decommissioned by the Army and turned over to the City of Macon. Today, the airport is still owned by Macon-Bibb County Government and operated by TBI Airport Management, Inc.

NATCA represents a group of air traffic control specialists that work in 111 Federal Contract Towers (FCTs) for one of four private employers: RVA, Midwest Air Traffic Control Services, RVA-CI Squared Aviation, Inc., and Serco Management Services, Inc. These contract towers tend to be smaller in size and operation, typically employing between five and 10 controllers, many of whom are retired FAA and military air traffic controllers.

[View our list of all 111-represented FCTs here](#)

Operation Traffic Counts Across the U.S.

While the COVID-19 national emergency has stopped most activities everywhere in our country, NATCA members continue to provide essential service to flights across more than 29 million square miles of airspace. Air traffic controllers are a vital part of the fight against this disease, helping move necessary goods and emergency and medical supplies and equipment and even people, coast to coast, city to city. Otherwise — as all NATCA's members know — we're continuing to see dramatically less traffic at all facilities.

Aviation System Performance Metrics (ASPM)

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2020

ASPM77 Airport Ops

-66.4%

18,600 CURRENT OPS
55,705 SEASONAL AVG

Core Airport Ops

-72.0%

10,000 CURRENT OPS
35,820 SEASONAL AVG



Center Ops

-68.0%

var from baseline

38,987 CURRENT OPS

Top 7 TRACONs

-61.3%

var from baseline

11,837 CURRENT OPS

SOURCE: Federal Aviation Administration

TSA Checkpoint Travel Numbers



	Total Traveler Throughput	Same weekday 1 year ago	% change
May 4, 2020	163,692	2,470,969	-93.4%
May 3, 2020	170,254	2,512,598	-93.2%
May 2, 2020	134,261	1,968,278	-93.2%

SOURCE: Federal Aviation Administration

ANC Achieves Status of World's Busiest Airport

As of last week, Anchorage ATCT (ANC) became the busiest facility in the National Airspace System when Ted Stevens Anchorage Airport, due to increases in cargo operations, beat out the traffic of normally busy hubs like LAX, Dubai, and Hong Kong to achieve the status of busiest airport in the world.

"On Saturday [April 25], ANC was the world's busiest airport for aircraft operations," [the airport tweeted](#). "This points to how significantly the global aviation system has changed and highlights the significance of our role in the global economy and fight against the COVID-19 pandemic." [Read more](#)

Upcoming Online Classes

Even though we cannot meet in person, NATCA members know that continued learning is vital. Our Union is offering NATCA 101 next week.



MAY 15, 2020
1 P.M. ET

NATCA 101

**THIS INTERACTIVE
COURSE IS TAUGHT VIA
MICROSOFT TEAMS.
SIGN UP AT [PORTAL.NATCA.NET](https://portal.natca.net)**

Shaping NATCA's future by inspiring
unionism and providing opportunities
for involvement through education.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT CHRISSY PADGETT AT
CPADGETT@NATCA.NET

In addition, we are excited to announce that we will be offering a number of online courses derived from the standard curriculum offered by the NATCA Academy. Here's the upcoming schedule of upcoming classes. Register today!

Register [here](#) | Full schedule and class descriptions [here](#)

We hope that you will take this opportunity to learn more about your Union your rights, and how you can become more active in the areas that interest you.

NATCA ACADEMY VIRTUAL LEARNING



Sign up at
[portal.
natca.org](https://portal.natca.org)



WED
MAY 13

12:00 pm EDT
You Hate Politics Too, Let's Talk
(60 min)

THU
MAY 14

1:00 pm EDT
Water Intrusion and Mold Growth in
our Buildings (OSHA) (60 min)

SAT
MAY 16

12:00 pm EDT
Article 6 Representation Rights (90 min)
4:00 pm EDT
Medical Reporting Requirements (90 min)

MON
MAY 18

11:00 am EDT
Building Lasting Relationships
(60 min)

TUE
MAY 19

1:00 pm EDT
ATSAP Webinar
(60 min)

WED
MAY 20

11:00am EDT
Federal Contract Tower Webinar (90 min)
3:00 pm EDT
Having a Difficult Conversation (60 min)

Paying it Forward: NATCA Members Continue Efforts to Support Other Essential Workers

NATCA members across the country continued their efforts to support other essential workers in their communities. This week's roundup:

Northern Virginia: NATCA, in conjunction with the Northern Virginia Labor Federation, have organized a food drive for the local members of UNITE HERE. It was started after Potomac TRACON (PCT) member Brian Schmelzel (pictured) asked Retired NATCA Active Volunteers (RNAV) and Boots on the Ground members if there were any unions in need of assistance in the area. Schmelzel and local RNAV members are leading the effort to collect food.



Atlanta Center (ZTL): Members' recent efforts to support local restaurants and COVID-19 front line workers received coverage in the Henry County Times. ZTL

FacRep Dan McCabe talked about the support he and his members received during the 2019 government shutdown and is seeking to now repay that generosity forward. “Fast forward a little over a year, here we are in a situation and we are still essential employees but we are not the ones taking the brunt of this. But the frontlines are,” said McCabe. “We felt like it was our turn to give back. Since the shutdown, I’ve always wanted to take an opportunity to thank those people if I could. This was a perfect opportunity to just give back to the community. You’ve got to pay it forward.” [Read more](#)



Portland, Maine ATCT (PWM): Members delivered 150 meals to Mercy Hospital in Portland from Moe’s Original BBQ. They also delivered 50 meals to workers at a local Hannaford grocery store. “On behalf of the employees at Mercy Hospital, thank you for your kindness and generosity in providing lunches to us,” the staff wrote the members. “Folks were very appreciative.”



Fort Myers ATCT (RSW): Members have collected funds and purchased meals for local front line workers in Southwest Florida. "So far we delivered 60 meals to the ER and ICU units at Gulf Coast Medical Center and 65-plus meals to two ICU and one ER unit at Cape Coral Hospital," RSW FacRep Ross Costa said. "We have raised over \$1,900 and are continuing to coordinate more meals for delivery. This is our way of saying thank you to the unsung heroes in our local community, who have been battling on the front lines day in and day out dealing with the current pandemic." [Donate here](#)



New York TRACON (N90): To say thank you, members have bought lunches for the health care professionals at Nassau University Medical Center and Winthrop University Hospital, and over 50 police officers, ambulance drivers, and paramedics that operate out of the 3rd precinct in Mineola, N.Y. They finished by going to the police headquarters building there. “One of the most satisfying aspects of giving back to our local heroes was that we were able to use local delis and markets to supply the food and catering,” said N90 member Charles Koury, pictured at the deliveries with FacRep Kevin Maney and Vice President Joe Segretto.

N90 also made a donation to Island Harvest Food Bank. “Last year, Island Harvest reached out to us asking what they can do for our members during the government shutdown,” Koury said. “This year we made sure that we would pay forward their generosity. Our donation to them will be used to feed up to 80 families of 3-4 for at least four days! The charity and generosity of our NATCA sisters and brothers is second to none.”



Houston Area Facilities: NATCA members in Houston kept their “Feeding the Front Lines” effort going last week when Chris Scandridge (Houston Center, ZHU) delivered lunch to Houston Fire Department Station 51. They have more deliveries lined up in the coming weeks.



Washington Center (ZDC): Members donated 100 handmade cloth masks made by volunteers from the ZDC NATCA Charitable Committee to the Leesburg, Va., Police Department. They were delivered by members Kristena Jones and Brad Starkey. The department posted on social media: “We appreciate your generosity, and thank you for keeping our skies safe!”

New Union Synergy Video Shows “The Many Faces of NATCA”

The NATCA Union Synergy Committee has produced a fun and creative new video called “The Many Faces of NATCA.” [View here](#). The video demonstrates how NATCA values diversity. Union Synergy Committee chair Maurice Franklin (Potomac TRACON, PCT) said, “Everyone involved in our beloved Union should strive to help us ensure that all of their NATCA brothers and sisters are all welcome and valued. The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.”



NATCA Masks For Sale on Store Website

NATCA has procured higher-quality, thicker cloth face masks. The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) recommends wearing cloth face coverings in settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. The CDC also advises the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help

people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others.

In addition to these masks being shipped out to all facilities for all NATCA members, they are also available for purchase in the NATCA online store. [Order here](#)

Federal News Network Touts Success of NATCA-FAA Collaboration

In the Team Update last week, we told you about Executive Vice President Trish Gilbert's recent [interview](#) with Tom Temin of Federal News Network. On May 1, Temin referenced Gilbert in his column citing NATCA as a leading example of a federal agency and its employees' union working together successfully and communicating effectively during the COVID-19 national emergency.

Wrote Temin: “People who can’t telework tend to work in situations where they can’t stay artificially far from one another. A case in point: the Federal Aviation Administration’s air traffic controllers. Towers and regional traffic centers keep people in close quarters by design. They work as teams, constantly talking to the airplane pilots and to one another. One shift leaves, the next shift seats itself at the same chairs, touching the same consoles.

“In my [interview with Trish Gilbert](#), the executive vice president of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association, she said FAA management worked closely to establish facility cleaning procedures and getting supplies.

“Of FAA management, Gilbert said, ‘They reacted as quick as they possibly could, being that they are so large and they have so many boxes to check.’ She added, ‘Doesn’t mean we weren’t frustrated, doesn’t mean we didn’t disagree. We

certainly did. But eventually we got to a resolution, or one that can keep the system running to get those supplies where they need across the country but at the same time ensuring the workforce that has to be there is as safe as they possibly can be.'

"That doesn't render the threat academic. More than 32 controllers, at the time of the interview, had contracted coronavirus. Luckily all recovered. But at least the agency and one of its major unions were communicating with one another, working out details, procedures." [Read more](#)

Soaring Over DCA and Honoring COVID-19 Responders

The U.S. Navy Blue Angels and the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds staged two joint flyovers last week in a salute to frontline COVID-19 responders. The first was over New York and Philadelphia and the second was over Baltimore, Washington, D.C., and Atlanta. This photo below shows them over Washington National ATCT (DCA). *(Photo by Lamyl Hammoudi, a Washington, D.C.,-area photographer.)*



NATCA Biennial Convention: Registration is Open

The 18th Biennial Convention is rescheduled to take place at the Marriott Marquis in Houston, Saturday, Aug. 29, through Monday, Aug. 31. Registration is a two-step process.

STEP 1: Register for the convention [here](#).

STEP 2: Register for your hotel room [here](#).



Professionalism Award: Nomination Deadline June 18

Who do you work with that inspires, motivates, and demonstrates professionalism? Nominate your peer for the National Professionalism Award presented by the Professional Standards program at Communicating For Safety (Nov. 16-18). A winner will be selected from each service area.

Any NATCA member may nominate another member for the award, with no limit on the number of nominations received from a single facility, region or service area. Only members in good standing will be eligible to receive the award(s). All nominations must be submitted by June 18. [Nomination form](#)

Archie League, Region X Safety Awards: Nomination Period Extended

NATCA members: We're looking for the best saves that have occurred at your facilities from May 1, 2019 through May 31, 2020. A member may nominate another member for an Archie League Medal of Safety Award. Deadline to nominate: June 15. [Nomination form](#)

The Region X Commitment to Safety Award is given annually to a Region X member who has shown a profound dedication to ensuring the safety of the National Airspace System (NAS). The award is peer-nominated, and any Region X member in good standing can be nominated for work done between May 1, 2019 and May 31, 2020 in their role as an aviation safety professional. Deadline to submit nominations is June 15. [Nomination form](#)

Retirement Webinar Schedule Through May

The next three scheduled retirement seminars from 4 Square Financial Literacy Partners, Inc., are webinars due to the COVID-19 national

emergency. They are: Westbury, N.Y. (May 12-13), Atlanta (May 13-14), and Los Angeles (May 19-20). An additional webinar, which any member nationwide can participate in, is scheduled for May 15 at 10 a.m. CDT.



4 Square Financial
Literacy Partners, Inc.



IMPORTANT: If you had previously signed up for this seminar and are unable to

attend virtually, please consider canceling your reservation as space is limited for virtual classes as well.

To register for both the seminars and the webinars: use the NATCA Portal, portal.natca.org. Click on the “events” tab in the main menu at the top of the screen.

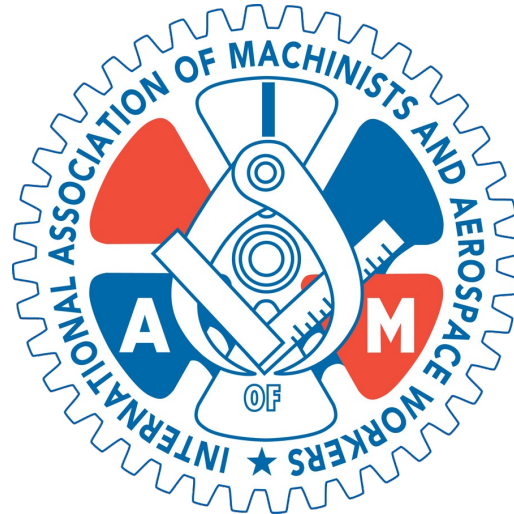
For more information, [click here](#).

For questions or any problems with registration, please contact Lisa Head at the National Office: 202-628-5451 or lhead@natcadc.org.

Union Members Feature: IAM

NATCA continues to highlight our union sisters and brothers who are also essential workers during the COVID-19 national emergency. Today we highlight and thank the members of the International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers (IAM).

With nearly 600,000 active and retired members, the IAM is one of the largest and most diverse labor unions in North America. IAM members work in aerospace, transportation, the federal government, automotive, defense, woodworking, and more, at organizations including Harley-Davidson, Southwest Airlines, Boeing, Pratt & Whitney, Freightliner, Tennessee Valley Authority and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.



A number of our union brothers and sisters in IAM have been lost to coronavirus as they continued to work the front lines in health care, aviation, and other roles critical to our nation’s response to this crisis.

[Learn more about what IAM is doing during this time](#)

[Watch video](#)

Aviation Labor News

From the AFL-CIO - Machinists Denounce United Airlines Despite taking billions of taxpayer dollars from the CARES Act to protect workers’ pay, United Airlines announced it will unilaterally move 15,000 full-time workers to part-time status. International President Robert Martinez Jr. (IAM) [reacted to the news](#): “Want to know what corporate greed looks like? Ask United Airlines. After taking \$5 billion from taxpayers, they have the audacity to put thousands of IAM union members on the streets. We will fight this with everything we have!” United Airlines’ action clearly violates the intent of the CARES Act, which is to make airline employees whole during the pandemic.

From The Daily Beast - ‘Stabbing Us in the Back’: United Airlines Cuts Worker Hours After Taking Relief Funds: United Airlines on Friday told employees that 15,000 airport workers will be reduced to part-time status amid the novel coronavirus pandemic, which has caused the largest disruption to the travel industry in recent history. The move comes after United received \$5 billion in federal relief funds from the CARES Act. A baggage handler for United

who is based in the Houston area—and asked to remain anonymous for fear of professional retaliation—told The Daily Beast on Friday that the move was pure “corporate greed.”

“I can understand if they’re losing money, but they took money from the taxpayers and turned around and put the money in their own pockets,” said the baggage handler. “You’re taking food off our table and basically forcing people in the streets. They begged us to help them get this CARES money, and now they turn around and are stabbing us in the back.” [Read more](#)

From The Dallas Morning News - 39,000 American Airlines workers take early retirement, leave or reduced hours in the face of COVID-19 pandemic:

Nearly 39,000 American Airlines workers are taking early retirement, voluntary leave or reduced hours in the coming months as the company looks to temporarily shrink with demand for travel way down. COVID-19 has forced the Fort Worth-based airline into an unenviable position, asking how many fewer employees it will need in the coming months and years as the virus takes its toll on the psyche of travelers and the economy. American has about 130,000 workers including regional carriers Envoy, PSA and Piedmont. [Read more](#)

NATCA Member COVID-19 Resources

[Click here for COVID-19 Updates and Resources](#)



During the COVID-19 pandemic, please know the [CISM team](#) is here to help you. CISM is a peer-to-peer service designed to help you post-accident or during a personal crisis. You can call us 24/7, 265 at 202-505-CISM (2476). If you reach our voicemail please leave your contact info, and someone will call you back. Keep in mind, we are aviation safety professionals and may be actively working at the time of your call. Messages are kept strictly confidential. You also can reach us via email at CISM@natca.net or check out our website at www.natca.org/CISM.

