

The Delegate

Daily Update about NATCA's 19th Biennial Convention



DAY 1 | MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2023

Welcome to NATCA's 19th Biennial Convention

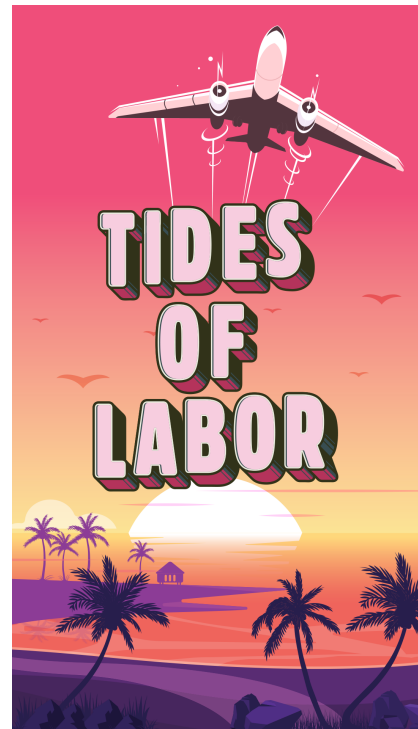
NATCA Brothers and Sisters:

It is truly an honor to officially welcome NATCA's 830 delegates from 310 facilities to our Union's 19th Biennial Convention in Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood, Florida.

As with past conventions, we come together this week to discuss the vital issues that face our Union and build toward a better future for every member. Like those NATCA members that came before us, we will continue to join in solidarity to work for fair pay, a voice on the job, and the right to collectively bargain.

NATCA is one of the most influential unions in the federal sector. These Convention discussions are vital to the continued success of our Union because they allow the voices of our members to be heard, regarding the issues that members consider to be important. The National Airspace System is growing more complex every year, so it is vital that we have adequate staffing, hiring, and training of air traffic controllers and up-to-date facilities to maintain the NAS as the safest and most efficient in the world.

In addition to the important work at each Convention, this year marks a return to our full schedule of in-person events including our receptions, regional dinners, and NATCA Charitable Foundation events. At our last convention in Houston, we did the right thing by focusing on the business of the Union and masking up to protect each other as we continued the long recovery after the pandemic. Staying strong, we made it through, and now, we can return to our normal Convention activities. The planning committee for this Convention, arranged for great evening events where Convention attendees can network with their Union siblings, get to know each other better, and learn about working in other facilities throughout the country, while having fun and



experiencing food and culture of NATCA's Southern Region.

Speaking about the planning committee, we need to extend our thanks to these excellent member volunteers and NATCA's staff, who worked tirelessly for many months to plan this Convention and all of the related events and make it as productive and memorable an experience as possible for every delegate.

The planning committee was chaired by Amy Sayers (Fort Lauderdale ATCT, FLL) and Southern Regional Vice President Jim Marinitti. The NATCA members on the planning committee for this Convention include: Danny Aguerre (Miami Center, ZMA); Corrie Conrad (NATCA Charitable Foundation President and Portland Tower, PDX, President); Charles Howell (Oakland Center, ZOA, President); Chris Martinez (NATCA Credentials Committee Chair and Myrtle Beach ATCT, MYR, President); Brittany Nortmann (Miami Center, ZMA); Amanda Richardson (Oakland Center, ZOA); Corey Soignet (Houston Intercontinental ATCT, IAH); and Sandy Tighe (retired member, Minneapolis Center, ZMP). It also includes the following NATCA staff: Deputy Director of Public Affairs Kelly Richardson, Meeting Planning and Events Representative Mindy Soranno, and Director of Public Affairs Thom Metzger.

I can't tell you how thrilled and excited we are to begin this Convention and start the important discussions and debates that have become the hallmark of this event. For even when we disagree on the path forward, we come together as one Union to do what we collectively believe is best for every NATCA member.

We ask you to take this opportunity to listen and learn from each other. Focus on the business at hand and please, but after we adjourn each day, take advantage of the beautiful venue and all that Fort Lauderdale and Hollywood, Florida, have to offer.

Let's get to work!

In Solidarity,

Rich Santa
President

Andrew LeBovidge
Executive Vice President

Welcome to NATCA's Southern Region

NATCA Brothers and Sisters:

Our Union's Southern Region is proud to welcome you to Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood, Florida, for NATCA's 19th Biennial Convention.

NATCA's Southern Region represents 117 locals (60 FAA facilities, 56 contract towers, 1 DOD facility) in eight states (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee) and the U.S.



territories of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. NATCA's Southern Region is geographically the largest air traffic region among our Union's regions and has more coastline than any other NATCA region. NATCA's Southern Region also has more members than any other region in our Union.

NATCA's Southern Region includes the busiest airport in the world (Hartsfield–Jackson Atlanta International Airport, ATL); the busiest air traffic control facility in the world (Atlanta Center, ZTL); and the busiest ATC-11 facilities in the country (Jacksonville Center, ZJX, and Miami Center, ZMA) that are busier than any other facility except for ZTL. Our Union's Southern Region also has more centers than any other region (ZTL; ZJX; Memphis Center, ZME; ZMA; and San Juan Center, ZSU). NATCA's Southern Region includes the nation's tallest air traffic

control tower (ATL, which stands at 398 feet) and newest air traffic control tower (at Charlotte Douglas International Airport, CLT), which opened in April 2022.

NATCA's Southern Region is some of our nation's busiest airspace. The region is full of big cities that host the headquarters of some of the world's largest companies like The Home Depot, Coca-Cola, FedEx, UPS, and Delta Air Lines; a huge number of sports teams and international sporting events such as the Kentucky Derby, Daytona 500, Orange Bowl, and Masters Golf Tournament; cultural centers like Nashville and Miami; and tourist attractions like Disney World, Universal Studios, and many world-famous beach communities like Fort Lauderdale. Many of the space launches that take place in the U.S. occur here.

The planning committee for NATCA's 19th Biennial Convention has arranged evening events that highlight the diverse music and culinary scenes for which our region is famous.

We welcome you and hope you enjoy your time here!

In Solidarity,

Jim Marinitti
Southern Regional Vice President

Amy Sayers
Fort Lauderdale ATCT (FLL)
Convention Planning Committee
Chair

Maps of Hotel and Meeting Spaces

Maps of the Diplomat Hotel and the meeting spaces we will be using during Convention are available [here](#).

NOTE: You can also view the maps on the *Whova* app.

Today's Agenda | Mon. June 19

2 - 5 p.m.: Registration Open in the Great Hall Foyer

5 - 7 p.m.: Opening Reception at The Diplomat South Pool Deck

NOTE: View the full agenda on the event [website](#) or in the *Whova* app.

Opening Reception Today at 5 p.m.

The Opening Reception will take place today, starting at 5 p.m. at The Diplomat South Pool Deck. There will be light appetizers, but dinner won't be provided.

At NATCA's Opening Reception, NCF will be hosting The Great Rubber Duck Derby Splash where you have a chance to win \$100,000. There will also be guaranteed prizes for the top three ducks that cross the finish line first.



NATCA CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

RUBBER DUCK DERBY SPLASH

ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN \$100,000!

1 DUCK: \$10 DONATION | 3 DUCKS: \$20 DONATION



During Opening Ceremony on the South Pool Deck
June 19 @ 6 p.m.

When: Mon., June 19, Reception at 5 p.m. and Rubber Duck Derby at 6 p.m.

Where: The Diplomat South Pool Deck

Cost: 1 duck is a \$10 donation, 3 ducks requires a \$20 donation

Ducks can be purchased from 2-5 p.m. at the NCF booth in the Great Hall Foyer at the Diplomat and from 5-6 p.m. on site at the Opening Reception on the Diplomat's South Pool Deck.

Whova App Instructions

During NATCA's 19th Biennial Convention, attendees can see the Convention agenda, access the class and meeting schedule, view maps of the hotel, get the latest updates from Convention organizers, and more by using the Whova event app.

You can download the Whova app in the Apple App store or Google Play store. You can also go to [this link](#) to download the app.

After downloading, search for NATCA on the events list and enter the event invitation code: **NATCAFLL2023**.

A graphic for the Whova app. At the top left is the NATCA logo for Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 2023, with the motto "SIDE OF LABOR WILL NEVER BEST". To the right of the logo is the word "Whova" in a white, cursive font. Below the logo and text are two large QR codes. At the bottom are two buttons: "Download on the App Store" with the Apple logo and "GET IT ON Google Play" with the Google Play logo.

 **Whova**

NOTE: You can also access the class schedule, without downloading the app or signing in, from desktop or mobile [here](#).

For any questions you may have about the app, send an email to FLL2023@natca.net.

Registration for NATCA's 19th Biennial Convention will be open in the Great Hall Foyer at the Diplomat Hotel at the following times.

Reminder: *Please bring a photo ID for registration.*

Note: *Each NATCA Convention event will have its own color wristband, and attendees must wear the correct wristband to enter each event. At registration, attendees will*

receive a wristband for themselves and their guests for each of the events for which they purchased tickets. All wristbands must be purchased in advance. Attendees and their guests will NOT be able to purchase wristbands for events at the door. If you have not purchased wristbands, you can purchase wristbands on-site at the registration booth during normal registration hours.

Mon., June 19
2 - 5 p.m.

Tues., June 20
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Wed., June 21
7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Thurs., June 22
7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Share Your Photos with Us!

We are looking forward to covering this year's event for the entire NATCA membership and our large social media audiences. We welcome your photos to enhance our coverage. Details are below. Please remember to turn your mobile device horizontally before taking your photos. That will aid in our ability to use the photos, especially in possible future videos.

SHARE YOUR PHOTOS THIS WEEK!



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#NATCA2023



Visit our Website



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