

Subject: NATCA Update: Sept. 29, 2023: Archie League Medal of Safety Awards Banquet

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From: NATCA

To: Julian Weaver



Archie League Medal of Safety Awards Banquet

NATCA honored the recipients of the 19th annual Archie League Medal of Safety Awards and the 7th annual Region X Commitment to Safety Award during a gala event held as part of our Union's Communicating For Safety Conference (CFS) in Las Vegas last week. These NATCA members exemplify our profession's commitment to safety. The 2023 winners demonstrate the unique skills, mindset, training, and experience of our Union's members to positively influence the events under our control.



To our award winners and all the other NATCA members nominated for 2023 awards, congratulations on a job well done! And to all our NATCA members who nominated these deserving individuals, thank you for your commitment to this program and to our profession.

Region X Commitment to Safety Award: Bruce Williams (Engineer/Southern Region, ESO)

On October 26, 2022, Anchorage TRACON (A11) air traffic controller Joseph “WW” Howard, faced with a lost communication scenario due to an electrical failure as N212US departed from Anchorage for Homer, Alaska, demonstrated expert composure and navigational skills, successfully guiding the aircraft through avionics failure and unfavorable weather conditions to a safe landing.

Alaskan Regional Vice President Clint Lancaster presented Howard with the 2023 Archie League Medal of Safety Award for the Alaskan Region.



PHOTO (left to right): EVP Andrew LeBovidge, Bruce V. Williams, NRX RVP Brad Davidson, President Rich Santa

Watch video [here](#) | Read about Williams' career [here](#)

Alaskan Region Archie League Medal of Safety Winner: Joseph “WW” Howard (Anchorage TRACON, A11)

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Alaskan Regional Vice President Clint Lancaster presented Howard with the 2023 Archie League Medal of Safety Award for the Alaskan Region.



PHOTO (left to right): EVP Andrew LeBovidge, NAL RVP Clint Lancaster, Joseph Howard, President Rich Santa

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**Central Region Archie League Medal of Safety Winners:
Daniel Clifton, Tyler Wilke, Matt Williams (Kansas City
International ATCT, MCI), and John “Casey” Hovis (St. Louis
TRACON, T75, formerly at MCI)**

On June 21, 2022, in response to a "Mayday" call from an aircraft with engine trouble, Kansas City International ATCT (MCI) controller Tyler Wilke helped a pilot in distress find a safe landing at Cameron Airport when his aircraft's engine failed. MCI controllers Casey Hovis (now at St. Louis TRACON, T75), Dan Clifton, and Matt Williams supported the save by managing radio

frequencies, coordinating with other aircraft, and handling other air traffic, ensuring a successful outcome.

Central Regional Vice President Aaron Merrick presented Clifton, Hovis, Wilke, and Williams with the 2023 Archie League Medal of Safety Award for the Central Region.



PHOTO (left to right): EVP Andrew LeBovidge, John "Casey" Hovis, Daniel Clifton, Tyler Wilke, Matt Williams, NCE RVP Aaron Merrick, President Rich Santa

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Eastern Region Archie League Medal of Safety Winner: Kamil Kulakowski (New York Center, ZNY)

On March 3, 2023, New York Center (ZNY) controller Kamil Kulakowski swiftly prevented a potential collision between an American Airlines flight and another aircraft by taking immediate action when the other aircraft, Sunwing 312, deviated from its planned route. Kulakowski's quick thinking and coordination were essential in ensuring a safe outcome for both aircraft.

Eastern Regional Vice President Brian Shallenberger presented Kulakowski with the 2023 Archie League Medal of Safety Award for the Eastern Region.



PHOTO (left to right): EVP Andrew LeBovidge, Kamil Kulakowski, NEA RVP Brian Shallenberger, President Rich Santa

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Great Lakes Region Archie League Medal of Safety Winner: JJ Lytton (Indianapolis Center, ZID)

On January 9, 2023, Sirrus N940TS experienced oxygen depletion during its flight from Naperville to Kissimmee, causing the pilot to become disoriented. Indianapolis Center (ZID) controller Johnathan ("JJ") Lytton recognized the distress, calmly assisted the pilot in donning an oxygen mask, and coordinated a safe descent, ultimately saving the pilot's life through his exceptional professionalism and decisive actions.

Great Lakes Regional Vice President Drew MacQueen presented Lytton with the 2023 Archie League Medal of Safety Award for the Great Lakes Region.



PHOTO (left to right): EVP Andrew LeBovidge, NGL RVP Drew MacQueen, JJ Lytton, Pilot Christopher Stradling, President Rich Santa

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**New England Region Archie League Medal of Safety Winners:
Charles "Chuck" Lumia (Yankee TRACON, Y90, formerly at
Bradley International ATCT, BDL) and Jeremy Wilson (Yankee
TRACON, Y90)**

On August 9, 2022, an Aer Lingus Airbus A330, diverted to Bradley International Airport (BDL) due to bad weather at Boston Logan International Airport. After waiting for clearance to depart from Bradley, an issue with the right engine was reported shortly after takeoff, prompting a return to the airport with the assistance of BDL controller Chuck Lumia and Jeremy Wilson from Yankee TRACON (Y90), ensuring a safe landing with fire services standing by.

New England Regional Vice President Mick Devine presented Lumia and Wilson with the 2023 Archie League Medal of Safety Award for the New England Region.



PHOTO (left to right): EVP Andrew LeBovidge, Charles Lumia, Jeremy Wilson, Aer Lingus Pilot Aine Wolf, NNE RVP Mick Devine, President Rich Santa

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Northwest Mountain Region Archie League Medal of Safety Winners:

Natalie Glore and Nichole Larsen (Seattle ATCT, SEA)

On Oct. 18, 2022, an emergency unfolded at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA). Flight ASA281, declared an emergency due to an equipment issue, and was inbound to land on runway 16R (an outbound runway). Emergency vehicles were dispatched from the fire station on the ramp area and required to cross runways 16L and 16C to stage appropriately for the emergency on 16R.

During the crossing, Natalie Glore, on ground control, noticed an errant paramedic vehicle moving towards runway 16L and alerted the local controller, Nichole Larsen. Nichole swiftly canceled the take-off clearance for the plane on the runway. Larsen worked with the emergency vehicle to provide clear instruction and clear the runway. The quick actions of Glore and Larsen ensured the safety of everyone involved and caused minimal disruption during a morning of heavy traffic.

Northwest Mountain Regional Vice President Alex Navarro III presented Natalie Glore and Nichole Larsen (Seattle Tacoma ATCT, SEA) with the 2023 Archie League Medal of Safety Award for the Northwest Mountain Region.



PHOTO (left to right): EVP Andrew LeBovidge, Natalie Glore, Nichole Larsen, NNM RVP Alex Navarro III, President Rich Santa

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Southern Region Archie League Medal of Safety Winners: Chip Flores (St. Lucie ATCT, FPR) and Robert Morgan, Jr. (West Palm Beach ATCT, PBI)

On May 10, 2022, the pilot of Cessna Caravan N333LD suffered a medical emergency and became unconscious mid-flight. A passenger of the plane called into air traffic control at Fort Pierce ATCT (FPR). Controller Chip Flores answered the call and helped determine the location of the aircraft while providing instructions to the passenger. Once Caravan N333LD's location was identified, Palm Beach ATCT (PBI) controller Robert Morgan took over the frequency. As a certified flight instructor, Morgan was able to provide clear directions to the passenger that allowed him to land the plane safely at PBI where emergency crews were waiting to assist the incapacitated pilot.

Southern Regional Vice President Jim Marinitti presented Chip Flores (Fort

Pierce ATCT, FPR) and Robert Morgan (Palm Beach ATCT, PBI) with the 2023 Archie League Medal of Safety Award for the Southern Region.



PHOTO (left to right): EVP Andrew LeBovidge, Chip Flores, Robert Morgan, NSO RVP Jim Marinitti, President Rich Santa

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**Southwest Region Archie League Medal of Safety Winners:
Les Carroll and Erik Johnson (Houston Hobby ATCT, HOU), and
Jasmine Elizabeth Scott (Houston Intercontinental ATCT, IAH,
formerly at HOU)**

On March 5, 2023, air traffic controller Erik Johnson was working Local Control at Houston Hobby ATCT (HOU). At his side were air traffic controllers Jasmine Elizabeth Scott, who was working Ground Control, and Les Carroll, who was covering the Clearance Delivery and Controller-in-Charge positions. Southwest 2863 was cleared to land on Runway 4. In anticipation of the arriving aircraft, Erik cleared Envoy 3338 to “line up and wait” for departure on Runway 13R, the intersecting runway.

As the Southwest flight approached a 1 mile final, the Envoy aircraft had reached the end of Runway 13R and immediately throttled up to begin their takeoff roll. Erik noticed Envoy was not stopping as they should. He quickly

reached out to stop Envoy 3338 before the aircraft reached the crossing point. Erik also issued Southwest a go-around. This quick reaction protected the safety of all on board both aircrafts.

Southwest Regional Vice President Nick Daniels presented Les Carroll (Houston Hobby ATCT, HOU), Erik Johnson (Houston Hobby ATCT, HOU), and Jasmine Elizabeth Scott (Houston Intercontinental ATCT, IAH, formerly HOU) with the 2023 Archie League Medal of Safety Award for the Southwest Region.



PHOTO (left to right): EVP Andrew LeBovidge, Les Carroll, Erik Johnson, Jasmine Elizabeth Scott, NSW RVP Nick Daniels, President Rich Santa

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Western Pacific Region Archie League Medal of Safety Winners: Benjamin Yuen and Max Miggo (Oakland Center, ZOA)

On Feb. 4, 2023, Oakland Center (ZOA) controller Max Miggo was training Benjamin Yuen when the pair received a transmission from a student pilot in need of assistance. Skyhawk N203IY told the controllers that he was struggling to see due to weather conditions. The pilot was only VFR qualified but had encountered IMC conditions en route to Lincoln Regional Airport (LHM). Miggo and Yuen worked with other aviators in the area to locate N203IY and help the aircraft climb towards clear skies. The controllers then suggested N203IY land

at a closer airport, Oroville Municipal Airport (OVE). Miggo and Yuen instructed the pilot through his descent as he encountered additional IMC conditions.

The exceptional professionalism and teamwork between Max, Benjamin, and others at Oakland Center and NORCAL TRACON and with fellow aviators allowed the student pilot of N2031Y to land safely.

Western Pacific Regional Vice President Joel Ortiz presented Max Miggo (Oakland Center, ZOA) and Benjamin K. Yuen (Oakland Center, ZOA) with the 2023 Archie League Medal of Safety Award for the Western Pacific Region.



PHOTO (left to right): EVP Andrew LeBovidge, Benjamin Yuen, Max Miggo, NWP RVP Joel Ortiz, President Rich Santa

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President's Award Winners: Chip Flores and Robert Morgan, Jr. from the Southern Region

This year, NATCA President Rich Santa selected Southern Region Archie winners Chip Flores (Fort Pierce ATCT, FPR) and Robert Morgan (Palm Beach ATCT, PBI) for the President's Award.



PHOTO (left to right): EVP Andrew LeBovidge, Chip Flores, Robert Morgan, NSO RVP Jim Marinitti, President Rich Santa

Watch video [here](#)

NATCA in the News

With the shutdown looming, our Union has received increased media attention. Here are some highlights from Sept. 27-29.



President Santa was interviewed by the Washington Post: [The FAA Faces a Double Government Shutdown this Weekend. Here's Why.](#)

President Santa interviewed by The New York Times: [Biden Administration Warns That Government Shutdown Could Disrupt Air Travel.](#)

President Santa interviewed by ABC News: [Shutdown Could Set US Back 'Months, if Not Years' in Air Traffic Controller Shortage, Union President Says](#)

President Santa interviewed by the Today Show: [How a government shutdown could impact air travel](#)

Unum Enrollment Ends in Three Days

Open enrollment for NATCA's group long-term disability program from Unum ends on Oct. 2, 2023.

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DAYS LEFT

TIME'S RUNNING OUT!

**Open enrollment for NATCA
group long-term disability program
from Unum ends October 2, 2023.**

“

You may never think you will need long term disability insurance, but so many things in life happen unexpectedly and Unum could one day be a single light in a very dark time.

-Meryn Holbrook, DEN

”

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or scan the QR Code**



The Unum LTD program protects NATCA members and their families with peace of mind in the event they lose their medical or become disabled. LTD insurance can be the most important part of your overall benefits package, and NATCA offers members the opportunity to purchase it at affordable group rates.

Read about the incentives being offered to members who enroll during this period [here](#).

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