



**SEP. 18-20, 2023 | HORSESHOE LAS VEGAS**

## **NATCA CFS 2023 Awards Luncheon**

NATCA held our annual Communicating For Safety awards luncheon on Tuesday, September 19. Below are the awards that were presented and this year's recipients.

### **Sentinel of Safety Award**

NATCA President Rich Santa and Executive Vice President Andrew LeBovidge presented NATCA's great friend and former Air Force Thunderbirds commander Richard McSpadden, now the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) Air Safety Institute (ASI) Senior Vice President, with the James L. Oberstar Sentinel of Safety Award.

# Richard McSpadden

(AOPA)



## James L. Oberstar Sentinel of Safety Award

Horseshoe Las Vegas | Sep. 19, 2023

**PHOTO** (left to right): Andrew LeBovidge, Richard McSpadden, and Rich Santa.

The Sentinel of Safety Award, created by NATCA to recognize aviation leaders for outstanding contributions to aviation safety, was renamed in 2014 at NATCA's Biennial Convention in Minneapolis in honor of Congressman Jim Oberstar, a staunch advocate for aviation and NATCA.

Learn more about the Sentinel of Safety Award [here](#).

## Steve Hansen Safety Advocate Award

NATCA President Rich Santa and Executive Vice President Andrew LeBovidge presented National Instrument Flight Procedures (IFP) Criteria Representative Bennie Hutto (Potomac TRACON, PCT) with the Steve Hansen Safety Advocate Award.

# Bennie Hutto

(PCT)



## Steve Hansen Safety Advocate Award Given to Bennie Hutto

Horseshoe Las Vegas | Sep. 19, 2023

**PHOTO** (left to right): Andrew LeBovidge, Steve Hansen, and Rich Santa.

The Steve Hansen Safety Advocate Award, named in honor of the former Chairman of the NATCA National Safety Committee, is bestowed upon a NATCA member who has exhibited exceptional accomplishments and unwavering dedication in advancing aviation safety on behalf of NATCA. Award recipients come from diverse backgrounds and various areas of expertise, but they share a common thread of unwavering passion for both safety and aviation, contributing their skills and tireless efforts to this critical cause.

Learn more about the Steve Hansen Safety Advocate Award [here](#).

## NATCA Excellence in Training Award

NATCA President Rich Santa and Executive Vice President Andrew LeBovidge presented Article 114 TEAM National Representative Adonna Prior (Las Vegas ATCT, LAS) with the NATCA Excellence in Training Award.



# Adonna Prior

(LAS)



## NATCA Excellence in Training Award

Horseshoe Las Vegas | Sep. 19, 2023

**PHOTO** (left to right): Andrew LeBovidge, Adonna Prior, and Rich Santa

In 2019, NATCA introduced the Excellence in Training Award to underscore our dedication to supporting our members' continuous professional growth in the aviation field. This accolade is bestowed upon individuals who showcase a steadfast commitment to advancing their training and education, whether within their local, regional, or national contexts.

Learn more about the NATCA Excellence in Training Award [here](#).

## RTX Controller of the Year Award

NATCA Terminal Automation Modernization and Replacement (TAMR) Article 114 Representative Kyle Ness (Minneapolis TRACON, M98) was named the RTX Controller of the Year. This award was presented by Rachel Jackson, Director, Strategy and ATM Programs from RTX Technology.

# Kyle Ness

(M98)



## RTX Controller of the Year Award

Horseshoe Las Vegas | Sep. 19, 2023

**PHOTO** (left to right): Andrew LeBovidge, Kyle Ness, Rachel Jackson, Chris Rogers (RTX), and Rich Santa

This award from CFS sponsor and partner RTX, annually honors and celebrates the exceptional contributions made by air traffic controllers towards enhancing the quality, safety, and efficiency of air traffic control operations. RTX is a Grand Benefit level sponsor of CFS 2023. They were the first industry sponsor of CFS and are our longest continuous sponsor of the conference.

## National Professionalism Award

The NATCA Professional Standards (PS) Committee presented Professionalism Awards to Sam Navarro (Seattle ATCT, SEA), Troy Thompson (Fort Worth Center, ZFW), and Greg Baker (Atlanta Center, ZTL). PS members Lydia Baune (Spokane ATCT, GEG), Patrick Carter (Dallas/Fort Worth TRACON, D10), and Chris Keyes (Washington Center, ZDC) presented the awards.



**PHOTO** (left to right): Andrew LeBovidge, Chris Keyes, Patrick Carter, Lydia Baune, Sam Navarro, Troy Thompson, Greg Baker, and Rich Santa

The NATCA National Professionalism Award, established by the NATCA National Professional Standards Committee (PSC), aims to acknowledge individuals who consistently uphold professionalism and safety across the National Airspace System (NAS). This award reflects NATCA's commitment to inspire, motivate, and set examples of excellence in aviation safety while maintaining the public's trust. At each annual Communicating For Safety (CFS) event, recipients are honored for their outstanding contributions to the profession and unwavering commitment to safety. The PSC selects awardees based on their exceptional individual performance, which elevates the reputation of their profession, and their dedication to safety and excellence.

Learn more about the NATCA National Professionalism Award [here](#).

## AOPA Air Safety Institute Flight Assist Commendation Award

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) Air Safety Institute (ASI) has forged a strong partnership with NATCA, collaborating closely to deliver critical safety education to numerous general aviation pilots and controllers. A decade ago, AOPA introduced the AOPA Air Safety Institute Flight Assist Commendation Award, a prestigious accolade designed to honor controllers who have demonstrated exceptional service, keen situational awareness, and outstanding teamwork when assisting general aviation pilots facing challenging



circumstances to achieve safe landings.



**PHOTO:** Richard McSpadden

At CFS 2023, AOPA ASI Senior Vice President, Richard McSpadden, presented the AOPA Air Safety Institute Flight Assist Commendation Award to the following recipients:

- From Newark Tower (EWR): Angela Diolosa, Michael Jones, and Joseph Tesoriero
- From Cleveland ARTCC (ZOB): Jeff Smith
- From Indianapolis Tower (IND): Todd Hilton and Jarrett McKinney
- From Cincinnati Tower (CVG): Justin Dobso and Zach Huck
- From Columbia Tower (CAE): William Hinson, Justin Mendelson, Gregory Mack, and Felipe Vicini
- From Dallas-Fort Worth TRACON (D10): Michael Coyne

## Helping Hearts Award

The Helping Heart Award, bestowed by NATCA's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Committee, recognizes facilities with 15 or more employees that have achieved the highest percentage of trained individuals in the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). Timely defibrillation is crucial in cases of sudden cardiac arrest, as each passing minute without intervention reduces the chances of survival by 7-10 percent. Proper training in AED usage significantly enhances the prospects of survival in such

emergencies.



**PHOTO** (left to right): Andrew LeBovidge, Mark Sellek, Cory Davids, Jason Felser, Karena Marinas, and Rich Santa

This year OSHA Committee Chair Karena Marinas and OSHA Committee Vice Chair Mark Sellek presented to New York Center (ZNY) with the Helping Hearts Award. ZNY FacRep Jason Felser and Vice-FacRep Cory Davids accepted the award for ZNY at CFS 2023.

## NCF Cathy Meachum Volunteer of the Year Award

The NATCA Charitable Foundation (NCF) was honored to present the 2021 Cathy Meachum Volunteer of the Year award to Jenn Malloy, formerly at Cleveland Center (ZOB), now at Houston Center (ZHU). NCF Vice President Betsy Beaumont (Fort Worth Center, ZFW) presented the award to Malloy during the CFS 2023 Awards Luncheon.





**PHOTO:** Betsy Beaumont

About this award, NCF President and FacRep of Portland Tower (PDX) Corrie Conrad stated, "When travel and volunteering was limited for some of our normal volunteers, Jenn stepped in to assist with social media, signage for events and to help make our fundraising at our Houston convention a success despite the many limitations we faced."

## Unum Open Season Extended Until Oct. 2

The enrollment open season for NATCA's Unum group long-term disability (LTD) program has been extended! 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.

**The open season now ends on Monday, Oct. 2.**

# **EXTENDED** *LIMITED TIME ONLY!*

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

NATCA's group long-term disability insurance from Unum provides all-important peace of mind in the event you lose your medical or are disabled.

You insure everything else in your life that's important to you. Why leave your career and your financial stability unprotected?



**Learn more and enroll here [now:natcadisability.com](https://natcadisability.com).**

**unum**

Enroll today at [natcadisability.com](https://natcadisability.com).

In 2023, our Union is offering a number of incentives for new enrollees and current plan participants. Learn more about these incentives [here](#).

[Visit our Website](#)



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