



IFATCA Americas Regional Meeting Fosters Understanding

The International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations (IFATCA) held their most recent Americas Regional Meeting Oct. 25-27 in Nassau, Bahamas. The Americas region comprises member associations in North America, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean. Representatives from the member countries gather annually to further education amongst the delegates from the region and share the challenges that each member association is facing.

Attending from the U.S. were Trish Gilbert (Executive Vice President Americas), Andrew LeBovidge (Regional Vice President North America, NATCA delegate), Jaymi Steinberg (Technical and Operations Committee Chair/IFATCA 2030+ Task Force), Sarah Grampp (Critical Incident Stress Management, CISM Chair), and Tom Flanary (NATCA Disaster Response Committee, DRC Chair).



IFATCA Americas Regional Meeting Nassau, Bahamas | Oct. 2023

Among the highlights of the meeting was a coordinated series of presentations pertaining to wellness and mental health including Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM), the Disaster Response Committee (DRC), and the current global trends in addressing mental health for air traffic control officers. Also highlighted were topics including technical updates, the state of collaboration with the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), and updates on operations and progress within the member countries.

“This meeting provided an opportunity to get together within the region to foster better understanding of our nearby colleagues and their conditions,” Steinberg said. “These meetings also allow us to build relationships and alert members to work that is going on within the Federation.”

LeBovidge reinforced this perspective adding, “It is critically important that we maintain a global perspective on the issues affecting the aviation industry and work together to improve the status of the air traffic control profession. Given the interconnectivity of the system, we cannot operate in a vacuum and we all can benefit from increased collaboration.”

As per new standards adopted in the most recent annual conference, elections are to be held for Executive Vice President and Regional Vice Presidents during the meeting, which Gilbert and LeBovidge won, respectively, by acclamation. The full body of IFATCA will next meet in April 2024 in Singapore.

National Office

The NATCA Benefits Committee (NBC) recently met at the National Office in Washington, D.C. from Nov. 7-8. Eight members were able to join in person, and the rest of the committee participated via conference call. The committee is saying goodbye to two of its members, both of whom have been part of the Benefits Committee for over ten years. Marc Schneider (Indianapolis Center, ZID) will be leaving the NBC upon his retirement at the end of the year. Aaron Katz (Phoenix TRACON, P50) will also be departing from the committee.



NATCA Benefits Committee Meets at National Office

Washington, D.C. | Nov. 2023

Pictured (front row, left to right): Quang Nguyen (Region X), Lisa King (Spirit ATCT, SUS), Committee Chair Jen Rivera (Indianapolis Center, ZID), Molly Kent (San Juan Center, ZSU), ***(back row, left to right):*** Marc Schneider (Indianapolis Center, ZID), George Petrovich (RNAV), Troy Marcial (Pensacola TRACON, P31), Evan Gabler (Potomac TRACON, PCT)

The NATCA Benefits Committee (NBC) researches and analyzes potential benefits for the membership that will best enhance the overall NATCA benefits program. Learn more about the committee and what benefits are available to members [here](#).

Read Scholarship Winner Lauren Gutshall's Essay

Every year, NATCA offers a scholarship program for spouses, children, stepchildren,

and legally adopted children of active, retired, and deceased members in good standing for at least two consecutive years. This scholarship is for full-time attendance at accredited colleges and universities within the United States and its territories for an undergraduate degree program.

This year's prompt asked candidates to examine why labor unions are experiencing a resurgence and what implications this has for the future.

Lauren Gutshall, child of David Gutshall (Atlanta Center, ZTL) is among this year's 20 scholarship winners. Read the essay that Lauren submitted [here](#).

“ It is my hope that unions will continue to help create a more equitable society for all. ”



– 2023 NATCA
Scholarship Winner
Lauren Gutshall, child
of David Gutshall
(Atlanta Center, ZTL)



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