



From the Desk of Rich Santa: Funding and FAA Reauthorization Update

Brothers and Sisters,

Last week, Congress passed yet another stopgap measure to extend funding and avert a government shutdown until March 1. NATCA will continue to monitor progress and keep members informed about congressional efforts to pass long-term government funding for the remaining six months of the 2024 fiscal year.



In addition, the deadline for passing a long-term FAA Reauthorization bill is also quickly approaching on March 8. As NATCA has frequently communicated, our top priority is to ensure that any final version of the FAA Reauthorization legislation includes the staffing targets that were determined by the Collaborative Resource Workgroup (CRWG), which is comprised of the FAA's Air Traffic Organization and NATCA.

Both the House and Senate FAA Reauthorization bills take steps to ensure that FAA revises its annual Controller Workforce Plan (CWP) by requiring adoption of the CRWG Certified Professional Controller (CPC) staffing targets. Only after FAA adopts the CRWG targets as the basis for the CWP, will the FAA begin to improve controller staffing in a sustained and comprehensive manner.

The status quo is unsustainable as the FAA's current finance-driven staffing model and inconsistent hiring practices have persisted for more than a decade across multiple administrations. For more than a decade, our Union has focused our great advocacy efforts on resolving the long-term crisis of air traffic controller understaffing that has so negatively affected the National Airspace System (NAS).

In addition to addressing the staffing crisis, NATCA has let members of Congress know that any FAA Reauthorization legislation must include steps to update FAA's technology and prepare the agency for the integration of new users into the system while maintaining and improving the safest, most efficient airspace in the world for the current users of the NAS.

NATCA will continue to advocate for these priorities with members of Congress as they move forward with the FAA Reauthorization process.

In Solidarity,

Rich Santa
NATCA President



Professional Standards Committee Training Held in Salt Lake City

A three-day training session for NATCA's Professional Standards (PS) Committee members was held last month in Salt Lake City, Utah, at Salt Lake City (ZLC). The training, held Dec. 12-14, focused on enhancing the skills and knowledge of the PS committee members.

"Going through Professional Standards training again allowed me to expand my knowledge of familiar concepts with a different perspective," Sanjeev Vistarakula (Roanoke ATCT, ROA), the Virginia PS District Chair, said. "Although the core principles of the Professional Standards Program (PSP) remain the same, the material was more interesting and engaging due to the various ways they were conceptualized."

The PSP has evolved, Vistarakula said, through feedback from committee members working in the field. "This allows the PSP to give back to the Professional Standards Committee members by providing them with more tools to continue addressing conflicts at the lowest level possible. This process ultimately encourages teamwork and enhances safety," Vistarakula said.

"Being a member of a team dedicated to maintaining a standard of professionalism in the safest NAS in the world is one of the most rewarding aspects of my life," Nicholas Wallace (Memphis ATCT, MEM), the PS Memphis District Chair, said. "Being involved in the training was as humbling as it was revitalizing."



Professional Standards Training: ‘As Humbling as it is Revitalizing’

Salt Lake City | Dec. 2023

The training was conducted by experienced PS instructors Lydia Baune (Spokane ATCT, GEG), Patrick Carter (Dallas/Fort Worth TRACON, D10), and Chris Keyes (Washington Center, ZDC).

The Professional Standards Committee plays a crucial role in ensuring the highest levels of professionalism and safety within the NAS. The recent training in Salt Lake City is a testament to their ongoing commitment to excellence and continuous improvement for our Union and profession. Learn more about PS [here](#).

NATCA Announces Key Information for Members About the 2024 National Election

NATCA’s National Election Committee has mailed the Notice of Election and Election Rules for NATCA’s 2024 National Election to the NATCA membership. In 2024, NATCA members will elect the NATCA President, Executive Vice President, and ten Regional Vice Presidents.

Nominations for these positions may be submitted to the National Election Committee as of January 1, 2024. Candidates must be active NATCA members in good standing for at least one year prior to the close of nominations to be eligible for candidacy. Nominations must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. EDT on April 1, 2024, and nomination acceptances must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. EDT on April 30, 2024.

Ballots will be mailed to NATCA members on June 3, 2024. Members are

encouraged to ensure that the NATCA National Office has their current home mailing address on file as ballots will be sent to the members' home address of record. Ballots are due back no later than 9:00 a.m. EDT on July 30, 2024 and will be counted that day. The election results will determine the leadership that will guide NATCA for the next three years.



The election rules stipulate regulations around campaigning, endorsements, and conduct during the election period, emphasizing adherence to the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959 and the NATCA National Constitution.

In addition to being sent to members' home addresses, the Notice of Election and Election Rules for NATCA's 2024 National Election may also be viewed [here](#). Members are encouraged to read the full notice for a comprehensive understanding of the election process and to participate actively in shaping the future of our Union.

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