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## **NATCA Safety & Technology Department Leadership Changes as Adcock Retires**

Last week, Director of Safety and Technology Tom Adcock retired from his position on NATCA's staff. Tom has been a part of this Union and his profession for all of NATCA's three decades of history. He began his FAA career at Atlanta Center (ZTL) in 1985 and worked as a controller at Miami Center (ZMA) for 27 years starting in 1987. He served as facility vice president at ZMA twice, with his most recent term from 2009 to 2012.

During his career as a controller, Tom was recognized with numerous awards including the inaugural [Excellence in Training Award](#) in 2019, the [Dale Wright Award](#) in 2019, the [National Professionalism Award](#) in 2019, and *three* Tim Haines Memorial Awards, at the [2006](#), [2014](#), and [2018](#) conventions.

Before retiring from air traffic and joining the NATCA staff, Tom served as the National Training Representative where he led NATCA's collaborative efforts with the Agency in the area of developing future training for air traffic controllers.



## Director of Safety and Technology Tom Adcock Retires

Washington, D.C. | February 2023

As Director of Safety and Technology, Tom oversaw many of NATCA's Article 114 representatives, as well as the planning of NATCA's annual Communicating for Safety (CFS) conference.

About his service to our Union, NATCA President Rich Santa stated, "NATCA thanks Tom for giving more than 35 years of notable service to our Union. His dedication and solidarity to NATCA and commitment to maintaining the safety of our National Airspace System are greatly appreciated. He will be missed."

Mark McKelligan, who has served as Deputy Director of Safety and Technology since Oct. 2016, has been promoted to Director of Safety and Technology. Mark first joined NATCA in 1988 and spent his air traffic career at Boston Center.

NATCA member Phil Hargarten joined the Safety and Technology Department as Deputy Director in January. Phil previously worked at Seattle TRACON (S46). Most recently, he served as NATCA's Article 114 National Trajectory Based Operations Representative.

If you'd like to learn more about Tom, check out his staff spotlight [here](#).

### Read Scholarship Winner Sonja Sutcavage'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.

Sonja Sutcavage, child of Stephen Sutcavage (Southern Service Area, ESO) is among this year's 20 scholarship winners. Read the essay that Sonja submitted [here](#).

“The increased reach of technology has allowed union advocacy to expand in ways that were not possible in the past.”



– 2023 NATCA  
Scholarship Winner Sonja  
Sutcavage, child of  
Stephen Sutcavage  
(Southern Service Area,  
ESO)



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## **NATCA in Washington Registration Ends This Week**

This year, NATCA in Washington will be held May 1-3, at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in Washington, D.C. If you would like to attend this year's event, please indicate your interest by completing the following questionnaire below no later than Mar. 8 at 11:59 p.m. PST.

Members of the National Legislative Committee (NLC) will confirm an interested member's attendance on or before Monday, March 25 by your regional NLC rep. Please note that your attendance is not guaranteed until it is confirmed.

Please do not make any flight arrangements until you receive a confirmation from your Regional NLC member on attendance. Additionally, transportation expenses are NOT reimbursed by NATCA National. Please check with your FacRep first before you complete any airfare purchase to determine what expense reimbursements, if any, will be provided by your local.



A graphic for the NATCA event in Washington. The background shows cherry blossoms and a sunset over water. The main content is a white rounded rectangle with a grey header containing a close button (X) and the text "NATCA IN WASHINGTON". Below the header, the text "Registration is Open" is centered with radiating lines. An arrow points from this text to a smartphone icon. The smartphone screen displays a group photo in front of the US Capitol building. To the right of the phone, a yellow box contains the text "Closing March 8 at 11:59 p.m. PST". Below this, a horizontal line is followed by the text "Do not book flights or accommodations until you've received confirmation of attendance." At the bottom of the graphic, a dark blue bar contains a calendar icon, the dates "May 1-3, 2024", a location pin icon, and the address "Marriott Marquis, 901 Massachusetts Ave. NW".

If you have any additional questions, reach out to the NLC Chair David Skarphol, or your Regional NLC Rep. Their contact information can be found [here](#).

Complete registration form [here](#) | Learn more at [event page](#)

[Visit our Website](#)



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