

# NACA

## Washington Wire

16 October 2020



### **September Board Meeting.**

NACA held its fall board meeting remotely via Zoom on September 23, with 31 members and associates attending. Speakers included the FAA's Associate Administrator for Safety, Ali Bahrami, FAA Flight Standards Director Rick Domingo, and Michael Reynolds from the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. The November board meeting date – also held remotely – will be announced shortly.

### **Payroll Support Program**

We have been working closely with major aviation stakeholder groups from management and labor to extend the CARES Act payroll assistance program (PSP) for passenger and cargo carriers, resulting in strong, bipartisan support in Congress and the White House. The most likely path for extending PSP this month is inclusion in a bipartisan COVID-19 relief package, although Senate Majority Leader McConnell recently signaled that securing Senate floor time for a vote will be a challenge given the current focus on the Supreme Court nomination of Amy Coney Barrett.

### **FAA Technical matters**

After working with the FAA for a few months to update canceled guidance, NACA received the COVID-19 update SAFO 20009 and forwarded it to the Operations and Safety councils. An update on Flight Attendant exemptions was also released by the FAA and forwarded to NACA's Operations and Safety councils. Together with fifteen other associations, NACA sent a letter to the FAA and EASA requesting changes to the FAA-EASA Technical Implementation, hopefully spurring action. The NACA Operations Council met virtually on Wednesday, October 7, 2020, to discuss a broad variety of technical topics. The meeting was very well attended by both members and FAA, with great questions and discussions.

### **NACA Continues Engagement with OWS**

NACA recently met with Operations Warp Speed (OWS) staff to discuss concerns about only two large carriers being responsible for the distribution of a vaccine to fulfill their critical mission. We alerted them to the Civil Reserve Air Fleet's (CRAF) tremendous capabilities for lift in national emergencies. We also requested technical specifications for moving the vaccines so the broader air cargo industry could begin preparations to participate. OWS indicated that CRAF likely will not be used apart from intra-DOD distribution unless capacity becomes a critical concern. OWS has provided us with contacts at the Defense Health Agency responsible for internal DOD distribution and OWS contractor McKesson for further discussions. We are working to set up meetings with those entities; our conversations with OWS continue.

### **NACA Communications**

NACA continues to look for opportunities to highlight our engagement efforts and to spread the message that it is safe to fly in the COVID-19 environment. We are joining ALPA's "Ready for Takeoff" campaign, spooling up traditional and social media pushes around a recent study showing extremely limited transmission of COVID-19 aboard aircraft, and promoting the role NACA's cargo members could play in the distribution of a vaccine to points around the country and the world.



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