

National Labor-Management Forum Created

July 6, 2010

Representatives from FAA labor unions met last week in Baltimore with FAA management to discuss President Obama's executive order that calls for the creation of "labor-management forums to improve the delivery of government services."

The order, signed at the end of last year, is designed to foster more productive labor-management relations throughout the federal government.

All nationally recognized unions were invited to attend the 2-day meeting and almost all were able to send representatives. Approximately a dozen FAA managers, including FAA Administrator Randy Babbitt, attended the meeting as well.

The group reviewed the executive order and had a wide-ranging discussion about its meaning.

A group decision was made to convene a national labor-management forum that will be comprised of members from the FAA management team and representatives from the nationally recognized unions. The forum will have two co-chairs, one from labor and one from management.

The unions present at last week's meeting decided that NATCA will be the union co-chair, and NATCA has named Executive Vice President Trish Gilbert for that position. Babbitt has selected John Pipes, ATO senior vice president for strategy and performance, to be the FAA co-chair. The number of forum participants will be determined at a future meeting.

The entire group recognized the importance of the broad work and discussion that will take place at this national forum and acknowledged the collaborative efforts already in place, or in developmental stages, should continue.

A charter that establishes roles and responsibilities of the forum will be developed. At the Baltimore meeting the group decided some of those roles and responsibilities will likely include: modeling collaborative behavior; providing leadership; sharing best practices; and developing templates regarding pre-decisional involvement and collaboration.

The national forum will meet in September and November of this year, and again next January. After that, the group intends to meet quarterly.

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