

UMOJA

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE NBCFAE

TRAVEL & HISTORY
NEW ORLEANS

SUMMER BOOK
READING LIST

AIR TRAFFIC
REDESIGN?



Register for our 50th
Anniversary, 48th Annual
National Training
Conference. Space is
limited!

JUNE 2026
ISSUE NO.09

Table of Contents

09

SUMMER, SUMMER, SUMMER TIME

Calling for Community and Grounding

10

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ejide D. Fashina

12

TRAVEL AND HISTORY

NEW ORLEANS AND THEIR CULTURAL RENAISSANCE

13

BOOKS ON BOOKS

2026 SUMMER READING LIST

14

50TH ANNIVERSARY & 48TH NTC

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

15

NBCFAE EVENTS

What's going on and where



WWW.THENBCFAE.COM

EMAIL US AT INFO@THENBCFAE.COM

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

RANIKA HARRIS

MANAGING EDITOR

UMOJA TEAM

CONTENT DIRECTOR

UMOJA TEAM

ART DIRECTION

UMOJA TEAM

PHOTOGRAPHERS

AL BEST- SILVER MOMENTS

OUR MEMBERSHIP

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

UMOJA TEAM

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

EJIDE FASHINA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SHORT APPROACH

SUMMER TIME READING LIST SUGGESTIONS



50TH ANNIVERSARY & 48TH NTC

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!





WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN NBCFAE?

1

WHO ARE WE?

We are an employee association that serves the needs of the under represented aviation employees of the federal government.

2

WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU?

We offer support, training, mentorship and networking through our national conferences and regional/chapter meetups.

3

AVIATION OUTREACH ...

We provide a career pipeline and engage over 40,000 youth annually to aviation based careers all over the world.

4

OVER 300+ MEMBERS AND GROWING!

We are the largest federal aviation association with over 300+ members across the country.

FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO JOIN CONTACT

INFO@THENBCFAE.COM / WWW.THENBCFAE.COM

SAVE THE DATE!!!

THE NBCFAE INVITES YOU TO THE 48TH
ANNUAL NATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

50TH

Anniversary

NBCFAE CELEBRATION

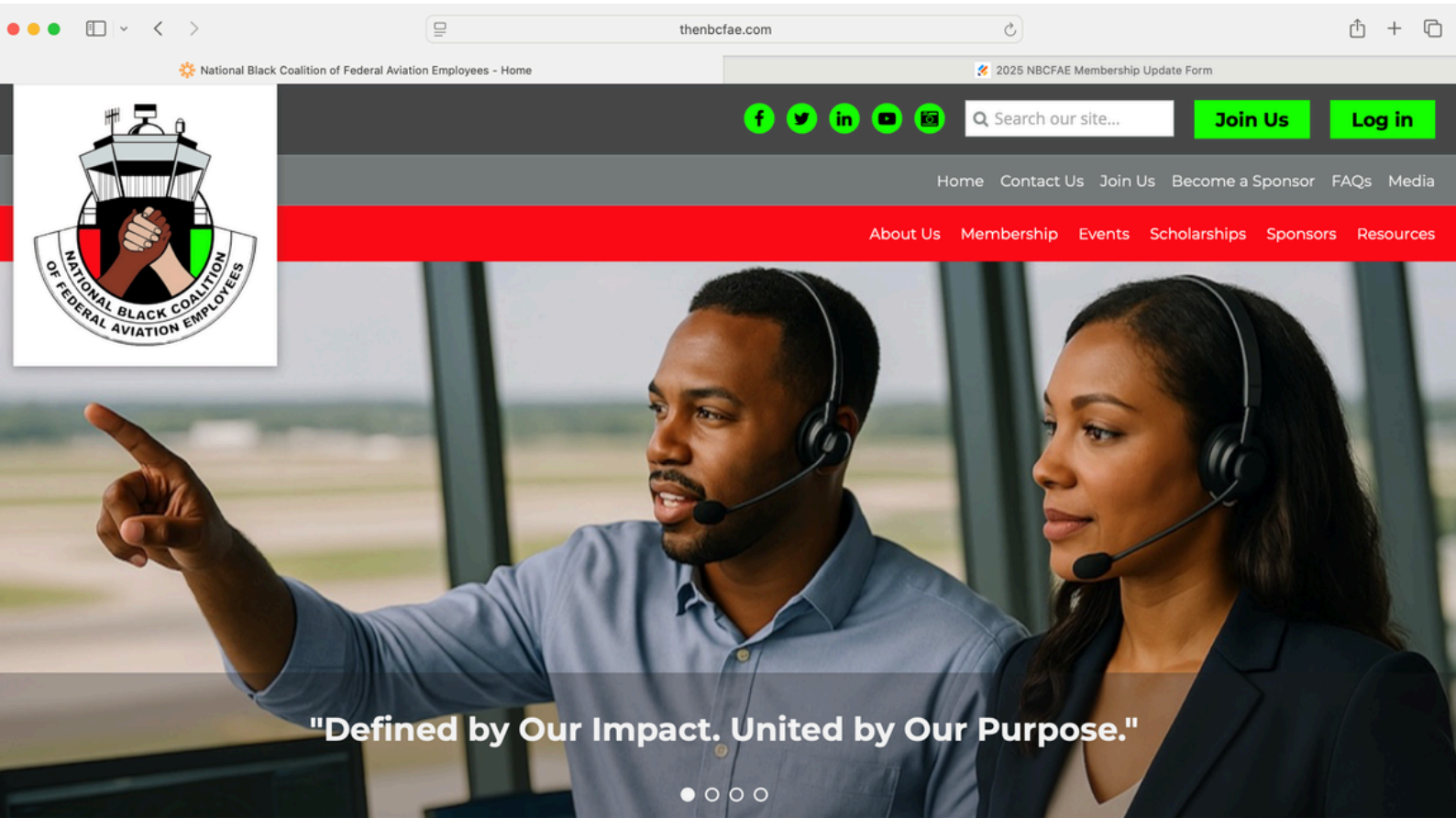
AUGUST 1-4, 2026

WESTIN
NEW ORLEANS, LA

WWW.THENBCFAE.COM



CLICK THE IMAGE TO RESERVE YOUR HOTEL ROOM!
SPACE IS LIMITED!
MORE DETAILS ABOUT REGISTRATION FOR THE
CONFERENCE TO FOLLOW SOON.
WWW.THENBCFAE.COM



We'd love for you to check out www.thenbcfae.com, the official home of the newly revitalized National Black Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees (NBCFAE)! As our organization evolves, so does our digital presence—this beautifully redesigned website is more than just a facelift; it's a central hub built to keep our members informed, engaged, and connected.

Whether you're looking for the latest updates, upcoming events, or ways to get involved, our site is your go-to destination. As NBCFAE continues to grow and break new ground, our website will grow with us—offering new features, resources, and opportunities. Visit us today, explore what's new, and become part of a powerful community that's soaring to new heights. Join us, and let's shape the future together!

WWW.THENBCFAE.COM



Apparently, you're kind of a **big deal.**

Now with big deal perks.



Scan the code

- 1 Go to <https://thenbcfae.benefithub.com>
- 2 Enter this secret code:
LU7Z5W
- 3 Sign up & start saving!

Powered by:  BenefitHub™

Questions? Call 1-866-664-4621 or email customer care@benefithub.com



1976-2026



50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE





From the Editor

As the warmth of summer arrives, it brings more than longer days and brighter skies. Summer has always represented renewal, reflection, and transformation. Across the United States, people use this season to reconnect with themselves, their families, and their communities. The energy of summer can have a profound impact on the mind, body, and spirit, reminding us that growth often happens during moments of rest, celebration, and connection.

For the mind, summer offers an opportunity to slow down from the pressures and distractions of everyday life. The sunlight, fresh air, and increased time outdoors can improve mental clarity, reduce stress, and encourage mindfulness. Yet, in a nation facing continued social, economic, and political changes, many communities still carry uncertainty and emotional fatigue. The future impacts of these changes will depend greatly on how we support one another, invest in our communities, and remain committed to equity, leadership, and service.

For the body, summer encourages movement and wellness. Whether through walking, traveling, gathering with loved ones, or participating in community events, this season reminds us to care for ourselves physically. Health and wellness are essential foundations for progress, especially as communities continue addressing challenges related to healthcare access, workplace stress, and economic stability throughout the country.

Spiritually, summer can serve as a season of grounding and restoration. It reminds us to stay connected to our values, our history, and the people who uplift us. During times of change, staying grounded means maintaining strong relationships, prioritizing self-care, and building spaces where people feel seen, heard, and empowered. Community remains one of the most powerful forces for resilience. When people come together with purpose, they create opportunities for healing, mentorship, advocacy, and collective growth.

The National Black Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees (NBCFAE) continues to embody that spirit of community, leadership, and empowerment. As we prepare to celebrate our upcoming 50th Anniversary, we reflect on five decades of service, excellence, advocacy, and commitment to advancing opportunities within the federal aviation workforce. This milestone is not only a celebration of our history, but also a call to continue building a stronger future for the next generation of leaders.

That spirit will also be on full display during the 48th Annual National Training Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. This year's conference represents an opportunity to connect, learn, inspire, and strengthen the bonds that unite us. In a time when collaboration and support are more important than ever, gatherings like this remind us of the importance of fellowship, professional development, and shared purpose.

As we move through this summer season, may we all remain grounded in community, inspired by progress, and committed to uplifting one another. Together, we can continue creating meaningful change while honoring the legacy of those who paved the way before us.

Ranika
Editor-in-Chief





President's Message

Greetings NBCFAE Family,

As we welcome the month of June, we stand at the intersection of remembrance, resilience, and celebration. June is a powerful month for our community and our organization as we commemorate Juneteenth — a historic reminder of freedom delayed, but never denied. Juneteenth represents perseverance, hope, excellence, and the continued pursuit of equity and opportunity for generations to come.

Those same principles are deeply woven into the fabric of the National Black Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees. For 50 years, NBCFAE has stood as a beacon of advocacy, leadership, mentorship, and empowerment within aviation and public service. From our founders' vision to the countless members who have carried this organization forward, we honor every sacrifice, every breakthrough, and every door opened for those coming behind us.

This year, our 48th Annual National Training Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana will be more than a conference — it will be a historic celebration of our Golden Anniversary. Together, we will celebrate “50 Years Rising Above Every Challenge” while preparing the next generation of aviation leaders to soar even higher.

As we approach this milestone event, I encourage every member to remain engaged, energized, and committed to our mission. The work we do today continues to shape the future of aviation, leadership, and representation across our nation. Whether through mentorship, professional development, community outreach, or simply uplifting one another, each of you plays a vital role in NBCFAE's continued success.

Our conference this August will bring together leaders, professionals, students, retirees, and future innovators from across the country for impactful training, networking, celebration, and inspiration. It will also serve as a reminder that NBCFAE's greatest strength has always been its people.

As we celebrate Juneteenth this month, let us also celebrate progress, purpose, and possibility. Let us honor those who paved the way while recommitting ourselves to building an even stronger future for generations to come.

Thank you for your continued dedication, leadership, and support of NBCFAE. I look forward to celebrating this historic 50-year milestone with all of you in New Orleans.

Together, we continue to rise above every challenge.

With Gratitude and Pride,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ejide D. Fashina".

Ejide D. Fashina
National President
National Black Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees (NBCFAE)



Honoring the past. Leading the present. Securing the future.



Air Traffic Redesign?

The winning company, northern Virginia-based Peraton, had been competing against a joint bid from Parsons and IBM for the prime integrator contract. Peraton will play a key part in the modernization initiative, which Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy wants to complete by the end of 2028.

In the wake of January's midair crash between a passenger plane and an Army helicopter near Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. He told reporters in March that he wanted to build a "brand new" system.

The project envisions a sweeping overhaul of the national airspace's aging technology and infrastructure. Over the summer, Congress approved a roughly \$12.5 billion "down payment" for telecommunications upgrades, replacing radars and consolidation of some larger air traffic control facilities, among other actions. The administration wants an additional \$20 billion from lawmakers to complete the endeavor.

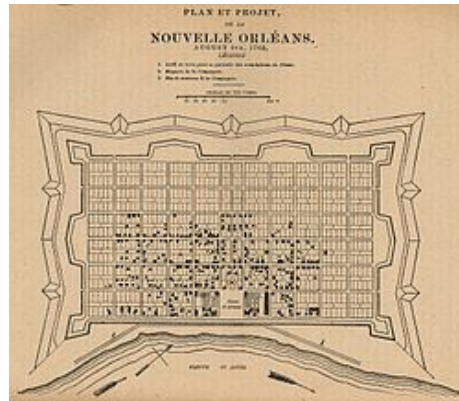
The department said it has already made progress in revamping the system, including by converting one-third of its copper wire infrastructure to fiber, satellite and wireless.

Peraton, DOT said, will start work immediately, partnering with the Federal Aviation Administration on initial priorities, such as completing the copper-to-fiber transition and "establishing a new digital command center."

Sources: CBS and POLITICO



Travel & History



Situated on a bend of the Mississippi River 100 miles from its mouth, New Orleans has been the chief city of Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico's busiest northern port since the early 1700s. Founded by the French, ruled for 40 years by the Spanish and bought by the United States in the 1803 Louisiana Purchase, New Orleans is known for its distinct Creole culture and vibrant history. Significant battles of the War of 1812 and the Civil War were fought over the city. In its last hundred years the key struggles of New Orleans have been social (poverty, racial strife) and natural (hurricanes, floods and slowly sinking land).

The first known residents of the New Orleans area were the Native Americans of the Woodland and Mississippian cultures. The expeditions of De Soto (1542) and La Salle (1682) passed through the area, but there were few permanent white settlers before 1718, when the governor of French Louisiana, Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne, Sieur de Bienville, founded the city of Nouvelle-Orléans on the first crescent of high ground above the Mississippi's mouth. In 1722 he transferred Louisiana's capital from Biloxi. The same year a hurricane destroyed most of the new city, which was rebuilt in the grid pattern of today's French Quarter.

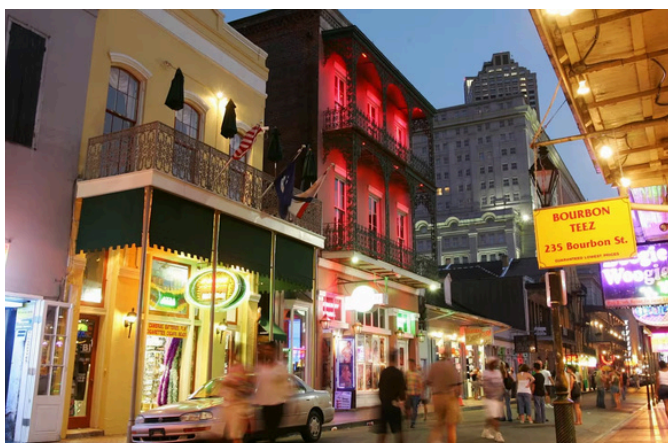
During the first half of the 19th century, New Orleans became the United States' wealthiest and third-largest city. Its port shipped the produce of much of the nation's interior to the Caribbean, South America and Europe. Thousands of enslaved people were sold in its markets, but its free Black community thrived. Until 1830, the majority of its residents still spoke French.

At the start of the Civil War, New Orleans was the largest city in the Confederacy, but it was only a year until Union troops, having captured its downriver defenses, took the city unopposed. During the Reconstruction era race became a potent political force, as emancipated enslaved people and free people of color were brought into the political process and, with the 1870s rise of the White League and the Ku Klux Klan, forced back out of it. Although the rise of railroads made shipping on the Mississippi less essential than it had been, New Orleans remained a powerful and influential port.

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina struck a haphazardly evacuated New Orleans. Upon landfall, the Category 3 storm's winds tore away roofs and drove a storm surge that breached four levees, flooding 80 percent of the city. Hundreds were killed in the flooding and thousands were trapped for days in harsh circumstances before state and federal rescuers could reach them.

The waters receded, but a year later only half the city's residents had returned. Within five years 80 percent were back, but New Orleans—though as diverse, unique and historic as ever—remained far from reclaiming its 1930s nickname, "the city that care forgot."

COMBINING AFRICAN RHYTHMS, BRASS BAND MUSIC, AND RAGTIME, MUSICIANS IN NEW ORLEANS GAVE BIRTH TO JAZZ. THE CITY ALSO BECAME CELEBRATED WORLDWIDE FOR ITS DISTINCT CAJUN AND CREOLE CUISINE, MARDI GRAS TRADITIONS, AND UNIQUE ARCHITECTURE.



NEW ORLEANS & IT'S CULTURAL RENAISSANCE

Short approach - Our Summer Reading Corner



Summer is the perfect season to slow down, recharge, and discover new ideas through reading. Whether you're relaxing at the beach, enjoying a quiet evening on the porch, or taking a break during your travels, a good book can inspire, educate, and entertain. Consider creating a summer reading list that includes a mix of history, personal development, fiction, and community-focused stories. Reading broadens our perspectives, strengthens our minds, and connects us to experiences beyond our own. This summer, challenge yourself to explore a new topic, learn something unexpected, and share your favorite reads with friends, family, and colleagues. Happy reading!

WHAT BOOKS ARE ON YOUR SUMMER TIME READING LIST? LET US KNOW!

INFO@THENBCFAE.COM

Know Before you Go

VENUE

THE WESTIN NEW ORLEANS
100 IBERVILLE STREET
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70130
1-504-566-7006

DETAILS

CHECK IN: 3:00PM
CHECK OUT: 12:00PM
VALET: \$46/ DAY
TWO RESTAURANTS ON SITE:
OBSERVATORY & BISTRO ON
BEND

Hotel Registration 11th Floor
Conference Registration 12th Floor

BOOK YOUR ROOM \$133/NIGHT
You may reserve your room between
July 29th and August 7th 2026. Double
Queen or King beds available. Be
prepared to pay \$150 one time
charge for incidentals.



TRANSPORTATION

MSY: Louis Armstrong Int'l Airport
www.flymsy.com
12 miles from hotel

Both available at Level 1 at the Baggage
Claim area on the middle curb



EXHIBITOR HOURS

SUNDAY: 7:00AM-7:00PM
MONDAY: 7:00AM- 7:00PM
TUESDAY: 7:00AM-11:00AM



*50 Years of Flight:
Rising Above Every Challenge*

Dress Codes & Event Themes

August 1st:

Sponsor's Reception: Cocktail Attire

President's Reception: All Black, Cocktail/ Semi Formal

August 2nd:

Change into NBCFAE Shirts for Region Photos during Regional
Caucus

AC/SW Region Night Out Theme: NOLA Nights, Let the
GOLDEN Times Roll! Dress to Impress in your Mardi Gras Colors;
Gold, Green, Purple and/or Black

August 3rd:

C. Alfred Anderson Awards Banquet: Masquerade Ball. Colors
Black and Gold- More Regional Photos will be taken!

August 4th:

Business Meeting: HBCU & Divine 9 Representation

DURING TRAININGS, PROFESSIONAL ATTIRE REQUIRED DAILY!!

Join us for our annual trainings, unforgettable evenings, filled with
elegance and charm covered by the allure of New Orleans!

Questions: Please contact our **Conference Coordinator (Marla)** at
conferencecoordinator@thenbcfae.com or
(Linda) at nbcfae.nationalconfcals@gmail.com

NBCFAE 48TH
Annual National
Training
Conference



50 YEARS
1976-2026

WWW.THENBCFAE.COM
INFO@THENBCFAE.COM

NBCFAE Events

We want to know what's going on! To advertise your event, send your flyers and/OR photos from your event HERE!



Save

THE

date

50 Years of Flight:
Rising Above Every
Challenge

50th Anniversary Celebration
NBCFAE's 48th Annual
National Training
Conference

August 1-4, 2026

*for more info, please visit our website:
www.thenbcfae.com*

Follow Us!!

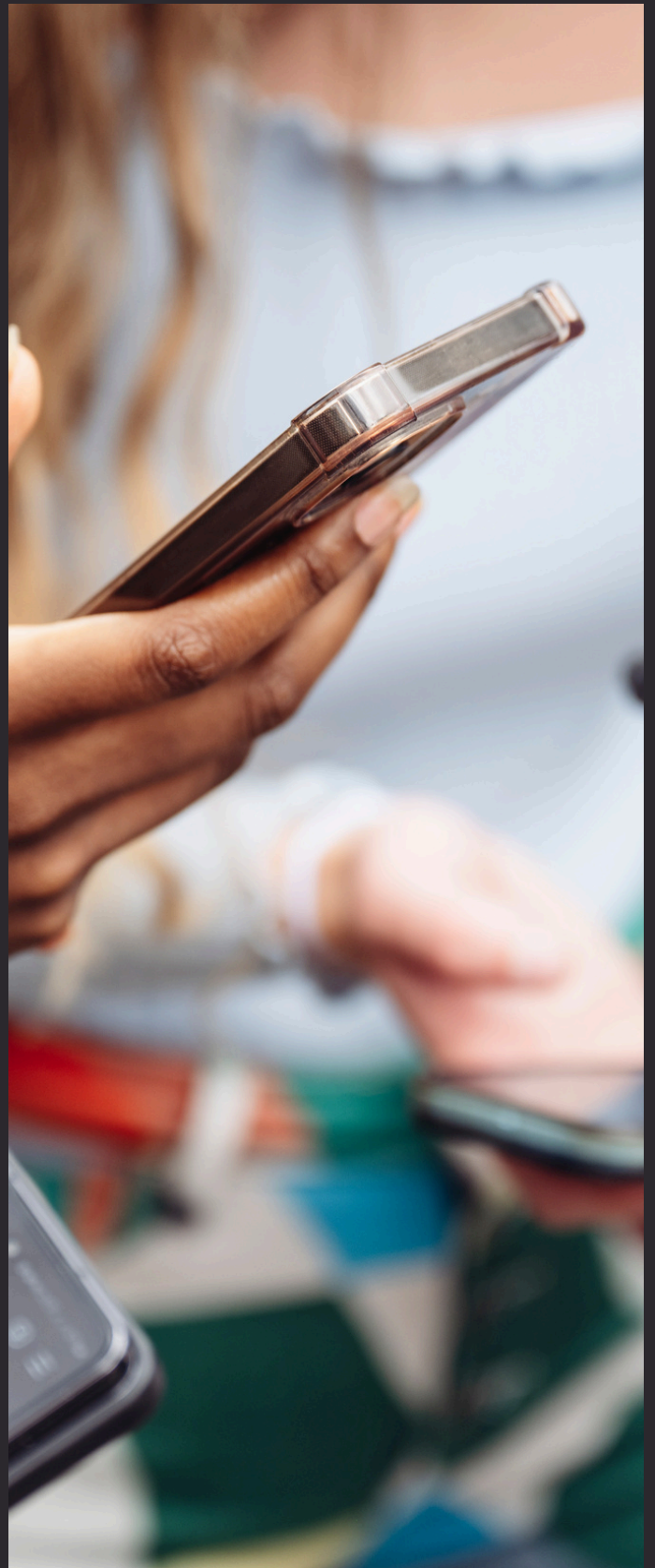
NEVER MISS AN ISSUE!

Enjoy our special issue newsletters
Paperless delivery
Find vintage issues on our website

VISIT US ONLINE

INSTAGRAM
official_nbcfae
FACEBOOK
official_nbcfae

LinkedIn
National Black
Coalition of Federal
Aviation Employees



www.thenbcfae.com

Email us at info@thenbcfae.com





Umoja

JUNE 2026
ISSUE NO.09

WWW.THENBCFAE.COM
INFO@THENBCFAE.COM