



If you are having trouble viewing this email, [view it in your web browser here](#).

If you are unable to view the images in this email, please click the underlined link above to view it in your browser.

President's Message

I spent the last two weeks in Las Vegas preparing for and attending the Twenty-Third TWU International Constitutional Convention. It was a great experience, and I really enjoyed working with all the Local 556 Delegates, as well as the Delegates and Officers from other Locals. We will be publishing a lot more about the Convention in upcoming publications, but I wanted to send a shout-out to all the hardworking folks who made it possible, including our great Local 556 Members who had additional duties at the Convention: Gwen Dunivent, Kyle Whiteley, Portia White, and our own International Representative and newly re-elected International Vice President Garry Drummond.



Thom McDaniel
President TWU 556

The Contract is finally at the printer, and should arrive in bases this week. It is important to remember that the details and final implementation can be as difficult as Negotiations themselves. I'm sorry it's taken so long, but I would rather take the time to make sure the final product is done correctly and is user-friendly for our Members. While the Contract will contain some Q&As dealing with some of the changes, the next step for our Union is to develop a Contract Resource Guide that can be inserted into the Agreement, so if you have any suggestions or frequently asked questions you would like included, please email me at president@twu556.org.

I've heard some complaints about the Implementation Schedule in our Contract. Every Member of our Negotiating Team would have loved to have every improvement that we achieved in our Contract effective immediately.

Unfortunately, when you're reprogramming a system to allow over 9,500 Flight Attendants (and Scheduling) to work within it, while operating effectively with all other systems, it's going to take a little time. Please continue to be patient as these changes and upgrades are completed.

Your Negotiating Team spent many days after the Contract was ratified working with each other, Inflight, and SWA Technology trying to put as many of our contractual gains into effect as quickly as possible. Many improvements were effective DOR (date of ratification), while others were effective DOR, but awaiting automation upgrades. I've also heard some speculation that SWA only implemented the things that benefited them, but it should be noted that if this were true, there would not be so many changes that required a manual process (extra work) until the processes could be automated. Most of the changes we are looking for will be implemented in November or by the end of the year, but Management may actually be implementing some of our negotiated changes before the deadlines.

Finally, please remember that we do need to allow a certain amount of flexibility to implement our Contract correctly. If we don't exercise some patience in implementing the changes in our Contract, we will end up with programming issues that don't work, or worse, Management refusing to negotiate similar issues in the future, because they cannot be implemented immediately.

Given the choice between having all the changes we achieved in our Contract, and having only the ones that could be implemented on the date of ratification, I think everyone will agree that it's worth it to exercise a little patience to achieve our hard fought and long-term gains.

New Bidding Timelines Begin October 1

Detailed changes to the bidding timeline:

- * 1st - Vacation Trade Deadline at noon Central Time.
- * 2nd - Primary bidding opens at noon Central Time.
- * 5th - Primary Bidding closes at noon Central Time.
- * 6th - Primary Bid Results will be posted at noon Central Time.
- * 7th - Primary Bidding Protest ends at noon Central Time.
- * 12th - Secondary Bidding opens at noon Central Time.
- R/T Bidding opens at noon Central Time.
- * 15th - Secondary Bidding closes at noon Central Time.
- * 16th - Secondary Bidding Results posted at noon Central Time.
- * 17th - Secondary Bidding Protest ends at noon Central Time.
- * 18th - R/T Bidding closes at noon Central Time.
- * 19th - TT/GA with other Flight Attendants opens at noon Central Time.
- R/T Bidding Results posted at noon Central Time.
- Exercise Lineholder Overlap Options close at noon Central Time.
- * 20th - Open time is released at 2200 Local time in all Bases.
- * 23rd - Out of Base R/T Bidding opens at noon Central Time.**
- * 24th - Exercise Reserve Overlap Options close at noon Central Time.
- * 25th - Out of Base R/T Bidding closes at noon Central Time.**
- * 26th - Out of Base R/T Bidding results posted at noon Central Time.**

(**):Out of Base R/T Bidding is effective until CWA R/T Trading is implemented.)

Daily Time changes:

- * You may trade pairings into Open Time until 2300 Local time if the pairing begins at or before 0959 Local time.
- * You may trade pairings into Open Time until 0300 local time if the pairing begins at or after 1000 Local time.
- * You may update your Reserve Pass/Fly and Overnight preferences until 1659 Central time for your next day preferences.

The CWA release will include these items:

- * This release will implement the new Contractual Timeline.
- * You will be able to use CWA to acknowledge un-notified assignments.
- * You can use EBS to bid for contingency Job Share or Contingency MRT lines.
- * The Max number of Pairings allowed in Open Time will be rounded up at 101 Flight Attendants (Old contract rounded up at 151).
- * The Minimum time between pairings has been changed to 2 hours block to block. (Old contract required 4 hours.)
- * If you have a Reserve Line that contains four-day Reserve blocks, you may drop up to four days of a single four-day Reserve block.
- * Flight Attendants who trade a VJA pairing for another Flight Attendant's VJA pairing will retain the VJA premium.
- * Rig Options for partial pairing trades will only be applied if the posting Flight Attendant is checked in. Otherwise, all trades of partial pairings will be prorated contractually.
- * The DRT timeline will now match the Contract including Secondary DRT:
 - o · 1400 Central Time DRT slots posted for the next day.
 - o · 1700 Central Time cutoff for Flight Attendants to cancel their DRT bid for the next day.
 - o · 1800 Central Time DRT awards posted for the next day.
 - o · In the event any DRT slots are unbid and unawarded, a Flight Attendant may request to be released from an assignment up to three (3) hours prior to departure on a first-come, first-served basis.

For copies of the timeline please log onto SWALife and go to: Inflight Info on the Inflight main page. Also refer to the Updated CWA Users Guide posted on SWALife. (SWALife > Inflight > Crew Member Tools > CSS Crew Web Access > CWA User Guide)

Membership Meetings

The third round of Membership Meetings for the year are scheduled for October. At the meetings, we will be reviewing previous minutes, financial reports, as well as electing the 2009-2012 Board of Election, and voting on Bylaws.

This is an important round of meetings, and we urge everyone available to participate. Please bring your ID with you to the meeting.

The schedule for the meetings are listed below. For additional details, please click [here](#).



Fall Membership Meeting Schedule:

Baltimore - October 27 Chicago - October 29 Dallas - October 16 Houston - October 12	Las Vegas - October 22 Oakland - October 20 Orlando - October 28 Phoenix - October 21
---	--

Weekend Hours

We have great news for you! Beginning on October 3, the Union will have a representative available on Saturdays and Sundays from 09:00 to 17:00 Central to answer your Contract and Scheduling questions.

Keep in mind that this representative will not be able to handle any questions or concerns that must be dealt with during normal business hours, including handling payroll discrepancies, filing grievances, or scheduling fact-finding meetings.

After calling the Union office at 800-969-7932, follow the voice prompts to reach the person on-call for answers to your Contract and Scheduling questions. This service is on a trial basis for all weekends from October 3 through December 27. In the event of an emergency, you will always have access to the Officer on-call.



Audrey Stone
Baltimore DEBM

The 2009 TWU 556 Annual Survey

‘Making Us Stronger’

October 4 - 24

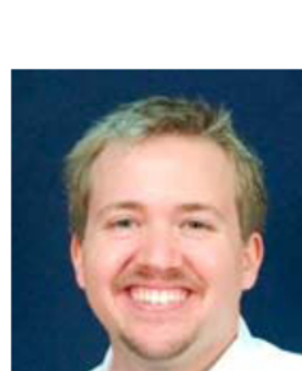
Only at www.twu556.org!



CWA on the Run!

With the Technology Department busy working through the Implementation Schedule of our new Contract, there was some time to sneak in a handy little CWA enhancement that had been in the works *long before* we finished negotiations.

Some of you may have already noticed the new “refresh” button that looks like two arrows forming a circle on your Trip Trade/Give Away screen. If not, it's found at the bottom right of the calendar, to the left of the “save” button.



Don Shipman
TWU Local 556 Negotiator

What the heck is it? It's actually the same button found on the Vacation Trade screen used to look up available slots for trading, now moved to our TT/GA screens. To use the button, simply click once on the calendar day you wish to view, and press the refresh button to bring up trips. This does away with the double-click that was necessary to view trips in Open Time on a particular day. Why does that matter? Was it really that hard to double-click!? The surprising answer is, yes!

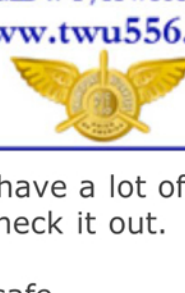
For those of you with an iPhone or other mobile device that doesn't allow double-clicks, this opens up a whole new world of trip trading! Yes, you can trip trade from your iPhone or other smart phones while you're at the mall or just anytime you're out and about away from your computer. The screen interface is still somewhat awkward, and trying to get much done on Open Time night would be a fool's errand. But for the occasional trip trading, it's a wonderful improvement.

Southwest Airlines doesn't “officially” support the iPhone or related phones, so tech support won't be able to help you. If you need assistance, just reach out to me or one of the many other Flight Attendants that have already given it a try. Good luck out there, and enjoy the new mobile CWA!

unity update
An official publication of
TWU Local 556,
representing the Flight Attendants
of Southwest Airlines.

7929 Brookriver Drive, Suite 750
Dallas, TX 75247
Phone: 800-969-7932
Fax: 214-357-9870
Hotline: 800-806-7992

Unity Update Editor:
Kyle Whiteley
MDWF/A #35350
www.twu556.org



In Closing

There has been a lot of discussion lately about our appearance standards. As a reminder, the company released a .pdf from the latest Flight Attendant handbook to ensure everyone is aware of the expectations.

While there are certainly some subjective issues, for the most part these policies are fairly cut and dry. Like I always say, but sometimes forget to practice, "pick your battles." If you are going to stand up for your right to wear fuzzy panda bear socks, be prepared to face the consequences like an adult. If your stand works, I am sure we will all look good in our fuzzy panda bear socks.

If you missed the RBF, and would like to review the included information, please click [here](#).

Our fall Unity will be sent to the printer this next week. We have a lot of great stories and information, and I hope you will take the time to check it out.

Fly safe,
Kyle Whiteley
TWU Local 556 Communications Coordinator