

UNITY Update

DECEMBER 2006

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 2007 MEMBERSHIP
MEETING* - ALL TIMES ARE LOCAL

OAK

DATE/TIME: Thur., 01/18/07 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: OAK International Airport
Esther Love Conf. Room
(Take elevator to 2nd Floor,
Go through wheelchair
accessible door; turn left,
room is on right)
(510) 563-6424

PHX

DATE/TIME: Fri., 01/19/07 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: PHX Sky Harbor Airport
Terminal 3 - Level 2
(End of hall next to Sbarro)
(602) 273-3382

DAL

DATE/TIME: Mon., 01/22/07 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: Holiday Inn Select Love Fld.
3300 W. Mockingbird Lane
(214) 357-8500

HOU

DATE/TIME: Tues., 01/23/07 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: Hobby Airport
The Cloud Room
(713) 641-7723

MCO

DATE/TIME: Wed., 01/24/07 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: Hawthorn Suites MCO
7450 Augusta National Dr.
(407) 438-2121

MDW

DATE/TIME: Thur., 01/25/07 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: American Legion
Clearing Post 600
4352 W. 63RD Street
(773) 767-0230

BWI

DATE/TIME: Fri., 01/26/07 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: BWI Airport
BWI Conf. Room NTE 247
(At the end of the Air Tran
counter; turn right to the
Meditation Room, then take
another right. The BWI
Conf. Room, #NTE 247, will
be on the left behind the Air
Tran ticket counter)

MEETING AGENDA: - General Business

* All sessions constitute the meeting.

GENERAL UNION MEETING - OPEN
TO MEMBERS ONLY - ID'S WILL BE
CHECKED

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Thom McDaniel
TWU 556 President

While the year is winding down, our Union is busy ramping up for a busy and productive 2007.

In place of the regular Local 556 Executive Board Meeting in November, your elected Officers held our annual Planning Retreat at the Camp for All facilities in Burton, TX, facilitated by Strategic Advisor Mark Richard. Your Executive Board recognized strategic planning as a key to victory in our Contract battle, so since ratification, your Executive Board has held these meetings to create a business plan and goals for the upcoming year. The Strategic Planning Retreat was a resounding success and all 14 Executive Board Members returned home after the three day meeting with full plates and exciting ideas for our Union in the future. The Executive Board will review, evaluate, and revise the plan monthly to ensure that we stay on task and meet our goals.

The Executive Board



Your TWU Local 556 Executive Board at the 2006 Strategic Planning Meeting at "Camp for All" (Standing, L to R): Thom McDaniel, Allyson Parker-Lauck, Brett Nevarez, Mark Torrez, Gwen Dunivent, Jill van der Werff, Michael Massoni, Cuyler Thompson, Susan Kern, and Kyle Whiteley. (Kneeling, L to R): Strategic Advisor Mark Richard, Stacy Martin, Lucy White-Lehman, Gayle Ross, and Michael Broadhead.

hit the ground running immediately upon return with a Shop Steward training in Dallas for 70 returning or newly elected Shop Stewards. The Shop Steward Training was coordinated by Cuyler Thompson and Susan Kern with assistance from Allyson Parker-Lauck. The training began with a "meet and greet" the evening before the class began. The following day was filled with topics including the role of the Shop Steward in Fact Finding meetings, Step-Two hearings, and a mock meeting with special performances by the TWU Local 556 Grievance Staff. Thanks to our Grievance Staff,

Executive Board, and TWU International for conducting what was described by one new Steward as "the best training ever". Mostly thanks to all of our Shop Stewards for stepping up to the plate to provide the best possible representation for our Members.

On December 5, the TWU Local 556 Officers and Staff held an Open House at our Local's new headquarters. Thanks to all of our Members, our other Union Brothers and Sisters, and Southwest Airlines Management for dropping by to celebrate our new facilities.

The TWU Local 556 "Toys for Tots" Drive was
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HOU DEBM Jill van der Werff with HOU Shop Stewards Crystal Rains, Jannah Dalak, and Kelley Martin.



BWI Shop Steward Mike Fillmon with Local 556 Treasurer Gayle Ross and DAL DEBM Gwen Dunivent.



Grievance Team Members (the "Dallas Defenders"): Shae Grajeda, Becky Parker, Catherine Rea, and Amy Lynn Neeper.



BWI DEBM Lucy White-Lehman (foreground) leads BWI Shop Stewards in a group discussion.



OAK Shop Stewards Michael Quattlebaum, Matt Roe, and Val Lorian

Meet Your Shop Stewards!

Elected, Trained, and READY TO SERVE

On November 15 and 16, seventy Flight Attendants gathered in Dallas to attend Shop Steward Training. These Flight Attendants were nominated and elected during the October, 2006 Membership Meetings held in each base. The training was coordinated and developed by Susan Kern and Cuyler Thompson with the assistance of Allyson Parker-Lauck.

The training began on Wednesday evening with a "meet and greet" at the hotel. This gave the Shop Stewards the opportunity to meet each other as well as the Local's Executive Board and Grievance Team for a few hours to get to know each other since the agenda for the training the following day would be very full leaving little time for conversation. Thursday morning began with the Stewards taking their Oath of Office and the work began. Susan Kern was the main facilitator of the day, and was assisted with presentations given by TWU International Vice Presidents Gary Yingst and Garry Drummond, TWU Legislative Representative Portia Reddick White, Thom McDaniel, Cuyler Thompson, Brett Nevarez, Allyson Parker-Lauck, Lucy White-Lehman, Kyle Whiteley, and Michael Broadhead. These presentations covered topics including confidentiality, preparing a Member for a Meeting, and all aspects of the Shop Steward's role in representing Members.

In addition, members of the TWU Local 556 Grievance Team (a.k.a "The Dallas Defenders") prepared and presented a "mock fact finding meeting", where they played the roles of Base Manager, Supervisor, TWU Shop Steward, and Flight Attendant and walked the group through a realistic scenario of what to expect during a meeting with Management. Special thanks to Shae Grajeda, Becky Parker, Amy Lynn Neeper, and Catherine Rea for their excellent acting skills and for providing an educational and entertaining part of the training.

Thanks again to Susan, Cuyler, and Allyson for putting together this year's training. We also thank Kathy Anderson, Mike Sims, and Marcy Vinyard for developing the training program that was presented in April, 2005 laying the foundation for this year's training. Most of all, we thank all of the new TWU Local 556 Shop Stewards for stepping up to the plate to represent the best Flight Attendants in the industry.



Your TWU Local 556 Officers and Shop Stewards



*Although our LAS Base has not opened yet, Steve Guardado wanted to be trained as a Shop Steward so that he would be ready to help Members immediately once the base opens. Thanks Steve!

What's the Deal with the December HOU Reserve Re-Bid?



Your Scheduling Committee Responds to Your Concerns

*by Kyle Whiteley, MDW Executive Board Member
Scheduling Committee Vice Chairperson*

On November 16, during the Shop Steward training class, I received a call from a Houston Flight Attendant asking about the absence of PM Monday through Wednesday and Tuesday through Thursday Reserve lines for December. After an afternoon of speaking with our Scheduling Committee Chair and Vice Chairs, Crew Planning, as well as our Staff at the Union office, it was agreed that our Members deserve those lines and a rebid was put in place. Within 24 hours of first notification, the lines had been rewritten, official notice had been published, bid periods were extended, and means of personal communications had been established.

The rush was now on to notify those having to sit Reserve in Houston that the bids had been altered. Several people took on different tasks, and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank those that made the commitment to fix the lines and contact our Flight Attendants:

- **Thom McDaniel** and **Denny Sebesta** for allowing us to pursue the changes we were seeking, and to approve the language of the letter requesting

the rebid.

- **Tim Chaffin** and **Brendan Conlon** for agreeing to commit the resources of the Company, the staff over at **Crew Planning** to rewrite the lines, **Inflight Automation** to do all the necessary computer changes, and the folks at **Crew Scheduling** to answer all the questions that would follow. The RBF and CWA messages were sent out from their end, as well.
- **Madeleine Howard** at the Union Office for the last minute room reservation in Dallas, setting up access to the Union Office (it was a weekend), and writing out last minute passes so I could get to and from Dallas.
- **John Parrott** for coordinating with Madeleine, as well as staying at the office on Saturday, his day off, helping me call all of the Reserves who had previously bid (well over 300) in Houston.
- **Jill van der Werff**, the HOU Executive Board Member, who even during a family medical emergency, maintained communication with me, as her Base had been affected.
- **Michael McNeil**, HOU Shop Steward, who offered his time

over the weekend to sit in the lounge and talk to the Flight Attendants, from first check-in, one-on-one ensuring they were aware of the changes.

Lastly, I want to thank **Bobby**, the Houston Flight Attendant who first brought the missing lines to my attention. Bobby is a prime example of how one person can make a difference. Because of Bobby's initiative, 24 more Flight Attendants are able to make plans for Christmas Day, as well as the day after.

While we are not always able to resolve unfavorable situations as quickly as we were this time, your Scheduling Committee **IS** listening to your concerns, and we are doing everything we can to improve the Quality of Life for **ALL** Southwest Flight Attendants.

P.S.: Please don't forget Productivity Pay is offered in December as well as double time pay for flying on Christmas Day and New Years Eve. Also, if you have perfect attendance for December, you will bank one attendance point.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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held again for the 5th year. At press time, donations were at an all time high. Thanks to all of you who helped make a child's holiday just a little happier through your efforts.

On a sad note, TWU Local 556 lost a good friend recently. Scheduling Automation Analyst Tony Whelan passed away unexpectedly

on November 25th. Tony was a good friend to our Local and a true example of one who truly helped to build bridges between the Union and Management. We will miss you Tony.

In closing, I would simply like to wish Seasons Greetings and Happy Holidays to everyone. We all have a lot to be thankful for and I am truly blessed to represent such a wonderful group of people.

UNITY Update

The official publication of the Transport Workers Union Local 556, representing the Flight Attendants of Southwest Airlines.

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