

Update

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST 2006 MEMBERSHIP
MEETING* - ALL TIMES ARE LOCAL

BWI

DATE/TIME: Tues., 08/08/06 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: BWI Airport
BWI Observation Gallery
(Located in the Terminal
Bldg between piers B & C)
(410) 859-7683

MDW

DATE/TIME: Wed., 08/09/06 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: American Legion
Clearing Post 600
4352 W. 63RD Street
(773) 767-0230

MCO

DATE/TIME: Thur., 08/10/06 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: Hawthorn Suites MCO
7450 Augusta National Dr.
(407) 438-2121

HOU

DATE/TIME: Fri., 08/11/06 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: Hobby Airport
The Cloud Room
(713) 641-7723

DAL

DATE/TIME: Mon., 08/14/06 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: Holiday Inn Select Love Fld.
3300 W. Mockingbird Lane
(214) 357-8500

OAK

DATE/TIME: Tues., 08/22/06 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: Oakland Airport
Esther Love Conf. Room
(Take elevator to 2nd Floor,
Go through handicap door,
turn left, room is on right
halfway down the hallway.)
(510) 563-6424

PHX

DATE/TIME: Wed., 08/23/06 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: PHX Sky Harbor Airport
Terminal 4 - Level 3
(Past the food court, next
to the art gallery)
(602) 273-3382

MEETING AGENDA: - General Business.
Vote on Motion Re. Assessment
Fee/Secret Ballot.

* All sessions constitute the meeting.

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Thom McDaniel, TWU Local 556 President

What a difference a month makes. I am pleased to say that our Union has moved past the complications of the election season and has hit the ground running with a new Executive Board, new ideas, new accomplishments, new opportunities, and a new commitment to providing the best representation possible for our Members.

We have recently completed our first Executive Board Meeting after being sworn in by TWU International President Jim Little. I can truly say that I am honored to be working with such a talented group. I would like to extend a special welcome to our new Board Members and a welcome back to those who were re-elected.

In the coming weeks, you will see some very obvious changes that benefit our Members. Beginning June 1, we will be extending our hours of operation from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM Central time. This will provide more access for Members on

the East and West Coast. I am excited that by utilizing a flexible schedule for our Grievance Staff, we have been able to extend our hours and operate within our budget.

We also welcome Denny Sebesta back to the Union Office as our new Grievance Chairperson. Denny worked on the Grievance Staff from 1997 to 2000, and then served as one of the Negotiators of our industry leading Contract from 2001 to 2004.

In addition to expanding our hours, we have also created specialization on our Grievance Staff. Since some aspects of our Contract require more specialized knowledge, we have departmentalized our Grievance Staff to allow specialization in Leaves, Contract Administration, Work Rules, Payroll, Reserve, Group Grievances, and Board of Adjustment/Arbitration Preparation.

We believe these changes will allow our Grievance Team to continue to provide excellent service to our



Members, and allow them to excel in their areas of expertise.

Our Union has also resolved some very difficult contractual grievances in what we believe have been "win-wins" for our Union and Company. Due to our resilience and unity, I believe that we resolved the early release of Open Time in PHX and OAK with a fair and timely resolution for our Members.

By now, most of you have read the RBF notices regarding the "Reserve Flipping" and "Maestro Shutdown" grievances. I have received some feedback on both grievances, and several have asked questions. Please understand that the joint memos published by the Union and the Company were not inclusive of the
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Crew Member Self Defense Training

If you have never read another article in UNITY Update before, make this the first one - Your life may depend on it

by Michael Broadhead, PHX F/A #33877

On April 27, 2006, a newly revamped Crew Member Self Defense Training program was previewed. The program has been recently placed under the direction of the Federal Air Marshal division of the Department of Homeland Security. It was formerly under the direction of the TSA.

Shortly after 9-11, Flight Attendants and Flight Attendant Unions began demanding self defense training. It was a loud cry for new skills that were now a necessity in our new work place - the post 9/11 environment. The demands for self defense training were heard, but sadly due to successful "lobbying" efforts on Capital Hill, only "voluntary" self defense training was implemented, meaning the airlines bore no responsibility to provide the means to accomplish the training. A program was developed by the TSA. It was three days long (24 hours of class instruction), and it proved to be difficult and nearly impossible for the TSA to adjust to Flight Attendant scheduling needs. Additionally, it lacked availability in most cities, so only a little over 800 out of 140,000 Flight Attendants participated in the former program thus far. I know I tried several times to take the class, but honestly, who has three days off in row, combined with a changing schedule from the TSA? It was frustrating.

Since taking over the program, the Federal Air Marshal Service (FAMS) has completely redesigned the program. FAMS understands that in order for the training to be a success, the airlines and Unions must have "buy in" on it. FAMS recently gathered Airline and Union Leaders to explore why so few Flight Attendants have participated in the voluntary training. Once the input was gathered, the old program was dumped, and a new one was completely redeveloped. The class is now formatted in a way very similar to our Recurrent Training in that a study packet, exam, and DVD must be completed before entering the class. And the class is now only ONE day of instruction. And unlike the old program, under the new

program, Flight Attendants can re-take the new class as many times as they want, thus improving their skill level and competency.

This first preview class was taught at the Federal Air Marshal training facility in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Nearly thirty participants from many airlines and Unions completed the new program, and at the conclusion of the day, the FAMS gathered all participants to give direct and concise feedback on the merits of the program, and were also given the opportunity to make suggestions for the new program.



The "preview" class at the Federal Air Marshal Training Facility in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Michael Broadhead is kneeling in the front row on the far right. Also pictured is TWU Local 556 Safety Coordinator Michael Massoni, front row standing, 5th from the left.

The class includes several hours of intense and very well planned and executed self defense training "on the mats" and then several hours of "application" of the skills learned. These skills are then applied in the cabin environment. What a huge change and shock it was to see how radically different it was to use the skills in the very small aircraft cabin! The class is physically and mentally demanding and very applicable not only to our work environment, but also to protecting ourselves in our own time. Overall it was a huge success and the new program is outstanding

- a giant step forward in giving Crew Members added skills that have merit in our radically changed work environment since the events of September 11, 2001.

The classes are going to be taught as before, through local Community Colleges, by law enforcement instructors, near all SWA Domiciles. Commitment to train will be based solely on demand for scheduled classes, meaning if Flight Attendants book and attend, the class will stay. If the demand is insufficient to justify the funding, the class will be cancelled. Current class dates are always available at www.twu556.org. They will also be available in RBFs, on SWALIFE, and watch for posters from the FAMS soon to appear in the lounges.

On a personal note, I was somewhat intimidated to attend the training. I feel very confident in my abilities to do my duties as a Flight Attendant, but did not feel confi-

dent in my ability to defend myself on the aircraft in the event of some sort of attack. It was a thought that has haunted me since 9-11 every day on the aircraft. In other words, I knew it was an area of "vulnerability" for me. Once the class began, the Federal Air Marshals that I have seen on our planes countless times since 9-11 instructed us in such a way that we all felt welcome, and our confidence was increased with each new skill we learned. The Air Marshals ensured that each participant learned each skill before progressing to the next.

Once we entered the cabin trainers and we began to see how the skills would be adapted and adjusted to that environment, I began to get a whole new level of appreciation and respect for the Air Marshals that are on our planes helping to protect all of us. Next time you have Federal Air Marshals onboard, take a moment to thank each of them for what they do, and also thank them for their support in taking over and improving the Crew Member Self Defense Training Program. It may take a while for the "front line" Air Marshals to get up to speed and in the loop on this new project, but let them know we

appreciate everything they are doing.

At the conclusion of the training, I left with a new level of skill that hopefully, I will never have to use. I am now more confident in my ability to respond, take the offense, and hopefully survive if the unthinkable happens. I also came away with a whole new appreciation and respect for the FAMS and just how fortunate we are to have them on our planes and to have them now running and directing this program. I was literally blown away at the "glimpse" of the skill the Federal Air Marshals have!! I highly encourage all SWA Flight Attendants to make a day available to attend this program, and to make it the utmost priority. For those of you who have attended, I encourage you to inform your Crew during the required Crew briefing at the start of your day that you have taken this course and learned skills as an added layer of security in the cabin, and please encourage others to attend.

We demanded the training in the aftermath of 9-11, and now it has been structured under the FAMS to make it accessible to all us. There really is no good excuse not to get trained in self defense - the events of 9-11 prove it.



The FAMS Training Facility in Atlantic City, New Jersey



The FAMS Trainer



Inside the Trainer



A Federal Air Marshal Instructor demonstrating a self defense technique on Michael Broadhead.



Michael Massoni (L) and Michael Broadhead (R) practicing a technique called "pain compliance"



Your new TWU Local 556 Executive Board: (Seated L to R) Cuyler Thompson, Jimmy West, Gayle Ross, Thom McDaniel, Allyson Parker-Lauck, and Stacy Martin. (Standing L to R) Kyle Whiteley, Michael Massoni, Gwen Dunivent, Mark Torrez, Jill van der Werff, and Brett Nevarez. (Not Pictured) Bill Bernal and Lucy White-Lehman.

Airline Ride Across America

A tribute to the 33 Crew Members of September 11, 2001



From April 2 to May 9, 2006, cyclists from all over the country participated in the "Airline Ride Across America" to raise money for the World Trade Center Memorial, The Flight 93 Memorial, and Pentagon Memorial. Riders participated in honor of the 33 Crew Members lost on September 11, 2001. Donations are still being accepted, and you can find out more information about this event by visiting the Airline Ride Across America website at: www.airlineride.org.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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entire settlement. In both cases, the Flight Attendants who were named in the grievances were awarded additional compensation in accordance with our Contract. If you would like additional information on these grievances, please contact me at **800-969-7932** or by email at tmcdaniel@twuatd.org.

In addition, I am very pleased that we were able to resolve the issue of Reserve/Lineholder Trading Seniority with an agreement that protected earned seniority as well as the trading privileges allowed by our Contract. The feedback you provided on our recent newsletter article on this topic helped us come to an agreement that will protect our contractual right to trade lines, while protecting seniority.

Before I close, I would like to ask all of you to show your support for the Northwest Airlines Flight Attendants as their Members vote to affiliate with TWU. This vote will take place in the next few weeks. For more information, visit the PFAA website at www.pfaa.com.

Thank you for your Unity and support. We are the best in the industry, and I look forward to working together for our continued success.

UNITY Update

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

2520 W. Mockingbird Lane
Dallas, TX 75235
Phone: 800-969-7932
Fax: 214-357-9870
Hotline: 800-806-7992

UNITY Update Editor:
Allyson Parker-Lauck
OAK F/A #17928

www.twu556.org

