# We have landed a Tentative Agreement (TA). Now it's time to get educated and vote!



## **President's Message**



TWU Local 556 President and Lead Negotiator Audrey Stone is pictured here with fellow Negotiating Team Members Brett Nevarez, Bill Holcomb, Paul Sweetin and Brandon Hillhouse. TWU Local 556 Legal Counsel and Strategic Advisor Mark Richard and TWU International Vice President Garry Drummond are also pictured.

#### Dear TWU Local 556 Members,

I am pleased to announce that your TWU Local 556 Negotiating Team (NT) reached a Tentative Agreement (TA) on our Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with Southwest Airlines Management on June 29. Your Executive Board (EB) immediately traveled to Dallas and began studying the full text of the TA on June 30. After more than two days of thorough review and extensive dialogue with the NT, the Executive Board voted on July 2 to put the TA to a ratification vote of the Membership of TWU Local 556.

Your NT presented our Contract Negotiations Opening Statement to Southwest Airlines Management at our first bargaining session on June 10, 2013. Our Opening Statement outlined our Flight Attendants' main concerns, as identified by YOU, through surveys, research, and your direct feedback. Maintaining and improving our industry-leading Contract, both in terms of our pay and our quality of life through our work rules, was at the top of the list. We also worked to address your concerns regarding reschedules, ground time, and retro. We carried your real-life examples to the table with us, and we have felt your support behind us the whole way. Your priorities have been our guiding force from the beginning and I believe you will see this reflected in the comprehensive TA.

We also had to find a way to address Management's top items in these negotiations. Like us, Management had priorities that had to be addressed in order for them to expand internationally, moving our Company and operation into the future. Our NT had to do this while staying true to our own "Lines in the Sand" that we would not cross.

These last two years have been a journey filled with ups and downs. Your NT fought hard to reach an agreement for all of you: an agreement that each of the five Flight Attendants on your Negotiating Team will also work under if it is ratified. I am proud of the Negotiating Team's hard work; it has resulted in the TA that will soon be before you. I know and understand that you all have a lot of questions right now and will have more. A dedicated team of Flight Attendants is currently working through this July 4th holiday weekend in order to provide you not only with the full text of the CBA language, but detailed educational materials that highlight and provide informative explanations and examples of the proposed changes for you.

Please check out our TWU Local 556 Website and Facebook page for more information. Attached you will find our Ratification Meeting schedule; I hope to see you soon!

In Solidarity,

Audrey Stone, TWU Local 556 President and Lead Negotiator

## **Avenues for Education on the Tentative Agreement**

## **Ratification Meeting Schedule**

On Thursday, after the Executive Board voted to put the TA to a vote of the Membership, your Union Leaders immediately began to prepare an education and voting schedule. Due to the holiday weekend, we have not yet been able to confirm the locations of all twenty Ratification Meetings. However, we are publishing the dates and times of the meetings to give you as much time as possible to make plans to attend. We will publish the meeting locations as they become available. We look forward to seeing you there!

#### **HOUSTON**

Date: Wednesday, July 8 Times: 1300-1530 & 1600-1830

Location: TBD

#### **CHICAGO**

Date: Thursday, July 9

Times: 1200-1430 & 1500-1730

Location: TBD

#### **DENVER**

Date: Friday, July 10

Times: 1200-1430 & 1500-1730

Location: TBD

#### **BALTIMORE**

Date: Sunday, July 12

Times: 1200-1430 & 1500-1730

Location: TBD

#### **ATLANTA**

Date: Tuesday, July 14

Times: 1130-1400 & 1430-1700

Location: TBD

#### **ORLANDO**

Date: Wednesday, July 15 Times: 1130-1400 & 1430-1700

Location: TBD

#### DALLAS

Date: Thursday, July 16

Times: 1100-1330 & 1400-1630

Location: TBD

#### **PHOENIX**

Date: Friday, July 17

Times: 1330-1600 & 1630-1900

Location: TBD

#### LAS VEGAS

Date: Saturday, July 18

Times: 1130-1400 & 1430-1700

Location: TBD

#### **OAKLAND**

Date: Sunday, July 19

Times: 1030-1300 & 1330-1600

Location: TBD

## TA Call Center Information



Angie Kilbourne is an Oakland-based Flight Attendant and serves as a Co-Chairperson of the TWU Local 556 Education Committee.

Is your summer schedule so packed that talking to a Lounge Educator

just isn't going to happen? Are you working on the dirty bird during all of the twenty Ratification Meetings? Because your TWU Local 556 Negotiating Team wants to make sure that you have the CORRECT information before making your decision on this TA, Flight Attendants will also be taking your calls and answering your questions at the TA Call Center. Go to the source... Get educated... And then use your voice and VOTE!

Dates: July 8-24

Hours: Monday-Friday 0800-1800 and Saturday/Sunday 0900-1700

Contact: (214) 640-4317 -or-

(800) 969-7932, extension 4317

### **TWU Local 556 TA Tidbits!**



Josh Rosenberg is an Oakland-based Flight Attendant and TWU Local 556 Shop Steward. Josh also serves as the Co-Chairperson of the TWU Local 556 Education Committee.

Josh has been busy this holiday weekend, creating short, easy to understand videos to illustrate some of the more important changes in this TA. We think you're going to LUV them as much as we do! Click here to see a sample of Josh's work.



## **Lounge Education Schedule**



Amanda Gauger is a Las Vegas-based Flight Attendant and serves as the Chairperson of the TWU Local 556 Education Committee.

Today, July 5, more than 100 TWU Local 556 Members will fly to Dallas in order to participate in a two-day Contract TA Education Training. These dedicated Flight Attendants will be provided educational materials and will be well-trained to answer your questions regarding the TA. Beginning on **July 8**, a TA Lounge Educator will be available in your Inflight Lounge from the **first check-in of the day through 1800 Local**.

Please be sure and thank your Union Sisters and Brothers for stepping up to help us all make an educated and informed decision on this TA and our collective future.

Get educated. Stay informed. Most importantly, VOTE!

## **Voting Schedule and Highlights**



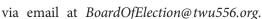
Will Browne is a Chicago-based Flight Attendant and serves as the Chairperson of the TWU Local 556 Board of Election (BOE).

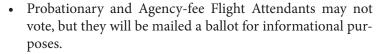
The Tentative Agreement (TA) Ratification Vote will be conducted electronically or over the phone using Votenet Solutions. A ballot package will be mailed to each

Member's last known address.

- Votes may be cast electronically via Internet or telephone starting on July 13, 2015 at 1200 Central.
- Votes must be cast by 1200 Central on July 24, 2015.
- Any Member who does not receive a ballot may request a duplicate ballot credential by contacting Votenet Solutions at 800-404-5750 (toll free within the U.S.) or 202-207-0538 (from outside the U.S.).
- It is the responsibility of each Member to advise the Union of any change of address. If you have moved in the last 30 days, you will need to contact Votenet in order to receive your voting credentials.
- For voting credential or operational assistance during the voting period, please call Votenet Solutions at 800-404-5750

(toll-free) or 202-207-0538. For any other questions please contact the Board of Election at 800-969-7932 extension 4324 or





- All Flight Attendants on any type of leave are eligible to participate in the vote.
- You may only vote ONCE.
- Additional information about the Tentative Agreement is available at www.TWU556.org under the Tentative Agreement (TA) Ratification Vote link on the home page.
- Make sure you exercise your right to vote on this important Tentative Agreement, and please remind your Co-workers to vote as well.
- Voting results will be announced by 1800 Central on July 24, 2015.





**Unity and Unity Update** are official publications of **Transport Workers Union Local 556**, representing the **Flight Attendants of Southwest Airlines**.

#### TWU Local 556

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