

Update

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 2009 MEMBERSHIP
MEETING - ALL TIMES ARE LOCAL

BWI

DATE/TIME: Wed., 01/21/09 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)

DAL

DATE/TIME: Mon., 01/12/09 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: TWU Local 556 Office
7929 Brookriver Dr., Ste 750

HOU

DATE/TIME: Fri., 01/16/09 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: HOU Hobby Airport
The Astros Room
(down the hall from Lounge)

LAS

DATE/TIME: Thur., 01/29/09 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: Hampton Inn Tropicana
4975 Dean Martin Drive

MCO

DATE/TIME: Thur., 01/22/09 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: Hyatt Regency MCO
9300 Airport Boulevard

MDW

DATE/TIME: Tues., 01/20/09 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: American Legion
Clearing Post 600
4352 W. 63RD Street

OAK

DATE/TIME: Wed., 01/28/09 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)

PHX

DATE/TIME: Tues., 01/27/09 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: British Airways 1st Class
Executive Club (upstairs)
Terminal 4, near Gate 21

**Agenda: General Business;
2009 Officer Nominations**

MEMBERS ONLY - IDs WILL BE CHECKED

For more meeting information go to:
www.twu556.org

by Thom McDaniel, TWU Local 556 President

It's the time of year for all of us to reflect on all the things in our lives for which we can be thankful. We live in different worlds and face different challenges in our lives, but the one thing that we all have in common is that we work for a great Company and we are represented by a great Union.

During Negotiations, these common blessings that we share may seem to be at odds. After all, Southwest Airlines is a great Company with great Labor relations. Some people don't even know that we have Unions at Southwest Airlines because we have such good Labor relations.

I look at things a little differently. I believe that the reason we have good Labor relations is because we have good Unions who do what is best for our Members, and our Founder Herb Kelleher believes that taking care of Employees is the key to building a successful Company.

As we all anticipated, our Negotiations

have slowed down considerably since we began discussing economics, and some of you may be asking why. Of course, picking up the newspaper every day tells all of us that this is a difficult time to be in any business, especially the airline business.

Then again, common sense, the predictions of respected analysts, and history tell us that when economic times are the hardest, Southwest Airlines is the most successful. As others pull out of markets, there is room for us to move in. As others reduce capacity, there is an opportunity for us to increase. When others raise prices and air travel becomes less affordable, our lower cost structure allows us to maintain the lowest fares and a better value for our Customers.

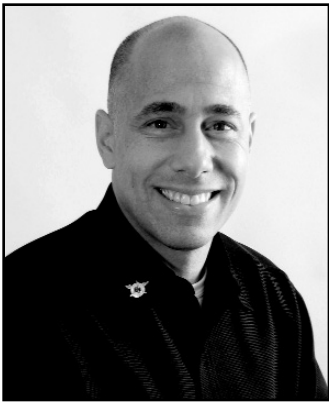
Perhaps most importantly, as other airlines experience Labor strife, we have the opportunity to set aside differences, settle our Contracts, and focus on our external challenges together, as opposed to creating internal challenges with Labor



disputes.

We are the best Flight Attendants in the airline industry, and we get to work every day with the best Pilots, Ops Agents, Reservationists, Dispatchers, Provisioners, Rampers, Customer Service Agents, and every other Labor group at our Company. We work together to keep our Company the best in the business.

At this time many of Southwest's Unions are in Contract Negotiations working to achieve Contracts that treat workers fairly and ensure our Company's success. That is the Southwest Airlines way. We live it, and we expect it from our Leaders on the other side of the table. Times are tough, but we are tougher. It's time to negotiate fair Contracts and move forward fighting for our futures together.



Safety Team Update

Cabin Air Quality Reporting:
A new resource on www.twu556.org

*by Michael Massoni, TWU Local 556 1st Vice President
and National Safety Coordinator*

Crew and Passengers regularly report problems with aircraft air quality. Ever noticed that the air in the cabin gets stuffy, and that sometimes the air conditioning is turned off completely on the ground? Ever found the aircraft far too hot or too cold and you are just left to deal with it? Ever notice that some aircraft have "gasps" over each seat and some don't? (And that some of them work and some don't?) Ever found that sometimes you can't get a deep enough breath, like there isn't enough oxygen? That the cabin regularly smells like fuel, deicing fluid, or diesel exhaust before take-off? That the galley is freezing? Ever smelled heated hydraulic fluid or oil that comes from the air supply vents overhead, or noticed that you seem to regularly get a cold or some other bug after flying? These are documented and routine complaints with aircraft air quality, and are described in more detail on the Local 556 website, www.twu556.org.

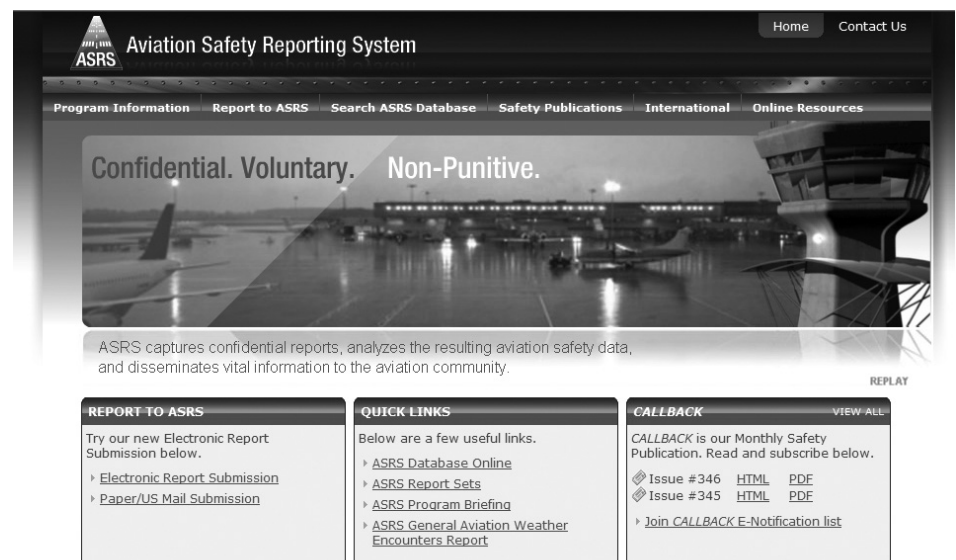
When you consider that air quality on aircraft is effectively unregulated – unlike almost all other indoor environments – and that there is no government reporting system to systematically collect the data, it's no big surprise. Airlines and manufacturers can get away with cutting these corners to save money, leaving Crew and Passengers with symptoms that range from headaches and nausea, to fainting and nerve damage.

It is time to get informed about this topic. There is a new page on the TWU Local 556 website, www.twu556.org, dedicated solely

to aircraft air quality. Simply visit our website, click "About Us" and click "Safety Team". Once there, scroll to the bottom of the page and click "Aircraft Air Quality Information". We encourage each of you to visit the site and familiarize yourself with the information you need to stay healthy and safe. We will continue to keep this site updated as new information is available, so please check back often.

If you believe you have encountered compromised air quality, please follow the instructions on our website and submit reports to the TWU Local 556 Safety Team. Additionally, it is beneficial to report these events to a confidential, online reporting system maintained by NASA called the Aviation

Safety Reporting System (ASRS). Go to <http://asrs.arc.nasa.gov> to learn more about the reporting system. NASA will remove any identifying information (including your airline and the day of the incident) before adding your report to its online database, but it is important for NASA to know about these events because it means that the incident is now documented with an government agency who compiles and catalogues the reports. If everyone reported, there would be enough de-identified reports out there to push Congress to make the FAA act. Crew and Passengers throughout the industry need to unite and speak out to manufacturers, airlines, and the FAA with a strong and united voice.



ASRS Website Administrator: Mariana Carmona || NASA/ASRS Director: Linda Connell
NASA Privacy Statement || NASA Home || NASA Ames



A screen shot of the NASA reporting website -
Confidential, Voluntary, and Non-Punitive.

The 8th Annual TWU Local 556 Toy Drive

Benefitting the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves Toys for Tots Foundation

Most of us can remember how very important it was to receive a gift at Christmas when we were children. Imagine how devastating it would have been to receive nothing while all of your friends received a new toy. Many of you may recall when a friend or neighbor didn't get any presents at Christmas because his/her family was experiencing hard times. It is painful to think about the impact that a Christmas without a toy would have on a child.

Christmas is a time of joy, happiness, and goodwill. It is a time of giving and helping those who are less fortunate, especially impoverished children. For more than 50 years, having collected and distributed millions of toys, one organization, the U.S. Marine Corps, is the unchallenged leader in looking after America's needy children at Christmas. Distributing an average of 7,000,000 toys annually. Marines bring the joy of Christmas to nearly 4,000,000 needy children each year.

Created in 1947, the program has enjoyed the support of an array of notable Americans. Walt Disney designed the logo. Nat "King" Cole and Peggy Lee recorded the Toys for Tots song. Bob Hope, John Wayne, Brooke Shields, Johnny Carson, and Garth Brooks are but a few of the long list of celebrities who have used their time and talent to promote Toys for Tots. Again this year, the Flight Attendants of Transport Workers Union Local 556 are proud to join this list of notable volunteers again.

While Marines organize, coordinate, and manage the program, the ultimate success depends on the support of the local communities and generosity of people like you. Since our very first Toy Drive in



2001, the Members of TWU Local 556 have generously donated Toys and funds to this very important cause.

The 8th Annual TWU Local 556 Toy Drive is currently under way and will continue through mid-December (see details on the posters in each Flight Attendant base). Please bring as many new, unwrapped, non-violent toys as you can possibly carry to the collection boxes located in the Flight Attendant Lounges. If you would prefer to make a cash donation, feel free to leave a check or money order made payable to Toys for Tots in your Union Domicile Executive Board Member's Mailbox: BWI - Audrey Stone #74952; DAL - Gwen Dunivent #3095; HOU - Michael McNeil #51400; LAS - Kevin Onstead #39417; MCO - Susan Kern #45511; MDW - Kyle Whiteley #35350; OAK - Mark Torrez #68952; and PHX - John DiPippa #56750.

TWU Local 556 representatives will see to it that the toys and/or monetary donations are delivered to the US Marine Corps Reserve for distribution.

The Members of TWU Local 556 have proven ourselves to be extremely creative and generous and have the uncanny ability to get people to do just about anything that we really want them to.

It shouldn't be too difficult for you to talk your friends, family and co-workers into springing for a couple of toys for needy children. Maybe you could involve some of the other organizations that you belong to: Book Club? Sunday School Class? PTA? The list goes on and on.

Southwest Airlines' Flight Attendants are the hardest working, most productive employees in the industry, working for one of the most creative and forward-thinking Companies in the world. Your genuine kindness, positive 'can-do' attitude and willingness to help those less fortunate is just another way Members of TWU Local 556 continue to stand out above the rest.

We know that in the current economy we may find ourselves sometimes scraping the bottom of the barrel to make ends meet, to buy Christmas presents for our own families, and to save for our own futures during these uncertain times. Even so, it will come as no surprise when the Flight Attendants of TWU Local 556 pull together, yet again, to help those less fortunate and make this year's Toy Drive a complete and unprecedented success! Remember, yours may be the only gift or message of hope this Christmas for a needy child.

Drug and Alcohol Testing

Some common questions and helpful hints

Q. What drugs does Southwest Airlines test for?

A. A five-panel drug screen is run testing for marijuana, cocaine, opiates, amphetamines and phencyclidine (PCP).

Q. I am asthmatic. If I am selected for an alcohol test and, may I use my inhaler prior to the test?

A. If your inhaler does not contain alcohol in its ingredients, then you may use your inhaler. You should check with your physician as to the ingredients of your inhaler.

Q. What happens if I test positive?

A. A positive drug test result does not necessarily mean that the employee is taking illegal drugs. Certain prescriptions can cause one to test positive. At this point an MRO or Medical Review Officer would contact the individual and inquire as to medications that were being taken. If the employee's documentation of medication is considered to be a reasonable medical explanation for the positive result, the MRO will downgrade the positive to a negative result.

Q. What happens if the MRO does not deem the information given to him/her as an acceptable medical explanation?

A. The MRO will report a positive test result to the Company.

HELPFUL GUIDELINES

- Never come to work if you have a problem with drugs or alcohol. If you need help, contact TWU Local 556 at **get-help@twu556.org** and we will help you find the assistance you need. Your confidentiality will be protected. Southwest Airlines does not offer you a second chance after a positive test.
- Do not take another person's medication. You do not know exactly what you are taking or how you will react to the medication. Never take any prescription drug that is not prescribed to you by your doctor.
- If you have medication that was prescribed to you by your doctor for a previous illness, always contact your doctor before taking it again. If s/he advises that you take the medication, make sure to have this noted in your medical file. This would help to alleviate any confusion should you generate a positive drug test due to a prescription from your doctor.
- Always carry your prescribed medication in its original bottle.
- Unknowing ingestion may not constitute a "legitimate medical explanation." It is important to read the labels on medications, including over the counter medications. If you are drinking alcoholic beverages, watch the bartender prepare your drink. Never leave your beverage unattended, as it is not unheard of for drugs to be unknowingly placed into beverages. If you ever believe you have been "drugged", contact law enforcement and seek medical attention immediately.
- If a urine test comes back unreadable, an observed collection must then take place.
- Medication obtained in other countries may not have the same ingredients as those purchased in the U.S.
- It is always suggested that an employee complete a split sample (two bottles), so that there can be a confirmation test run on the first sample if necessary.

Staying Sober During the Holidays

The holidays can be particularly dangerous times for people who are in recovery, especially those in early recovery. The following links are great resources for anyone struggling with drug or alcohol addiction:

Find a 12-step Meeting anywhere:
<http://mobilemeetingfinder.my.sobriety.net>

Alcohol/drug treatment center locator:

www.findtreatment.samhsa.gov

Alcoholics Anonymous:

www.aa.org

Narcotics Anonymous:

www.na.org

Al Anon: **www.al-anon.org**

National Institute on Drug Addiction: **www.nida.gov**

National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information:

www.healthfinder.gov

If you are a struggling with drug and/or alcohol addiction, please get help. Your career, and your life may depend on it. Email **get-help@twu556.org** and we will help you find the assistance you need.

UNITY Update

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

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