

UNITY Update

DECEMBER 2008

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: Alexis Park, Apollo Room 3
375 E. Harmon Ave.

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: Terminal 4 - British Airways
Conference Room (Near gate B26 Int. Concourse)

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

MEMBERS ONLY - IDs WILL BE CHECKED

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Thom McDaniel, TWU Local 556 President

One of the most important lessons I learned while negotiating our last Contract was the necessity of having a strategic plan in our Union. In fact, in my "life before Southwest Airlines," one of our mottos was "If you fail to plan, you plan to fail".

Since 2004, your Executive Board has substituted our regular November Executive Board Meeting in Dallas for a Strategic Planning Retreat at an offsite location. The goal of the retreat focuses completely on Team building and developing a strategic plan for the coming year in much the same way that Southwest Airlines develops their business plan every year. Our location for the last four years has been "Camp for All" in Burton, TX which is about 90 miles away from Houston. The non-profit facility usually houses summer camps for kids with disabilities. Cell phone coverage is a little spotty allowing us to focus on our task. Goals have focused on Member services and involve-



ment, negotiations, legislation, and communication.

When our plan is completed and we return from the retreat, we review the plan monthly to make sure that we are staying on track and adjusting as necessary. At the end of the year, the plan provides a scorecard to make sure that we meet our goals. Since our first strategic plan in 2004, this process has been very successful.

One aspect in each year's plan is to improve communications. This year's plan has a few changes in store for our regular publications. Based on Membership feedback and improved technology, beginning in 2009,

we will continue to print *UNITY Magazine*, but will provide *UNITY Update* in electronic form on our website and through emails to our Members.

We are very excited about this transition because it will allow us to be a "greener" Union, and most importantly, we will be able to provide the most current information quickly.

The key to this effort is that we need to have updated email addresses for every Member. Please fill out the card on the next page and return it in the locked portion in the bottom of the Union Red Rack in any lounge.

Happy Holidays to all and the best New Year ever!

NEWS BRIEFS

FROM YOUR BOARD OF ELECTION: Is your address correct with SWA? Nominations for TWU Local 556 will begin in January 2009 with ballots being mailed to all Members using the address list provided by Southwest. Please ensure that your correct address is on file with Southwest in order to receive your ballot and vote in the upcoming election. You may call the Union office at **1-800-969-7932** to ensure that the address on file is your current mailing address.

AND THE SURVEY SAYS: The results from our most recent Communications and Uniform survey are published on the TWU Local 556 website, www.twu556.org.

IF YOU HAVEN'T FIGURED IT OUT YET, WE'RE GOING GREEN[ER]: One of the overwhelming responses we received from our recent Communications/Uniform Survey was that most of you want more email communication from your Union and many of you would like to see your Union be more environmentally conscious. You asked, we answered. This will be the last paper issue you will receive of *UNITY Update* as we conduct a "green" test and provide this information electronically. The electronic *UNITY Update* will focus on timely information and have a more "bullet point" informational format (much like this final printed edition). *UNITY Magazine* will continue to be distributed in print and will focus on educational pieces so that you can be an empowered, educated, and informed Union Member. Please fill out the form below to ensure the Union has your correct email address.

CONSISTENCY IS KEY: Many of you receive "E-Connection" emails from your Domicile Executive Board Members (DEBMs). In order to ensure that your Union has a correct and universal email address list, your DEBMs will be merging each of their E-Connection address lists with the Union's main address list, and you will receive Union email updates including information on Negotiations and Union electronic publications. These emails will include an "opt out" option in the event you choose to not to receive Union electronic correspondence.

We're Going Green(er)!

We will be distributing many of our publications via email to cut back on the amount of paper we use and to get the latest information to you more quickly.

In order for us to continue to reach each of you with important information, please ensure your spam filter allows emails from the following: **TWULocal556@cbeachmail.com**.

This is a very simple change and will only take a minute of your time. If you need assistance, please email **mdw-debm@twu556.org** for step-by-step instructions. Please include the name of the email program or service that you use to view your messages.

If successful, this test will enable your Union to get you information MUCH more quickly. Additionally, it will save money and natural resources. It will only be successful however with almost universal participation. Please fill out the "subscription card" below and return it in the locked portion of the Union's Red Rack in any Flight Attendant Lounge.

TWU Local 556 "Subscription Card"

Name: _____

Base: _____ Employee Number: _____

Email address: _____

PLEASE NOTE: Your email address will not be distributed to ANY other entity and will be used **solely** for Union communications. Please print clearly and return the completed form to the locked portion of the Union red rack in any Flight Attendant Lounge. If you prefer, feel free to email the above information to **mdw-debm@twu556.org**. Please write "Subscribe" in the subject line of your email.

UNITY Update

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

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