

Update

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST 2008 MEMBERSHIP
MEETING - ALL TIMES ARE LOCAL

BWI

DATE/TIME: Tues., 08/19/08 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: Fri., 08/15/08 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: TWU Local 556 Office
7929 Brookriver Dr., Ste 750

HOU

DATE/TIME: Fri., 08/22/08 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: HOU Hobby Airport
The Astros Room
(down the hall from Lounge)

LAS

DATE/TIME: Wed., 08/27/08 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: Alexis Park Resort
375 Harmon Ave.
Room Apollo 3

MCO

DATE/TIME: Thur., 08/21/08 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: Hyatt Regency MCO
9300 Airport Boulevard

MDW

DATE/TIME: Wed, 08/20/08 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: American Legion
Clearing Post 600
4352 W. 63RD Street

OAK

DATE/TIME: Tues., 08/26/08 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: Thur., 08/28/08 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: Location to be determined.
Check www.twu556.org for updates.

MEMBERS ONLY - IDs WILL BE CHECKED

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

by Thom McDaniel, TWU Local 556 President

It is truly the end of an era at Southwest Airlines. Herb Kelleher has stepped down as Chairman of the Board at Southwest Airlines, and our Company has changed forever. While Herb and Colleen will still be on the payroll for the next few years, their daily impact that is the very DNA of Southwest Airlines is gone.

I will remember Herb for many things, but mostly I will remember him for his courage to trust our Employees. During our last Negotiations, we had reached a standoff with Management. After a series of failed tactics to bargain directly with our Members, Jim Parker refused to schedule any further meetings, and there seemed to be nowhere else to go. Jim stepped down as Lead Negotiator and Herb stepped in.

Jim's departure at the Dallas Message to the Field came as a complete surprise to me. When I got a phone message from Herb the following day, that was no surprise. He wanted to meet as

soon as possible to figure out, as he said, "how we got here". We agreed that we did not need the help of the Federal Mediator requested by Mr. Parker and were back at the table in three days.

Herb and Colleen met with us separately from Management's Negotiating Team. After a few meetings and faxing a few proposals back and forth, I called Herb and asked for several days of marathon meetings. Herb agreed that we needed to sit at the table and hammer out our differences "like families do".

After meeting for a few more days, we were making some progress and agreed to extend the marathon. After seven days and many passionate disagreements, we finally reached an agreement at almost midnight. The rest is history. Almost 90% of our Members voted, and our Contract was ratified by a "yes" vote of over 83%.

How did Herb and Colleen accomplish with our Negotiating



Team in 6 weeks what other Management could not accomplish in two years? I'd like to say that it was our ability to negotiate, but I know it was our ability to trust.

Once, when Herb was asked the secret of the success of Southwest Airlines, he said, "Your Employees come first. There's no question about that. And if your Employees are satisfied and happy and dedicated and inspired by what they're doing, then they make your Customers happy and they come back. That makes your Shareholders happy." We used that quote to open our last Negotiations, and I believe it still stands true today.

I salute you Herb for your leadership and trust. I hope that everyone at SWA has learned as much from you as I have.



*Thanks Herb!
You cooked up
one great airline!*

TWU Local 555 and 556 join together to say goodbye to Herb "Southwest Style"

On May 21, Members of TWU Local 556 joined with TWU Local 555 representing SWA Ramp, Operations, and Provisioning, to pay tribute to Southwest Airlines Founder Herb Kelleher as he presided over his final Shareholders Meeting.

TWU Members wore shirts in classic SWA orange with a picture of Herb and the words "You Cooked Up a Great Airline, Herb" on the front, and the the TWU seal with 555 and 556 on the back. "Recipe Cards" with Herb's recipe for a great airline were handed out to Shareholders as a memento of the passing of the torch from a great leader at Southwest Airlines and a great friend to our Union. Herb and Colleen received the t-shirts and recipe cards of their own.

The Southwest Pilot's Association (SWAPA) also honored Herb with a full page ad in the USA Today and a framed copy signed by their Board of Directors.

Herb was visibly moved by the show of sincere affection from the Employees he has led for so many years. In typical Herb style, he dismissed his red eyes as not the result of tears, but "just a hangover". TWU Members were also clearly touched not only with the nostalgic memories of our fearless leader, but wondering what Southwest Airlines will be without him.

"Herb Kelleher defines the word 'Leader' not only for the Employees of Southwest Airlines, but for workers in every industry," said Local 556 President Thom McDaniel, "I will consider working with him one of the great honors in my life."

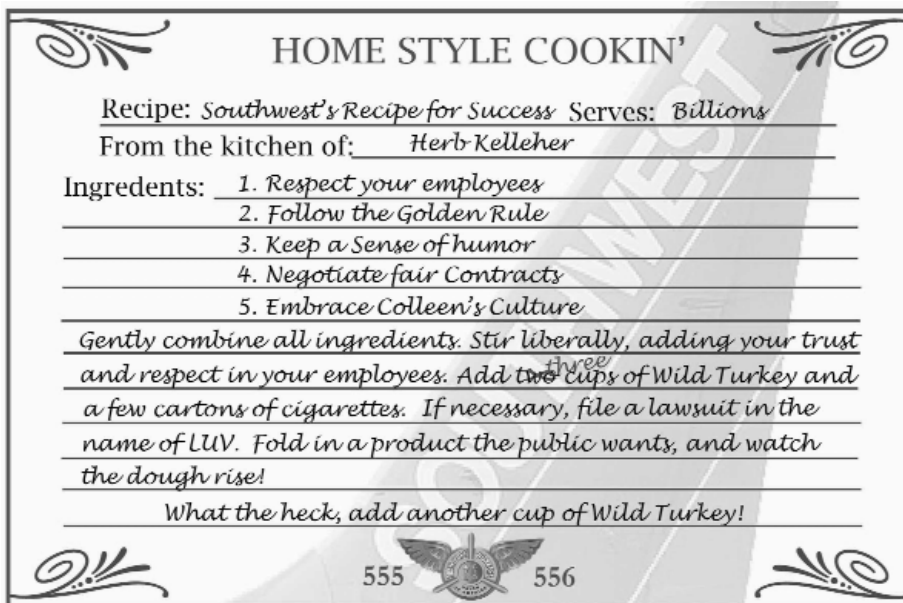
Herb Kelleher and Colleen Barrett were honored

by the SWA Board of Directors as Chairman of the Board Emeritus and President Emeritus respectively. Herb ceremoniously "passed the gavel" to Gary Kelly and the Board of Directors named Gary Chairman of the Board and President in addition to his current Chief Executive Officer title.

"Herb has been the embodiment of Southwest Airlines and Colleen has been the heart and soul," said President McDaniel. "The best tribute we can pay them is to continue their legacy."



TWU Local 556 Members at the Shareholders Meeting



A recipe for success



TWU Local 555's President Charles Cerf answers questions from a reporter before the meeting.



TWU 555 and 556 Members gather together before the Shareholders Meeting in their orange shirts, a tribute to Herb.

FMLA for Crew Members

New legislation just for us - ACT NOW!

The FMLA Act of 1993 was designed to cover employees who work 60% of a 40-hour work week; however, provisions weren't made for Flight Attendants and Pilots who work non-traditional hours. On May 14, 2008, the House Education and Labor Committee unanimously approved legislation that would close a loophole that effectively excludes more than 200,000 Flight Attendants and Pilots from coverage under the FMLA.

If passed, the new Bill would reduce the qualifying hours to 504 per year. The House Bill has more than enough co-sponsors to pass in the House of Representatives, but so far in this Congress, pro-worker legislation has been more difficult to pass in the Senate. Please contact your Senator and demand that s/he support S. 2059. Since U.S. mail to any member of Congress is subject to time-consuming and strict security measures, the fastest way to contact your Senator is by phone or by email. Each of the Senators' web addresses have a "Contact" link on their main page.

ARIZONA:

Jon Kyl (R-AZ): (202) 224-4521; kyl.senate.gov
John McCain (R-AZ): (202) 224-2235; mccain.senate.gov

CALIFORNIA:

Barbara Boxer (D-CA): (202) 224-3553; boxer.senate.gov
Dianne Feinstein (D-CA): (202) 224-3841; feinstein.senate.gov

FLORIDA:

Mel Martinez (R-FL): (202) 224-3041; martinez.senate.gov
Bill Nelson (D-FL): (202) 224-5274; billnelson.senate.gov

ILLINOIS:

Richard Durbin (D-IL): (202) 224-2152; durbin.senate.gov
Barack Obama (D-IL): (202) 224-2854; obama.senate.gov

MARYLAND:

Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD): (202) 224-4524; cardin.senate.gov
Barbara A. Mikulski (D-MD): (202) 224-4654; mikulski.senate.gov

NEVADA:

John Ensign (R-NV): (202) 224-6244; ensign.senate.gov
Harry Reid (D-NV): (202) 224-3542; reid.senate.gov

TEXAS:

John Cornyn (R-TX): (202) 224-2934; cornyn.senate.gov
Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX): (202) 224-5922; hutchison.senate.gov

If you live in a state other than those listed above, you can find your Senator by visiting www.senate.gov and in the top right of the page, you will find a search engine that says "Find your Senators". Just enter your state into the search box, and the contact information will come right up. Hurry, the clock is ticking.

Look for more information on this and other worker-friendly legislation in upcoming issues of *UNITY* and *UNITY Update*.

NEWS BRIEFS

WELCOME TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:

HOU DEBM Jill van der Werff and BWI DEBM Lucy White-Lehman have resigned their positions on the Executive Board. In accordance with our Local's Bylaws, your Executive Board appointed Michael McNeil and Audrey Stone to fill their vacancies. Welcome Michael and Audrey.

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE:

On May 16, your TWU Local 556 Negotiating Team had its first meeting with Southwest Airlines Management. Inflight Management's Negotiating Committee is as follows: Joe Harris, Vice President Labor Relations; Mike Hafner, Vice President Inflight; Naomi Hudson, Senior Director Employee Resources; Brendan Conlon, Director Crew Planning, Scheduling, and Automation; Juan Suarez, Chief Counsel; and Patricia Brown, Retired Employee (Inflight Supervisor and Flight Attendant).

PUBLICATIONS NOTICE:

The May and June issues of *UNITY Update* have been combined due to Editor Allyson Parker-Lauck's family emergency. All Union publications will be back on the regular schedule with the July issue.

UNITY Update

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

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