

Update

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 2008 MEMBERSHIP
MEETING - ALL TIMES ARE LOCAL

BWI

DATE/TIME: Thur., 10/30/08 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., 10/17/08 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: TWU Local 556 Office
7929 Brookriver Dr., Ste 750

HOU

DATE/TIME: Mon., 10/13/08 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: HOU Hobby Airport
The Astros Room
(down the hall from Lounge)

LAS

DATE/TIME: Wed., 10/22/08 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: Alexis Park Resort
Room Apollo 3
375 Harmon Ave.

MCO

DATE/TIME: Tues., 10/28/08 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: Hyatt Regency MCO
9300 Airport Boulevard

MDW

DATE/TIME: Wed, 10/29/08 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: American Legion
Clearing Post 600
4352 W. 63RD Street

OAK

DATE/TIME: Tues., 10/21/08 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., 10/23/08 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: British Airways Conf. Room
Near Gate B-26
Terminal 4

MEMBERS ONLY - IDs WILL BE CHECKED

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

by Thom McDaniel, TWU Local 556 President

Time flies when you are having fun. It seems like it was only three months ago that we started Negotiations, and we now already have Tentative Agreements on almost all of our non-economic issues. Okay, it actually has only been three months, and it hasn't been fun. It has been a lot of hard work and a lot of hard bargaining from both sides. We have made great improvements in our work rules that will improve the quality of life of every one of our Members. Now we will move on to the most important part of our Contract Negotiations our economic issues.

Remember that our publications are excellent and are updated monthly, but our Contract Action Team Members and website are updated after each Negotiating session. These will always be your most current sources of information. Please check our website, www.twu556.org and see the 19 Articles that have been "TA'd". Hopefully we will have

made even more progress by the time you read this issue of UNITY Update.

One of the most common questions I heard while on the road last month doing Membership Meetings was, "What did we give up?". That, to me, is one of the best aspects of this round of Negotiations. At the table, I do not feel that we have "given up" anything; however, we have helped Management solve problems by allowing them to automate processes such as the VJA List, allowing Reserves to self-notify, Reserve Self-Assignment, trading VJA trips, and appreciably delayed flights. These improvements represent great advantages for our Members and a streamlining of processes for Management. They are truly "win-wins".

We are moving forward into our important economic issues with our continued "cautious optimism", but we have recently seen our Brothers and Sisters at TWU Local 555 walk away from the table



due to unproductive economic discussions. They are currently surveying their Members and we stand behind them as they fight for a fair Contract.

We have truly had great success already. We have accomplished more in the past three months than we did in over a year during our last Negotiations and we are moving on to the most difficult part. I believe that the success that we have had is due to our solidarity during our last Contract Campaign, and to continue that success, we will need to be even more united and stand even stronger.

Stand strong, stay informed, stay involved, and wear your Union pin. Our Members deserve a fair Contract that protects our futures and allows our Company to succeed – nothing more and nothing less.

9/11 Flight Crew Memorial



*Our author, Jane Johnson
with Colleen Barrett*

"First Taken, Last Remembered, Now Honored"

by Jane Johnson, DAL F/A #10212

On the morning of July 4th, I put on my uniform and prepared to meet Dallas Domicile Executive Board Member, Gwen Dunivent in Grapevine, Texas for the Dedication of the 9/11 Flight Crew Memorial. I remember thinking, "Why am I putting on make-up to stand in 100-plus degree heat and cry?" When we arrived at the ceremony, we stood with Southwest Flight Attendant Mary Ellen Matter and her sister, an American Airlines Flight Attendant, as Shirley Hall, Vice President of the Memorial Foundation (also an American Airlines Flight Attendant) explained the sculpture's symbolism. In part, she said:

"Back-to-back placement of the Flight Attendants to the Cockpit Crew shows the teamwork of all Flight Crews, especially now, post 9/11. The young girl with her teddy bear represents the traveling public. She is the family on their big vacation, the newlyweds on their honeymoon, the grandmother on her very first flight, the weary businessman and unfortunately now, she is the soldier off to war. The male Flight Attendant portrays the role best known by the general flying public, as he drapes a blanket around the small child. His duties show a commitment to passenger care and service. Indicative of her role as a safety professional, the female Flight Attendant stands in the protected position: her hand held in the International sign for 'stop' shielding her passengers from harm."

The memorial also contains the names of the 33 Crew Members killed on American Airlines flights 11 and 77, and United Airlines flights 175 and 93, as well as a stone from the crash site in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, limestone from the Pentagon, and a rusted, twisted steel beam from the World Trade Center. It is an awe-inspiring sight that brings out so many emotions, and I believe every Flight Attendant would benefit from visiting it.

Not only are the sadness and loss over the tragic events of that day poignantly portrayed, but also the anger and resentment that we all have bottled up inside of us from the Flight Crews being left out when talk turns to Heroes. What no one seems to remember is that a Flight Attendant was the first casualty, that a Flight Attendant was the first informer, and that Flight Attendants breathed their last breaths on that terrible day doing what we all do every day: looking out for the safety of others.

I was also very proud that Herb and Colleen were at the ceremony. They not only represented Southwest Airlines, but also represented how our Company differs from other Airlines. They stood with us, called us by name, spoke with us as friends, and grieved with us over the loss of our fellow Flight Attendants on that tragic day. That, my friends, is the Spirit, and the Legacy of Southwest Airlines.

The memorial stands at the intersection of State Highway 26 (Northwest Highway) and Texan Trail in the Grapevine Station Mall, Grapevine TX. For more information visit www.911flightcrewmemorial.org.



*The 9/11 Crew Member
Memorial Statue honoring the
role of the Flight Attendants*



*The Memorial Statue from
another angle honoring the role
of the Pilots*



*DAL F/A Jane Johnson, with DAL
Executive Board Member Gwen
Dunivent, Herb Kelleher, and
DAL F/A Mary Ellen Matter*

Never Forget

"We call that person who has lost his father, an orphan; and a widower that man who has lost his wife. But that man who has known the immense unhappiness of losing a friend, by what name do we call him? Here every language is silent and holds its peace in helplessness."

-Joseph Roux



The Pilots who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. (L to R): Charles F. Burlingame, David Charlebois, Jason Dahl, LeRoy Homer, Michael Horrocks, Thomas McGuinness, John Ogonowski, and Victor Saracini



The Flight Attendants who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. From top (L to R): Bobbi Arestegui, Lorraine Bay, Sandra Bradshaw, Jeffrey Collman, Robert Fangman, Wanda Green, Michelle Heidenberger, Amy Jarrett, Amy King, Kathryn Laborie, Kenneth and Jennifer Lewis, Sara Low, Cee Cee Lyles, Al Marchand, Karen Martin, Renee May, Kathleen Nicosia, Betty Ong, Jean Roger, Dianne Snyder, Madeline Sweeney, Michael Tarrou, Alicia Titus, and Deborah Welch.

Wear it to Win it!

Contest Update



TWU Local 556 ran a very successful contest May 1 through June 6, we called "Wear It to Win It". The purpose of the Contest was two-fold: to help encourage and reinforce the importance of Members wearing their Union Pins as a sign of solidarity during Contract Negotiations, and to help the Union more effectively communicate important Union information to the Membership. Southwest Airlines has the ability to immediately contact each of you through SWALife, CWA, and through our Company email. The Union doesn't have this luxury.

For several years we have used voice broadcasting, our website, and various publications to notify each of you about important information, but the one means of communication that we've been "behind the 8-ball on" is with electronic communication, specifically email. Since our last Contract Campaign began in 2001, email usage among our Local's Membership has skyrocketed. The "Wear It to Win It" contest, combined with other efforts, has enabled our Local to secure email addresses for almost 75% of our Local's Membership! Now, when breaking news occurs, those of you who have provided the Union with your email address through the website or through the "Wear It to Win It" Contest will be the first to know. We know your privacy is important to you, and it is to us too, so rest assured, your email addresses will not be used for any other purpose than to provide you with important, timely, and accurate information about our Union.

A few Members have inquired as to how much the contest cost the Union. The total payout to the winners was just under \$5,300 – a bargain considering the pay-off of Membership Unity and the ability to communicate quickly with so many Members.

The following Flight Attendants were the lucky winners along with the pairings/reserve blocks from which they were pulled and paid by the Union:

BWI: Sterling Anderson – BB12, June 26-28
DAL: Cory Wells – DRR, June 24-27
HOU: Angela Dancy - HB52, July 4-7
LAS: Star Blehm – LRR, June 26-28
MCO: Regina Sophia Blake – FC76, July 10-13
MDW: Christie Brendal – MB15, June 24-27
OAK: Christine Johanningsmeier – OAR, August 30-31
PHX: Tristan Mendelsberg – PE81, June 26-28

The Domicile Executive Board Members who were assigned the winners' pairings/reserve days are entitled to all of our Contractual protections including unlimited trip trading.

You can ensure the Union has the correct email address for you by visiting www.twu556.org. At the very top right of the page, you'll see a button that says "TWU 556 Index". Click that, and then click "Account". Follow the prompts to log in and then click "Update Your Profile" to make sure the correct email address is entered or to make changes. Some people change email addresses occasionally, so if you plan to change your email address, make it a priority to visit the TWU 556 website and update your email address. By keeping the Union updated, along with regularly checking the TWU Local 556 website and reading all of your Union publications, you will ensure you are "in the know" about all things Union.

Our congratulations go out to the winners, and we want to thank each of you who participated in the contest. Please continue to wear your Union Pin on your uniform each time you come to work. Small gestures like this can make a BIG impact.

UNITY Update

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

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