

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP NOTAM ~ February 2011

STRENGTH THROUGH SOLIDARITY

Greetings members,

Hopefully everyone is keeping up with company email, as this is more and more becoming the *official* means of disseminating information. Along those lines, you may have noticed a recent email from Don Robson stating that training is now working to reschedule some off-hitch training dates to be **on-hitch**. Your Executive Board has agreed to relieve the company of the requirement to "*attempt to schedule recurrent training on days off*" (Art. 17, I, Sec. 1.) for a period of six months as a temporary cost-saving measure. With that, we should all expect training during this period to be scheduled on-hitch.

Regardless of your individual preference on this, if any abrupt scheduling change interferes with prior travel or vacation plans, you are encouraged to contact Don or Amanda in training as soon as possible.

Regarding Bristow email, some members seem to have missed the information from November's NOTAM on setting up your company email to automatically forward to another address. Also included, Ryan Baker provided step-by-step instructions on setting up the iphone for company email. Write to stowell.nathan@gmail.com if you would like any of that information.

An item of clarification from the last General Membership Meeting is a simple misstatement in reference to articles submitted for either *The White Collar* or *Autorotate* magazines. The incentive is **one hundred dollars (\$100)** each month for the best article, as judged by the Executive Board. *The White Collar* is the OPEIU Newsletter and appropriate topics could range from union membership and solidarity to more individual or family-oriented pieces. *Autorotate* is PHPA's magazine, focusing on our work as pilots. Virtually any aspect of the field - from training to commercial and military operations to weather, medicals and beyond - could be suitable for publication. Winter in the GOM yields some spare time, so pick up a pen (or your laptop or smart phone) and share that experience!

Another hot topic right now is the question of how the company can save money. For some, resistance rises immediately at the very thought, but the ideal attitude is to foster a sense of pride and common purpose in recognizing that "*as goes the company, so go the pilots!*" Nobody is asking for incredible sacrifice but rather for common consideration with basic things like lights and thermostats. Much of the housing is empty most of the time and to simply apply your own habits as if you had a stake in the utility bill seems a reasonable request. *Every little bit helps!!* The company is receptive to hearing any ideas you may have, and we will gladly submit them for you. Email us your suggestions!!

"It's incumbent upon each of us to step up and prove we are the best, the most professional and the safest in the industry and we deserve to be the highest compensated pilots in the land. Now is the time for each of us to stay informed, speak as one and take pride in our organization: An organization that has provided us with the best pay and benefits in the nation. We've achieved these gains because the membership has, over the years, been involved and maintained a solidarity for a common cause. It's imperative to any success that we continue to do so."

Those words come from President Ken Bruner, and as the purse strings tighten and questions of the future of drilling in the Gulf mount, they are perfectly on point. Though few of us may envy their positions at this time, our Negotiating Team heads back to the bargaining table February 15th and 16th and will continue to provide daily updates via emailed NOTAMs.

Members, please recognize the value of your union membership! One easy way to do this is to direct your web browser to <http://www.unionplus.org/> where you can view and link directly to a myriad of discounts and benefit programs. I will personally attest to the rental car discounts as offering better rates than I could find otherwise (even compared to a corporate rate negotiated by the company!) and I use it every month to get to & from work!

Questions & comments to the Executive Board should be submitted via email to boardlocal107@gmail.com