

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP NOTAM ~ June 2011

STRENGTH THROUGH SOLIDARITY

Greetings members,

With summertime firmly upon us, it is worthwhile to reiterate the point the company put out to stay mindful of the heat and humidity, exercise appropriate operational cautions as well as maintain adequate personal hydration. (By the time you feel thirsty, you are *probably already dehydrated!!*)

In current union business, Negotiations may be the first topic to come to mind but the fact is that there have been scheduling conflicts and difficulties in finding dates for the groups to meet. As your Executive Board is currently finalizing plans for a Membership Meeting later in the month, you can expect an update at that time. Exact dates for this meeting will be forthcoming and there should be an opportunity in advance for you to submit any specific questions and/or items you might like to have added to the agenda.

Clearly, with our members scattered around the globe, issues of accessibility to these meetings continue to arise. The Board fully recognizes these challenges and as we endeavor to satisfy the requirement to hold meetings quarterly, we continue to question how these events can best serve the membership at the same time. Certainly, we hope to foster a firm understanding of the strength we have as a unit and dispel a general apathy, and a member's ability to participate with regularity directly correlates to both their being informed and their being well-represented. Utilizing GoToMeeting online has helped immensely but we should remind you that this implementation remains in its infancy with us and we are still working toward the realization of an acceptable standard in the final product.

Last month we wrote, "One thing is absolutely certain: **this union will not run itself!**" Your current Executive Board has begun discussions about our upcoming elections and in an effort to stimulate thought and consideration among the membership, we will be compiling an explanatory guide to the different union offices outlining the duties and responsibilities of each. As most of you understand, these positions are effectively volunteer jobs. If you have participated in the past, you may know that it can be frustrating and time-consuming but the payoff comes from being a part of something greater and providing a service to your fellow pilots. It is an honor and a privilege.

So every two years, we shuffle the deck and deal out a new hand. One might make the argument that fresh blood and fresh thinking is always needed. Another may say that someone with union experience is '*an investment*' and has too much value to lose. These are both valid points. Certain characteristics should be common, however, and those include a professional demeanor, a desire to be involved in the workings of the union and the company, and the ability to be an effective communicator.

'*Job Descriptions*' for each individual office will be put out in July and nominations for the seven Executive Board positions will be held at a special meeting in September. The election will then follow in October - November, as outlined in our Constitution & Bylaws.

Questions & comments to the Executive Board should be submitted via email to eboardlocal107@gmail.com