

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

NOTAM ~ May 2011

STRENGTH THROUGH SOLIDARITY

Greetings members,

Any springtime renewal in the Gulf of Mexico has gone unnoticed this year and as summer comes storming in, drilling permits continue to be issued much more slowly than we would like and our contract negotiations that have stalled, with dates yet to be scheduled for a next session.

“In these matters the only certainty is that nothing is certain.” ~ Pliny the Elder

Even as the level of available work remains far below normal, the industry in general seems to continue to express a cautious optimism. Contracts are actually beginning to trickle back in and circumstances with several customers remain such that as they gain approval for more projects, they will need additional aircraft. Some of our contracted aircraft that were expected to be dropped have been retained and we have seen a couple new bids come out for small ships. The expectation is to have some new contracts for mediums coming soon as well. Of further operational interest and possibly due in part to the recent transfers, the company will revert to off-hitch training for VFR only beginning June 1 with IFR recurrent continuing to be scheduled on hitch.

Clearly, the amount of work has a direct impact on the climate of CBA negotiations. Developments from the last session of talks stirred up some emotions but more importantly revealed the true solidarity that exists among our membership. It should be held firmly in mind that your continued support for your Negotiating Team is tremendously important and does not necessarily infer support for a given outcome. We will each have the opportunity to review a final proposition and pass judgment with our vote, but the unified stance we present throughout the process will demonstrate our collective resolve.

Shifting to touch on the annual bonus briefly, the payout is expected to be included in one of the June paychecks once again, but payroll and HR are currently unable to verify whether it will be that of June 10th or 24th. (Last year, it was included in the check dated June 11!)

Finally, all members should have received an email soliciting volunteers to attend the OPEIU *Youth Initiative* at the upcoming Education Conference in Memphis. This is a valuable opportunity for future leaders and officers of the union. In consideration of our Local and the collective desire to maintain a strong and united organization, younger members with passion and the desire to participate are encouraged to respond. With Executive Board elections just a few short months away, it seems a fair suggestion that you bring this up and discuss possible candidates. If you think someone would make a good officer with union, tell them so! Encourage them to get involved. One thing is absolutely certain: **this union will not run itself!**

Borrowing a familiar phrase, “*We’re looking for a few good men!*” (or women!) Try it! You just might find it suits you. Contact the Executive Board for any additional information. Thanks and FLY SAFE!

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