

# GENERAL MEMBERSHIP NOTAM ~ October 2010

## **STRENGTH THROUGH SOLIDARITY**

### From The President:

Fellow Members,

Negotiations have been scheduled and will begin on October 14th and 15th in Lafayette. I'm currently working with the Strategic Bargaining Committee in preparation for those meetings. We've reviewed your concerns from the Contract Bargaining Books, surveys and interviews and we are currently re-writing the Contract to reflect the most significant returns.

Under the current uncertainty we're all experiencing in the GOM, our wish is to conclude these negotiations as swiftly and painless as possible. As always, the Negotiating Team will keep you updated on a daily basis

### From The Vice-President:

I am pleased to announce that our membership is receiving a new benefit. Please review the attached memorandum from our International President, Michael Goodwin, for details.

Coming soon, our members will be receiving the new *PerksCard*. We expect to receive them some time in October and will distribute them upon arrival.

Also, we currently have two outstanding grievances. Both are scheduled for the system board of adjustment to be convened on October 27, 2010.

Secretary Treasurer's Report: The following is accurate as of the last Executive Board Meeting, September 16, 2010.

Checking:	\$42,725
CD # 1:	\$112,842
CD # 2:	\$105,611
\$ Market:	\$159,179
P. Cash:	\$162
Emergency Fund:	\$4,717

Please note that since the dues reduction, voted in by the membership, Local 107 has been operating at a slight deficit each month. It remains the intention of the Executive Board to monitor this situation, especially in view of contract negotiations, and reevaluate the subject of *dues payments* early in 2011.

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Our Executive Board met on Thursday, September 16 to discuss current business and then met with the company on Friday, September 17.

Thursday's meeting ran long into the evening with extensive discussion on a variety of items, most notably the IFR Cadre and ATP requirement. These subjects were discussed in detail with the Company the following day. Both sides seem to agree that vagueness in the existing CBA language allows for variance in interpretation, and in the end it was determined that the best course of action is to address this thoroughly in the upcoming negotiations.

Regarding the ATP, it should be clear by now that any pilot with aspirations to progress to IFR PIC should be thinking about earning their ATP, while the progressive structuring of the IFR Cadre *requires* new SICs to eventually move toward PIC and the higher compensation. But the ATP does something more: A highly qualified work force places Bristow in a stronger bidding position for new contracts, potentially translating to more work and more opportunity for all of us. Of course, the most immediate and obvious impact of holding an ATP is the \$100 per month provided under Article 22. That alone should provide motivation for each pilot, as we can earn an additional \$1200 each year for doing the exact same job! That totals \$6,000 over 5 years that would otherwise be left on the table!

Danny Holder and Rob Philips presented information on a successful Q1 and while largely a result of unexpected work for BP, the fact remains that financial performance for the quarter greatly exceeded expectations. Our stepping up has also fostered some goodwill that may pay future dividends in the form of additional work. They also spoke about various customers we are pursuing contracts with and recent announcement of several new multi-year contracts with Apache is evidence that a number of these can come to fruition. With additional new bids out for both VFR and IFR contracts, things generally seem to be looking up.

Of course, there is a degree of uncertainty regarding new regulations in place with the newly created [Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#), but as the scheduled end to the moratorium rapidly approaches, the overall spirit of optimism appears to only be increasing.

As we embark on negotiations once again, the membership is respectfully asked to remain mindful of the process and give due consideration to potentially sensitive communications finding their way to open venues such as commocheck, the "numbers," and justhelicopters forums. Please remember that in the best interest of the membership, certain items may remain contained until the conclusion of negotiations.

Thank you for supporting your Bargaining Committee and Negotiating Team!

Questions, comments, concerns and communications with your Executive Board should be addressed to [boardlocal107@gmail.com](mailto:boardlocal107@gmail.com) and are welcome at any time.