

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP NOTAM

OCTOBER 2012



It's Fall!

For us as Pilots in the GOM, that *really* means that winter is on its way. As our toughest weather season approaches, it always reminds me of the wake-up call I got my first winter out here. Within 10 minutes of landing in Venice, I couldn't even see my helicopter out behind the base because a thick fog rolled in.



Having previously flown mostly in sunny South Florida, I'll confess to a certain naiveté, but that early experience instilled a healthy respect for the severity of winter weather here and the fact that it can seem to pop up in a hurry.

Let's each recommit to keep safety a priority and help support our fellow Pilots in doing the same. **Fly Safe!!**



Message from the President

No doubt the word is out... "*Mechanics are running a campaign to organize*". This marks the third attempt by OPEIU, our parent organization, to organize the mechanics of Bristow. For that reason, the October NOTAM, for the first time, will be emailed not only to Pilots but also Mechanics. The Executive Board felt this was a good way to introduce the Mechanics to our Local and to say a word about what Pilots can and cannot do to help in their campaign.

For starters, the NOTAM is Local 107's newsletter. It's published monthly by our Recording Secretary, Nathan Stowell, night Pilot at the GNO Base. The monthly NOTAM is a way for the Local 107 Executive Board to stay in contact with our 239 members across the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska. Nate tries to keep the NOTAMs current, relevant, and entertaining; and despite the odds, usually bats a thousand. We hope you enjoy it and (trust me on this) Nate welcomes your input.



So, how can we help? That question is best answered by pointing out the one thing we cannot do.

Pilots cannot campaign on behalf of the Union on Company time or on Company property.

That's about it for 'cannot do'. 'Can do' is a more personal question for each Pilot to answer for himself.

Personally, I believe the best thing I can do to help the Mechanics is to tell the truth. I've been involved in the Union for over seventeen years, from that first organizing campaign in 1994 to the presidency in 2011 and all the campaigns in between. In all that time, ***misinformation and lack of communication*** have been the hardest obstacles to overcome. They lead to bad decisions, destroy confidence and worst of all, they weaken solidarity. And if you know anything about Unions or teamwork you know this: solidarity is the cornerstone!

So here's what I plan to do: **I will be forthright and frank**; about what the Union has done for my family, my profession, and for me personally; about what the Union can do and what it cannot do; about the pros and about the cons. Finally, I'll take the time to answer every serious question openly and honestly.

As professional Mechanics, I suspect all you need to make an informed decision is a good set of tools. Consider the true facts about the Union your tools. I'll help provide them - how you use them is up to you.

In solidarity,

Pete Catalano
President, Local107



Union Dues and Political Contributions

Unions can and do financially support political candidates, with the obvious expectation that, once elected, the candidate will champion Union causes. For better or worse, that's how our political system works. But the money does not come from dues. That would be **illegal**, as outlined in the Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (LMRDA). Instead, International Unions make contributions through Political Action Committees (PACs). PAC money comes from voluntary member contributions, not dues. OPEIU uses the ***J.B. Moss, Voice Of the Electorate (V.O.T.E.) Fund***. The majority of OPEIU members make contributions to the *V.O.T.E. Fund* via automatic payroll deductions, in the same way one might support *The United Way*, for instance. As yet, Local 107 has not negotiated such payroll deductions, our members could, only if they chose to do so, contribute to the *V.O.T.E. Fund* by sending a check to the Union office.

"...the money does not come from dues. That would be illegal..."

Another interesting fact, one that distinguishes OPEIU from most other International Unions, is the manner in which they collect dues. Most Union members pay monthly dues to their International Union. The International then financially supports the Local by refunding a small portion of those dues; understanding, it is the International who determines the amount to be refunded. Does the word "*allowance*" come to mind?

OPEIU believes Locals should make their own financial decisions. So the members of OPEIU pay dues to the Local. Each month Local 107 Secretary-Treasurer, Stephen Rider, sends approximately ten percent of our dues to the International in the form of per-capita tax. The tax revenue collected by OPEIU is used to negotiate strong contracts, defend members, enforce contract rights, organize new members, improve standards in the industries they represent, provide educational opportunities for its membership and of course, for administration (paying salaries and supporting offices in New York and Washington, DC) but again, never for political contributions.

Bottom line: Your money is used in your behalf. Almost 90% of Local107 dues revenue is used to finance the Local's affairs, negotiate, support and defend the Collective Bargaining Agreement, and represent members in disputes with the Company over enforcement of the CBA.

We are fortunate to be part of a great Union. Thanks for supporting it!

In Solidarity,

Pete Catalano

President, Local107



MEETING NOTICE!!!

General Membership Meeting Rescheduled

Although scheduling complications have persisted, we will hold the next meeting:

Tuesday, October 30th

LIVE at GNO base and online via **Webinar**

Last meeting of 2012! Please make an effort to attend.

MedXPress Required

As of October 1, the FAA has done away with paper forms for flight physicals and participation in the MedXPress program is now mandatory.

A handy [PDF guide](#) is available online at www.faa.gov or you can contact your friendly neighborhood AME for details.

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