

Setting ALPA Apart

Last month, the Air Line Pilots Association, Int'l held its 57th Air Safety Forum—an event that has grown into the premier aviation safety forum in the world. As ALPA's president, I felt proud and privileged to be involved in this remarkable undertaking. A tremendous amount of work goes into hosting this important event. From the months-long planning to the on-site coordination, pilot leaders and staff put together a program that showcases ALPA's efforts as a globally recognized aviation safety advocate.



The Forum also underscored ALPA's involvement in virtually every aspect of our industry and of our profession, including contract negotiations, pilot benefit and retirement plans, communications, providing expert testimony and written analyses to legislators and regulators on a wide variety of subjects, and more. In short, ALPA is the voice of professional airline pilots throughout the U.S. and Canada.

While this is one of the strengths that make our union unique, another is the "ALPA team"—a powerful combination of pilot volunteers and staff professionals who bring their vast knowledge, experience, and technical expertise to the many initiatives in which ALPA is involved. Some notable examples include

- Negotiating contract gains for ALPA pilots, which ultimately raise the bar for all airline pilots in the U.S. and Canada. Most recently, the pilots of Trans States Airlines ratified a new collective bargaining agreement that includes a signing bonus, wage increases, better work rules, and stronger job security provisions. Throughout the five years of negotiations, the pilot leaders, supported by ALPA staff and bolstered by ALPA's national officers and 38 other pilot groups, held firm and delivered a contract that meets their pilots' needs.
- Designing retirement and benefit plans that are tailored specifically to each pilot group.
- Assisting several independent unions in their contract negotiations by providing in-depth economic and financial analyses, thorough evaluations of their retirement and benefit plans, and recommendations for their proposals. ALPA's Economic & Financial Analysis Department is unmatched in its ability to provide this tailored information.
- Representing the pilots' voice as not only the premier pilot union, but the only labor organization invited to such high-profile conferences as the annual JP Morgan Transportation Conference.
- Delivering up-to-date information on current events and issues that affect our livelihoods and careers using a variety of communications media. One of our main strategic goals is to continue to enhance our communications with our members

and other stakeholders. Since 2008, we have expanded our communications portfolio significantly, thereby reaching an ever-increasing audience worldwide. From the new digital version of ALPA's award-winning *Air Line Pilot* magazine and other electronic publications that readers can access on their laptops or smartphones to social media forums such as Facebook and Twitter to video programs such as "The FlightDeck" that are produced by in-house multimedia professionals, ALPA is respected as the source for industry news.

- Giving pilot volunteers the tools they need to best represent their members and the profession. ALPA trains pilots in accident/incident investigation, collective bargaining, information technology, and news media relations, in addition to the training that we provide to pilot group leaders in their daily operations of the master executive councils.

ALPA-sponsored events such as the Air Safety Forum, conferences, and training seminars draw not only ALPA pilots involved in Association activities, but also representatives from

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other pilot unions, industry partners, government officials, and others from around the world. These events speak volumes to the professionalism of ALPA pilots and staff. And they set the tone and tenor for how our Association is viewed throughout the airline industry by all other stakeholders.

No other aviation labor or advocacy group can offer what your union offers. This is why legislators, regulators, manufacturers, operators, other aviation organizations, and independent pilot unions seek out ALPA's subject-matter experts and tap into their knowledge and experience. They engage with ALPA because we have proven to be so effective in advancing our mutual goals.

The Air Line Pilots Association has distinguished itself by our professionalism, by our support for our fellow pilots regardless of an affiliation with ALPA, and by our constructive engagement in every area of aviation. These unique characteristics not only set ALPA apart, they enable the Association, your Association, to advance our mission on behalf of our 53,000 members, our profession, and the airline industry.

Donald J. Moak
Capt. Lee Moak, ALPA President