

You, ALPA, and Some Eternal Truths

Much has changed during ALPA's first 80 years, but some truths remain eternal—as true today as they were when the Key Men met in secret in a Chicago hotel to form this union:

▶ The skies in which we fly will continue to be dynamic.

Over the years we have had to avoid a number of outside



forces: thunderstorms, volcanic ash, microbursts, hail, clear air turbulence, extreme crosswinds, wake vortices, and severe icing.

▶ Our air transportation system will always need fine-tuning to maintain the extremely high safety and security standards that distinguish air transportation today. The best aviation safety practices will have at their core well-qualified,

well-rested, and well-trained flight crews in the cockpit.

▶ Our nations' governments, regulatory agencies, financial institutions, and others affect our industry, our careers, and our profession. That's why we must continue to constructively and collectively engage with government agencies, manufacturers, airport operators, legislators, our fellow pilots around the world, and other stakeholders to ensure that we are equally involved in effecting positive change.

▶ As airline pilots, we will always make significant contributions to our airlines' success. In our dealings with airline managements, we must continue to promote the value we can bring to our airlines' daily operations, strategic business plan, and bottom line.

And to those eternal truths add these: Today we must contend with those who would do us harm by using our aircraft as weapons of mass destruction to destroy the companies that employ us, our countries, and our way of life. As airline pilots, we play a vitally important role on the frontlines in maintaining the security of the flights we operate. We will continue to work closely with government and industry allies to stay at least one step ahead of those who may attempt to do us harm.

Generations of ALPA pilots have built a proud legacy to meet these challenges, improve our careers, advance our profession, and strengthen the continued viability of the airline industry.

This short list of eternal truths, as you know, could go on and on. And for individual line pilots, the topics might differ—we all see history from a different perspective depending on our personal situations.

But, undeniably, we all can agree that the past 10 years have been one of the most volatile periods in our history. And entrenched in those days, weeks, months, and years are many examples of ALPA's legacy in action.

This issue of *Air Line Pilot* strives to capture some of the iconic

moments and issues affecting our industry. Within the pages of "Decade in Review" (beginning on page 13), you'll read about the collective efforts of ALPA pilots and staff—through partnerships with industry, government, and other labor organizations—to enhance aviation safety and security and raise the bar for *all* airline pilots throughout North America.

Yes, *all* airline pilots—even those who do not have union representation and those who are not ALPA members. This is consistent with our mission, and ALPA is uniquely positioned to fulfill this goal. In the 80 years since ALPA's inception, airline pilots in the United States and Canada have actively sought union representation. While union membership in other industries has declined over those years, union membership among pilots has grown. Today, airline pilots are the most unionized employees in North America. And the majority of them belong to ALPA. The reason is clear: ALPA combines unmatched resources and expertise with 80 years of experience.

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We, the Air Line Pilots Association, Int'l, now begin our ninth decade as the most effective advocate of airline pilots' interests in the world. North American airline pilots will rely on ALPA more than ever. So, too, will legislators, regulators, airline managers, manufacturers, and our fellow employees with whom we work on a daily basis.

Many of the challenges I cited earlier still exist. This new decade brings new challenges as well. For instance, the globalization of the airline industry has become a reality that affects each and every one of us—no matter which airline we fly for or what type of equipment we operate.

I leave you with one final truth: Like generations of ALPA members before us, we will come together to debate, plan, and act. We will face these challenges as a single group of leaders, pooling our resources and sharing our knowledge. ALPA's legacy lives on.

Donald J. Moak
Capt. Lee Moak, ALPA President