

Stronger Moving Forward

Progress is always hard work. Achievement isn't easy. Gains are the result of grit and determination. As members of ALPA, we carry that determination like no one else. Thanks to it, our union members have seen our ideas and our actions become elements of needed change for our profession and our industry.

Our union is strong. Perhaps the strongest it has ever been. Our strength advantage defines us. It not only permits but compels us to step forward and to lead as the voice of the airline pilot, the indispensable union in the industry, and the workhorses for positive change.

How has ALPA seized this strength advantage? We have reorganized—aligning our structure and staffing with our members' goals. We have dramatically improved our processes to enhance efficiencies and eliminate waste. We have expanded our services to our members. We have eliminated external risks that once cast a dark shadow over our union. And we have put ALPA in a solid financial position.

This strength advantage is our foundation, and it will serve ALPA well as we continue down the path of proactive change to ensure the success of the North American airline industry and of the airline piloting profession.

Globalization is a pivotal issue. It is very real. ALPA is working on all fronts to ensure that our airlines and our pilots have a fair opportunity to compete internationally and are stronger moving forward. And make no mistake: this issue affects all of us, not just those who fly international routes. Success in the global marketplace is essential if we are to have healthy domestic airlines.

We are equally intent to capitalize on our strength advantage in advocacy. ALPA is building on our success in maintaining funding levels for the Federal Flight Deck Officer program, securing an increased level of funding to continue the HIMS program, and preventing taxes on employer-provided health-care benefits. Working with Ellen Saracini, our union also garnered support for the introduction of the Saracini Aviation Safety Act, which would fulfill the intent of Congress to make cockpits more secure with secondary barriers.

ALPA is also leading the charge for progressive change on issues including safeguarding the air transport of lithium metal batteries, where we are seeing success at the International Civil Aviation Organization, and ensuring that remotely piloted aircraft are integrated into the airspace safely. We have also advanced ALPA members' interests in addressing the Temporary Foreign Worker Program in Canada and in the Fly America Act, which ensures U.S. carriers are flying American government workers.

Likewise, our union will never relent in our drive to achieve one level of safety and security across the airline industry. We have made significant accomplishments such as including cargo pilots in the Federal Flight Deck Officer program, securing training for all-cargo pilots for hijackings and terrorist events, and bringing cargo operations under the new common strategy.

But we are not letting up with these one level of safety and security achievements; we remain squarely focused on driving action on the Safe Skies Act, which will correct the cargo "carveout" from FAR 117 rules, and on other actions to make ALPA's goal a reality.

In the bargaining arena, we must continue to pursue a bargaining agenda that justly rewards our members for their contributions to the success of their carriers. We can have stable and mutually beneficial business relationships with managements that respect our Association. They must also share our interest in mutually constructive labor relations. They must reach equitable agreements. They must resolve disputes.

As for managements that do not work constructively with us—that do not respect the principles of union representation, do not wish to deal with issues or resolve disputes, or do not want to make and honor agreements—ALPA will be strong, we will be aggressive, and we will never, ever back down.

To achieve these goals, we must signal—to each other, to those who are not yet a part of ALPA, and to our industry—that we are continuing down the path of growth as the indispensable union for all pilots. We will continue to deliver on the vision of the Key Men who founded our Association by pursuing aggressive advocacy and progressive bargaining.

And like the Key Men, ALPA members stand committed to maintaining mutual respect for each other, as professionals and union members. This mutual respect was most recently evident last month when our Board of Directors followed a democratic process to elect ALPA's tenth president, Capt. Tim Canoll, who will take office on January 1.

ALPA's work is a never-ending mission. It's a true cause. We must never stop fighting for our profession. We have made tremendous progress, but the job is far from done. Together, ALPA members will meet the test of making certain that this union becomes ever stronger moving forward. 🌐



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Capt. Lee Moak, ALPA President