

What Are You Waiting For?



Advocacy is all-consuming: equal parts passion, political acumen, policy comprehension, and determination. As we enter the height of this year's legislative calendar (the season is shortened as November U.S. elections beckon and campaign mode will soon overtake reasoned legislating), you'll see we have a lot on our plate. ALPA's advocacy arm has assembled

a great team, including the growing Government Affairs Department, a leading 21st-century Communications Department, and the largest nongovernmental aviation safety organization in the world. They have their game face on and are proactively advocating for the airline piloting profession and for you. Our pilot-partisan agenda cannot be ignored and is gaining momentum and support every day.

Each month, you receive *Air Line Pilot*. In its pages are ongoing stories and updates on the major threats to your careers: the global reach of Middle East airlines, constant attacks to weaken foreign ownership and control and cabotage rules, the introduction of a "flag-of-convenience" business model within the airline industry, a U.S. Export-Import Bank whose lending policies tilt the playing field against U.S. airlines, U.S. airlines that cry wolf about a pilot shortage in an effort to roll back important safety regulations, an administration that purports to support American workers yet undercuts their ability to stay gainfully employed by executing poor policy (the Abu Dhabi preclearance facility), and issuing irresponsible federal budget proposals (FFDO cuts and additional airline taxes). The list goes on and on in both the U.S. and Canada. And what's the common denominator for each and every threat? Government policy—either action or inaction by our own governments or others that compromise the gains we have made to make the airline pilot career one to aspire to.

There is no shortage of challenges ahead in how we influence public policy. Each month in *Air Line Pilot*, we relay stories of victories. And those victories—the ones in Washington and Ottawa—are made possible because our Government Affairs Department has a deep bench supported by the expertise of other ALPA departments and our stringers: *you*, a large and powerful voice for airline pilots. If you are not yet a player for Team ALPA, now is the time to engage. What are you waiting for?

If you need suggestions, here are two: Join ALPA-PAC or volunteer to be a foot soldier. F/O John White (Delta) is a relative newcomer to the advocacy team but is already a seasoned veteran on Capitol Hill. Take a look at his typical

schedule on page 30. He'll be the first to tell you that he's worn out his shoes hitting the halls of Congress for your pilot-partisan agenda.

Turn to page 28 to see the growing commitment to ALPA-PAC. Receipts are trending positive, and we are poised to see our best year ever (when we need it most). You'll see other compelling statistics within the infographic "A Rising Tide." Also included is ALPA's annual Roll of Distinction (pages 33–46)—recognition of those thousands of ALPA members who understand the importance of the Association's PAC, our way of participating in the U.S. Congressional election process. Special recognition goes to Mesa Master Executive Council members, who have driven their pilots' PAC participation above 50 percent. Mesa pilots get it. They continue to spread the word within their pilot group about the importance of the PAC. They are in the game and are enabling us to better represent pilots.

You'll see in this issue another group of pilots who were done waiting and took it upon themselves to collectively

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engage. On April 22, JetBlue pilots spoke with one voice and are now on Team ALPA. For it, your union is 2,600 members stronger. Your union is more effective. Your union can speak with a louder voice. Adding JetBlue pilot voices to our organization allows us to advance our bargaining and advocacy programs and work more effectively to address critical professional issues. We should all look forward to seeing ALPA become an even greater powerhouse for airline pilots.

Let me close by saying what advocacy is NOT—whining. Instead, we've got to be smarter, more strategic, and work harder than our opponents. What we do is hard. What you do is hard. Yes, we are facing enormous challenges, but your ALPA team is ready and aggressively pushing our pilot-partisan agenda. However, we can't win if you don't play. Get in the game. The future of our careers depends on it. 🚀

Capt. Lee Moor, ALPA President