

“THE REAL DEAL”

Hello, my name is Tom Bell and I am asking for your support and nomination in my bid for DTW CA REP Council 20. This is my third letter during this campaign and its purpose is to respond to Ken Watt’s latest campaign letter mailed Thursday, October 8, 2009.

I will keep this short and simple since I know you have been inundated with many (long) campaign emails. Before I get into the details, let me say this; What this election boils down to is do you want someone like me, that is determined to make ALPA do a better job improving your career or do you want the “Same Old” old school crowd that has consistently defended just about every action ALPA has taken during this devastating slide in the airline industry? If you like and approve of “ALPA Business As Usual” then vote for Ken Watts and the rest of HIS ticket (Barnett & Hart). If you are tired of the “Same Old” and want someone new who wants the union to be more aggressive and actually defend your career for a change, then vote for me.

As for my rebuttal, my first email was correct and factual in its content. A few points could be refined which I will address below. I will also comment on just a few of Ken’s statements.

Ken’s response to my first campaign letter (summarized):

- ✦ Ken verified that he was elected to a full-time position, as I reported.
- ✦ I stated “He receives FULL CAP PAY”. What I should have said was “He is entitled to FULL CAP PAY”.
- ✦ Acknowledgment by Ken that he does have an apartment provided for by the MEC, which means paid for by our dues.
- ✦ Ken states that he could have bid the 747 or DC10 but did not because he *“...did not want to bid a position that I would not normally fly just for the pay.”* However, that is exactly what he has done by bidding the 330 and not flying it.
- ✦ Ken doesn’t know when he executed his COUNCIL BYPASS nor would the MEC divulge the exact date. Doesn’t matter. My point was that he took a DTW position and **EXECUTED a COUNCIL BYPASS** in order to **REMAIN WITH MSP COUNCIL 1**.
- ✦ I voiced what many of you are thinking when I asked WHY Ken Watts is running for a DTW position when he has always been affiliated with MSP COUNCIL 1. Ken responded that he has serviced ALL pilots as the Contract Administrator. I hope so! I did not question his performance as Contract Administration Chairman, I DID state (my opinion) that he has done a great job in that position. I will also add “thank you” for the many years of ALPA service he has performed over the years.
- ✦ I AM ANGRY about Ken’s statement *“I had disagreements [MEC’s].....and did not go public with them.”* Well I have a couple of things to say here. First, Ken has obviously forgotten what he posted on the ALPA Web Board over the years and how he supported the McClain and Stevens MEC’s. Secondly, I WILL NOT KEEP QUIET OR SUPPORT THE MEC if they condone LYING, DECEIVING, MISGUIDING or MISINFORMING the pilot group on ANY given subject. I PROMISE to relay to you, the line pilot, ACCURATE and TRUTHFUL INFORMATION. I WILL gladly work with the MEC in an effort to enhance our careers, BUT if the MEC wants to promote or support a management agenda over ours, the pilot’s.....NO I WILL NOT REMAIN QUIET! I WILL NOT JUST GO ALONG!
- ✦ Ken states that he has been DTW based for over 14 years and states that is longer than I have been employed by NWA. Well, Ken needs a math refresher course. I am a 1986 hire. I have been a REAL DTW CAPTAIN for over 14 years. I have been a DTW based pilot and ACTUALLY flown out of DTW since my initial hire date. Ken has not. Being DTW based versus actually being a line flying DTW Council 20 pilot is totally different. If Ken cannot see the difference, then Ken should not be running for a position to represent us the DTW Council 20 Pilots!

My point is that I am a **REAL** DTW Captain, that actually flies the line out of DTW and a member of COUNCIL 20 for over **24 years**, not just someone who (on paper) is DTW based. **I am seeking your NOMINATION as YOUR CA Representative.** I will work for YOU and serve YOUR best interest. I WILL have an OPEN DOOR and COMMUNICATION POLICY that will directly involve you, the line pilot, in all decision making. Once again, I ask you to KNOW your candidates and vote!

PLEASE VOTE TO MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY OF COUNCIL 20

Now my comments on Ken Watt's narrative.

"I find it offensive would choose to be a mouthpiece for someone to be used as a conduit for inaccurate and misleading information". AND "I have emailed Tom placed a call in hopes that he would correct his mailing."

First of all, everything I reported and stated in my first letter WAS true and accurate. Any one of you can make the same calls I made to ALPA National and the MEC to get the same information. I reported the information EXACTLY as it was given to me by National and the MEC. Ken did not refute the information I provided, just SPUN it to make it sound better. I know the DTW pilots to be an intelligent group that can "read between the lines" and see the truth for themselves. As far as Ken's email and voicemail He did send an email (*if you would like me to forward it to you, please email me. You can see for yourself the veracity of the following statement*) but he never requested I respond to him. He left a voice message however I elected to keep our campaign communications public (in print) thereby eliminating misstatements that could develop out of private conversations. Then I discovered that Ken had called all three DTW REPs accusing them of feeding me information (as he stated in his last campaign letter) and wanted to know WHO wrote my letter for me?! **THAT, I FIND OFFENSIVE!** By Ken Watt's assessment, DTW pilots cannot think for themselves. What he suggests is that we need someone like him to do the thinking for us. THAT, I REALLY FIND OFFENSIVE! We need to get rid of the OLD mentality that only the ALPA "people-in-the-know", know what's good for us. **BULL!** (I'll let you find your own end to that exclamation). Obviously, Ken does not believe DTW Pilots can think, question, research, investigate, understand or comprehend without help! **YOU SHOULD FIND OFFENSE IN THAT!**

MAKE A DIFFERENCE – VOTE

This is the time to get off the bench and get into the game. If you have not cast your Nomination Ballot, **you only have one week left.** **PLEASE VOTE!** If you want a long standing, career ALPA, ardent support of McClain/Steven's, **Council 1** CA/FO & SO REP and **Council 1** LEC Grievance/Contract Administrator, then vote for Ken! If you want someone new who is not afraid to be aggressive, report the facts, relay to you accurate information and concerned about the damage that has been done to our careers and wants to change it, then **VOTE FOR ME, TOM BELL FOR DTW CA REP COUNCIL 20.** **By the way, I have never executed a COUNCIL BYPASS to disassociate myself from COUNCIL 20!**

Thank you once again for your support.

Fraternally,

Captain Thomas (Tom) Bell
DTW A320/319
1986 Hire (860609)
DTW Council 20 Member since 1986