



ALPAWatch 2009 Candidate Questionnaire

1. Do you have any prior ALPA experience? If so, what positions did you (do you) hold and when?

Answer: Currently, Vice Chairman, Computer Bidding Committee. Previously, Chairman Computer Bidding Committee.

2. Almost every pilot at this airline is flying more and has less time at home. Why are you volunteering even more of your time and effort for ALPA work?

Answer: The next 3 years will play a crucial role in shaping our careers. Our Line Pilots should be canvassed and their views represented in all negotiations. I believe I have the skill set to poll Line Pilots and communicate their desires.

3. As an LEC Representative, you will have a dual representative responsibility. You will represent the pilots in your base, but your votes also affect the entire pilot group. When there is a conflict between the needs of these two groups, explain how your vote would be weighted, more towards the pilots in your base or more towards the pilot group as a whole.

Answer: As a Council 20 Representative, it will be my task to make the voice of DTW pilots heard in all negotiations. Interestingly enough, in the overwhelming majority of cases, the DTW views closely parallel those of other bases.

4. Do you believe pilot unity is important? If so, how will you promote pilot unity at your base? Within the Delta pilot group as a whole?

Answer: We need to create an environment that fosters open discussion of issues and agree to disagree when necessary. I think we need to reinstitute an information structure where the views of all Councils as well as the MEC can be easily viewed by all pilots. Over the years Line Pilots have demonstrated that they can and do understand complex issues and need access to all viewpoints to make intelligent decisions.

5. Candidates frequently say they want to improve MEC Communications. What is right and wrong with our communications and what would you do to correct the

deficiencies? Do you think we need more transparency in ALPA's day-to-day business? If so, how might this be accomplished and how and why would more openness be important?

Answer: As of now, all information must be censored and approved by the MEC Chairman. This has led to a lack of access to opposition viewpoints. I believe all views should be disseminated and the Line Pilot's opinion be sought out and expressed. In short, our Union is a bottom up structure, not the other way around.

6. Explain your position regarding the current Scope clause on our PWA. What do you think we need to do to improve our Scope protections and recover some of the lost flying to DCI's?

Answer: At the request of a current Council 20 Representative and other nominated candidates, this question cannot be answered due to ongoing legal issues. In general, every pilot job is dear to me and I will do my utmost to protect and strengthen the career of every pilot in DTW.

7. As the biggest pilot group in ALPA do you think that puts DAL ALPA in a leadership position for all ALPA pilots when it comes to returning this profession to place of prominence? If yes, is there a road map to return this profession to what it needs to be? What does that road map look like and if you are not aware of such a road map, what do you think it should look like.

Answer: DAL ALPA is the leader of our ALPA. We must, as a Pilot Group, decide how we wish to deal with the commuter airline issue and the whipsaw tactics managements employ to hold commuter labor costs at obscenely low levels. In short, seat mile costs drive our profession. I think low pay levels in commuters lead to marginally qualified pilots which immediately impacts safety. One of the huge gains with the Compass contract was the 1500 hour minimum for entry pilots.

8. Please list in order of importance your first 3 items of business if elected to C20 LEC Office.

Answer:

1. Update and if necessary create a web page / blog for C20 pilot views. In addition provide links for all other DAL ALPA Councils.
2. Create a periodic method of polling C20 pilots as a way of gaining and maintaining touch with the opinion of all Line Pilots.
3. Actively seek an end to censorship of information at the MEC level.

9. What do you think the primary responsibilities are for the position you are seeking? How do those responsibilities relate to the everyday line pilot?

Answer: As a Secretary / Treasurer, my primary job will be that of a communicator. To be effective I will devise and implement systems to actively seek and measure the opinions of the DTW Line Pilot. I will seek to provide DTW Line Pilots access to all information whether it is controversial or not. I have great faith in the ability of our pilot group to decide the direction of our airline.

In closing I would be happy to discuss these or other positions personally at 859-433-6056 or via email at silashart@windstream.net. I am passionate about representing the desires of the DTW Line Pilot.
