

Election Letter

Fellow pilots of Council 44;

On the 15th of October our ballot window will open for you to determine your Representative for the next three years. I would like to take a few minutes of your time to tell you why I am that person. To make an informed decision, you need to know how I think and where I stand on a few issues:

Our union was designed to be a bottom-up organization. With that in mind, you need a representative that is willing to go further than just respond to your e-mails and phone calls. Your representative needs to not only listen to, but also thoughtfully consider differing opinions, then advocate the best ideas of this pilot group and not just the “status quo”. Those words are my promise to you.

I am a line pilot at heart. I love our profession and the people I work with here at Delta Air Lines. Just like you, I want a better career, increased quality time at home, and a brighter future going forward. So how do we get there?

We just completed the world’s largest merger and have a company with unlimited potential. From a pilot perspective, this potential means one thing - we want to be partners in this business and receive a return on the investment all of us made. We must continue to build upon the work of our current administration by finding and leveraging every opportunity to improve our contract, both in and outside of Section 6 negotiations. To have the best chance of success, we as the pilots of Delta Air Lines need to be unified on the issues and provide a wall of support going forward. I believe that with effective communication from your elected representative we will achieve this.

Looking at our Pilot Working Agreement, there are many items that need our attention: How reserves are used, Short call assignments, the loss of our last week of vacation, Scope, Pay, and many more items too numerous to list. We have our work cut out for us. As we turn to you, the pilots, we need to know what your most important issues are. Armed with this information we will be able to move forward with restoring what all of us have lost.

Your vote and your participation are important. You now have the opportunity to choose who you think will best represent your interests. Here’s a quick list of my positions on common concerns for your comparison with your other well qualified candidates:

Scope: Not only do you have my promise of “not one more seat, not one more jet,” you also have my commitment to seek restoration of flying to Delta mainline pilots. For too long we have gone along with outsourcing schemes and our power as a bargaining agent has declined with the selling of our jobs. Likely the clearest distinction between the candidates running for your vote and me is that I don’t dither or prevaricate on scope. The only right answer is to have Delta pilots performing Delta flying.

Some Joint Ventures and Code Share agreements are beneficial and allow our Company access into markets we would not otherwise serve. However, too much of a good thing is a bad thing. These Code share and Joint Venture type of agreements need to be very carefully worded. Bad Joint Venture and Code Share agreements cost us Delta Pilot jobs.

Pay and restoration: We need to realize the gains our investment has produced for the Corporation. Your union has excellent economic and financial analytical tools, which allow us to spot opportunities to partner in this Company's financial success. Management's goals are, of course, different than ours when it comes to our compensation. We must negotiate what we are worth. We need to continue to spot and leverage opportunities to make up for our lost retirement funds and direct compensation.

Improved Communication: Many of you have asked to explore alternate mediums to deliver information to you. I agree that we need to do a better job of getting information and developments to you in a timely manner. You have my commitment to explore other options that are available to us in this day and age, such as Facebook, Twitter, and an LEC 44 blog.

Pilot Representation: For the past few years, I have assisted pilots in need by volunteering on the Delta Pilot Assistance Committee (DPAC)/HIMS. Helping our pilots is something I take very seriously and it is something that ALPA does very well. Whether it is standing between you and a Chief Pilot or the FAA, you want someone who has the experience, tact, and judgment to make the best out of the unfortunate circumstances. Among conscientious and professional pilots nothing happens as a result of just one cause. Knowing where to look to find the exculpatory explanation, knowing the function of the available resources and being able to tactfully work within the system to benefit pilots is one of the great, unheralded, functions of your union. I have the necessary skill set to be an effective representative in this capacity.

I have over 30 years left at Delta Air Lines and I want to put in place a contract and a mindset that will serve the pilot group well over the coming decades. This means that every decision made has a long-lasting effect on my career. I have a long-term perspective to our issues. I am wise enough to know that some issues will take more than a contract to resolve. I am pragmatic enough to realize that while pilots may differ on their priorities, at the end of the day we are all Delta pilots with much more in common than what separates us. The power to deliver on any pilot's demands is unity.

We need the pilots of Delta Air Lines to see intrinsic value in our Association. It is my goal to serve you without self interest and prove to this group that there is value in being organized from the bottom up.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please make an informed decision with your vote. Feel free to contact me via phone, e-mail or my website listed below. I look forward to your questions and suggestions. It is you, the pilots of 44, who will ultimately shape the future of Delta Air Lines. I look forward to serving you as your Council 44 First Officer Representative.

Fraternally,

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