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Fellow pilots,

The council 44 elections are approaching, and the nominations for those who would like to represent you, even sooner. I wanted to introduce myself, offer my service as a council 44-captain representative, explain my views on representing the pilots of Atlanta, and ask for your help in my nomination when the ballots are issued on September 1.

For those of you who do not know me, I'll offer a bit of background. I was hired in January of 1997 as a 727 FE. It was a fortunate time to be hired, as I went 727FE, 727FO, 727INS, and 737A in short order. After 9/11, I helped close down MCO, briefly went to the right seat of the 737-200, and then bid ER FO in both NYC and ATL. In 2005 I again returned to Captain on the -88, where I have now been for almost four years. Prior to Delta, I worked for TWA, Trans States, American Eagle, and Great Lakes.

I am married with two children, and live in Athens, GA. I have yet to hold elected office at ALPA, although I have been serving as a volunteer for most of my 12.5 years with Delta. My experience has come in the following areas: contract administration, jump seat, CIRP, PBS, and currently security.

Our pilot group, and the industry as a whole, is facing some very important issues and times ahead of us. They are too numerous to list without writing a book. Needless to say, I am extremely interested in aggressively defending and improving our current contract. I would like to accomplish this both inside and outside of section 6 negotiations. I also aim to vigorously defend our pilots in disciplinary action--a behind the scenes task that is extremely important, though not as glamorous.

I think everybody would agree that our entire contract is substandard with regard to our level of responsibility. This election cycle will determine the leadership team that will lead us into contract 2012. I wish to be involved, influential, and proactive throughout these negotiations. In short, I would like to back away from my keyboard, listen intently to your concerns--many of which I hold myself--and aggressively pursue those interests as your representative.

I firmly believe that we need some new ideas, and therefore, new faces on the MEC. Traditional areas of compromise, such as scope, need some much overdue attention, education, and reversal. Some areas, such as sick leave and scheduling are safety concerns. Others, such as pay, just need to increase.

I urge you to give me a call, email me, or stop me in the lounge and ask questions. I humbly ask for the opportunity to serve as your captain rep. Call me anytime.

Fraternally,

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