



[ALPAWatch Newsletter](#)

[October 14, 2007](#)

In this Update...

Survey Results Released!

The Release of the First ALPAWatch Sponsored Survey, "Are We Divided?"

Update--Fall 2007 NWA ALPA Election-- Covering the MEC Elections being held in Memphis

Survey Results are Here! ALPAWatch's first Survey was conducted between February 16, 2007 and October 01, 2007. The survey looked into the unity problem we are having at NWA. Here are the results of that survey along with the letter we sent the MEC about these survey results.

Reprinted below is the Letter ALPAWatch sent to the MEC announcing the Results of the "Are We Divided?" survey. Here are the links to the Summary Report, Survey Results, and a PowerPoint Presentation of the Survey Results.

This is the first Survey ALPAWatch has sponsored. The release of this data marks a milestone for ALPAWatch. We promised to survey the membership and then forward the results of those surveys to the leadership. Also, the results of these surveys will play an important roll in supporting future changes that will lead to our union operating as it should.

Perhaps the most unexpected benefit of this survey were the collection of comments the pilots wrote. Those comments are very candid, revealing and sometimes colorful. They represent judgments and opinions that our union leadership needs to hear loud and clear. We will make certain that our leadership hears those messages.

[Letter Sent to MEC](#)

Thank you to all that participated in this first ALPAWatch Survey. From the beginning, one of our stated objectives is to ask the questions and get the answers to those issues that our union either will not, cannot, or should not be asking. ALPAWatch will ask those questions, but it is only with your participation that we can get the answers to those questions and then use that information to help all of us “regain our fair compensation, our quality of life, our future, and our dignity.”

Elections Updates

Next Week (Oct 16-19th in MEM) the NWA MEC will be nominating and electing the top 3 union positions, MEC Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer. The pilots holding those positions now may be re-elected or new pilots may be elected. ALPAWatch will be there to cover the meetings and report on the results. Expect those reports to come in a Newsletter as soon as possible.

If anyone is planning to attend these meetings, please send an email right away to alpawatch@comcast.net. We want to meet as many people as possible during the meeting.

A little review on how the ALPA elections work. The MEC is made up of the LEC's (Captain, FO, SO – ANC only, and Sec/Treas. Representatives from each base). The 3 positions being elected are NOT part of the MEC. Confused? You're not alone. Even though these 3 positions in our union contain the name “MEC” and are the top positions, they are not part of the MEC. Also, they do not vote on union business. They are however powerful positions, often having direct contact with the top executives of NWA. These 3 positions are supposed to take their direction from the MEC (the LEC reps), who in turn are supposed to take their direction from the pilots that elected them (the pilots in their respective bases). This flow of power and responsibility has been somewhat distorted and at times ignored in the past. That is a big problem and one of the reasons ALPAWatch came into existence. ALPAWatch is dedicated to restoring the proper function of our union and this problem is one that must be solved. We will be watching this election closely. We will be not only reporting on the facts but also offer an assessment of the leadership that results, paying particular attention to attitudes toward our future, and honoring the will of the membership.

Why LEC Elections are so Important.

The membership does not elect these top three positions, the MEC does. But the pilots do elect the LEC Representatives. While the pilots can lobby the LEC (that is one of the functions of ALPAWatch is here to help accomplish) for what they want to happen, the real solution starts with electing pilots with the right attitude, skills, experience, education, dedication, integrity, sense of fairness and equity. All of you voting in this round of LEC elections, MEM and SEA, need to find out who is running for office and

where they stand on the issues, and VOTE! ALPAWatch will have a page on the website listing all the candidates in those elections. Email those candidates and ask them the questions you think are important with respect to our future. Not sure what to ask? Try these questions for a start.

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

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?

What would you say is the best strategy to repair our contract? What does “Taking it Back” mean to you? How long do you think this pilot group should expect it to take to “Take it Back” and what will be the indicators that we have “Taken it Back”?

Tell us what you see as the pros and cons of the current pilot retirement system at NWA, including protecting the Frozen DB Plan and transitioning to a DC Plan. With respect to retirement, how would you describe “equitable”?

Under what circumstances, should this pilot group ever take a voluntary pay cut in the future?

Do you support The Ethics Pledge (http://www.alpawatch.org/The_Pledge.html)? If elected, would you support incorporating it into the NWA ALPA Policy Manual? If you can not support the pledge in its entirety, why not? What are the individual elements of the ethics pledge that you do support and what are the elements that you do not support?

Many pilots believe that we should use Professional Negotiators instead of the current method. What method do you think we should use in the future?

Do you have other issue related questions that you would like the candidates to answer? Send them to the candidates and copy ALPAWatch so we can make certain that all the candidates are all asked the same questions. When we receive written answers from the candidates, we will publish them as well.

Thank you again for participating in ALPAWatch. With the participation of pilots such as you, ALPAWatch will be successful in obtaining the Union Leadership that the Pilot Group deserves, and in doing so regain our fair compensation, our quality of life, our future, and our dignity.