



[ALPAWatch Newsletter](#)

[September 14, 2007](#)

In this Update...

The Fall 2007 NWA ALPA Elections

Who gets elected in this election cycle will have a huge impact on the rest of your career, for better or worse. ALPA National is not going to Take it Back. NWA ALPA is going to have to Take it Back, but they can't do that either unless WE, the membership get involved and force it to happen. How do we do that? These Elections are important step. We must...

- Elect the right people.
- Let them know load and clear what you want them to Take Back.
- Support those leaders when they do battle with the company.

Electing the Right People

Each of you know several pilots that have the skills, experience, education, dedication, integrity, sense of fairness and equity that is needed to not only fill these positions but be the strong leaders this pilot group deserves and demands. It is critical to our future success that people with these qualities be elected in the these elections.

Ask yourself if you can fill any of these positions, big or small. If you cannot do it, you must recruit someone you think should.

There is new page on the ALPAWatch.org website that lists all the positions being elected in this cycle, along with other important information. We have attempted to put everything you need to know about who, when, where and how we elect our leaders. Here is a direct link to that page...

<http://www.alpawatch.org/Election%20Table.html>

Print out the table on the website and take it with you on every trip. Be bold. Talk about it with everyone you know and fly with. Find good people to run for these offices.

Going Forward or Going Backward

If forward thinking pilots do not fill these positions, then some old names are likely be elected by default. That is letting others, possibly with narrow agendas not beneficial to the group as a whole, chose your leadership. Based on past experience, that is not a good plan for the future success of this pilot group. What is also not OK are backroom politics. What do we mean by backroom politics, here and example.

During the Spring '07 MEC meetings, the MEC had to elect an Executive Vice-President due to the untimely death the former EVP. At that meeting Mark McClain (the former MEC Chairman that was recalled from office) and Joe Kanapell made a late campaign effort for the EVP position. Neither was elected.

While every pilot has every right to campaign for that position, what is disturbing are the apparent attempts being made to down play the fact that they campaigned at all. The original minutes of the meeting indicated both were candidates. Later a request was made by an MEC member, within his rights, to change the minutes of that meeting. The changed minutes do not reflect either person was ever a candidate. One is left to ask, why change the minutes? And perhaps the bigger question is, is this an example of backroom politics at work?

Mark McClain is high profile, controversial figure. From the information we have, there is little doubt that his intent is to re-enter ALPA politics. ALPAWatch supports anyone with good qualifications and good intentions running for office. What ALPAWatch does not support is any deceptive practice or backroom politics. Coordinated efforts by persons in power to help further the political careers of persons, which for some reason don't want the membership to learn of their political desires, is not good for this pilot group. ALPAWatch also believes that the all the business of NWA ALPA should be as transparent as possible. Furthermore, the membership should know what candidates stand for, their positions on the issues, and their intentions. (! See Questionnaire below)

Even when the office is one of those elected by the MEC rather than directly by the membership, the membership should be aware of what is going on and have a say. The membership can and should make their elected representatives (LEC's) aware of who they would like to see elected into these offices.

Ask you LEC Representatives if they know what happened at that meeting and why the minutes of the meeting are being changed.

If I don't know the person running for office, how do I know if I should support them or not?

This Questionnaire was developed to help you answer that question.

Ask them these questions:

1. Do you have any prior NWA ALPA experience? If so, what positions did you (do you) hold and when?
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?
3. 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"?
4. 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"?
5. Under what circumstances, should this pilot group ever take a voluntary pay cut in the future?

6. 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?

7. 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?

Use these questions and some of your own. As candidates emerge and the elections dates near, send your questions to your LEC Representatives and ask that they present these questions to the candidates. Their responses need to be made public. Also, ALPAWatch is more than prepared to publish the answers to these questions for any and all candidates.

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.