

"What does labor want? We want more schoolhouses and less jails; more books and less arsenals; more learning and less vice; more leisure and less greed; more justice and less revenge; in fact, more of the opportunities to cultivate our better natures."

Samuel Gompers, (1850-1924) President of the American Federation of Labor (AFL)

Dear Family Member,

My name is Donna Nedrow. I am the proud wife of a Flight Options Pilot and mother of three wonderful children. That's why I volunteered to become the Family Awareness Coordinator for my husband's labor organization, IBT Local 1108. Like you, I know my loved one is a hard working, professional pilot who provides excellent customer service and never stops thinking about the safety of his fellow crewmembers and the passengers from takeoff to landing. I decided to get involved in my husband's and his fellow pilots' campaign for a good labor contract because that contract will have a real impact on our family.

These are difficult times for pilot families. The weak economy has had an impact on Flight Options and the rest of the aviation industry. I know you've worried, just like I do, about when things are going to turn around for us. I've also thought a lot about the quality of my husband's job prior to the economic downturn. You might be surprised by what I discovered.

Even during good economic times, Flight Options pilots were paid 60-70% of the average fractional aviation pilot salary. Flight Options pilots earn so much less than their peers, despite spending more time away from their families compared to pilots at the 3 other major fractional air carriers. Because our spouses, partners and significant others don't yet have a union contract, a sale of the business could result in immediate job loss. I'm a realist, but I'm also an optimist. I know that everything can't be changed at once, but I believe that good people working together can make positive changes.

Through my discussions with my husband and others, I've learned a lot about labor organizations and professional associations and what they can do for families. As one wife recently put it to me, "Doctors have the American Medical Association to advocate for them; attorneys have the American Bar Association on their side; pilots are professionals, too, and need a strong union to protect their interests." When you think about it, that is absolutely correct.

I've also learned that unions aren't about "us" versus "them." You don't have to be "anti-company" to be "pro-union." Unions are about making sure that employees are compensated fairly, that family members have access to quality, affordable health insurance and that pilot safety is never sacrificed for any reason. Through their union, professional pilots are guaranteed the respect and compensation they deserve. In the end, that's good for our spouses, our families and for Flight Options. In fact, I recently found out that the most profitable airline in U.S. history, Southwest Airlines, is also the most highly unionized company in the skies. I'm still learning, and I'm paying close attention to what's happening at Flight Options. What I do know is that our pilots deserve a higher degree of recognition and appreciation when it comes to their pay, benefits and working conditions.

For all of these reasons, I've decided to help my husband in his effort to secure a family-friendly labor contract. I think it's time for all family members to stand up and support our spouses as they move towards the end of the contract negotiation process. I invite you to join me.

The Family Awareness Program was created to serve one central, specific purpose: to support the families of Flight Options pilots during contract negotiations and beyond. For some of us, contract negotiations can result in heightened stress and anxiety. The Family Awareness Program is a resource for families. Through accurate information, support and friendships, we will make this process a bit easier for everyone.

The Family Awareness Program will rely extensively on a network of volunteers. We are requesting the assistance of family members, spouses, partners and significant others. Together, we can make a difference.

To encourage family communication, a "Spouses/Partners/Family Only" section of the Union Message Board has been developed to provide a forum for family members to ask questions of the Union leadership as well as to express concerns and post general comments. Family members will have the ability to communicate with one another, forging new friendships with individuals who understand and share your concerns. You may register for access to the IBT Local 1108 website where a Spouse/Partners/ Family section has been established.

To register for access to the message board use the following link:

<http://forum1.ibt1108.org/register.php?do=signup>

To register for access to the IBT 1108 website use the following link:

<http://www.ibt1108.org>

For technical issues registering for the message board or website you may contact the IBT 1108 Web team at webadmin@ibt1108.org

The Family Awareness Committee will begin publishing routine communications that will be accessible to those who have registered for access to the website and message board. These communications will allow you to stay informed. If you know of any other spouses/partners/significant others who may be interested, please encourage them to sign up for the message board. The Family Awareness Program offers all members of the Flight Options Pilots' extended family the opportunity to take an active role in shaping our families' future.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at via e-mail family.fo@ibt1108.org. I look forward to hearing from more of you!

Donna Nedrow
Family Awareness Program Coordinator

family matters
A Flight Options Pilots Publication
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