

family matters

A Flight Options Pilots Publication family.fo@ibt1108.org

home front briefing friday, october 16, 2009

An Announcement from your Family Awareness Committee

Dear Family Members,

This is the Family Awareness Committee's (FAC) second *Home Front Briefing* publication. What's a *Home Front Briefing*? Since the establishment of the FAC we have received numerous questions from spouses and significant others about the contract process at Flight Options. In fact, the interest we have received has exceeded our expectations ten fold. The *Home Front Briefing* is the FAC's way of answering questions we receive that are of general interest to all Flight Options families. It's important that family members and loved ones have accurate information, as we all hope for the best and prepare for the worst in the final stage of contract negotiations. I have been informed that the Negotiating Committee and IBT Local 1108 Executive Board will continue producing their regular updates and communications to union members. The *Home Front Briefing* provides information that is more specific to what is on the minds of family members. We intend to send you a *Home Front Briefing* on a weekly basis depending upon the volume of questions we receive.

I hope the *Home Front Briefing* publications have been helpful and have provided some answers to your questions. A communication network like the Family Awareness Committee is needed now more than ever and is an essential part of our Union. By bringing families together during these difficult times and allowing them to talk through situations, they find that they are not alone and their problems are not so unusual.

For over three years Flight Options pilots have been in negotiations for a first contract. Negotiations have progressed to the point where there are only a few remaining issues for bargaining, but they are the most critical, including finalizing scope, salary, PTO and duration. The time has come for the Union to prepare pilots and their families for every possible outcome, including a tentative agreement or, in the alternative, a National Mediation Board (NMB) release for self-help measures by the parties.

The Flight Options pilots and their families live throughout the United States. Below is a map showing the number of pilots and families who reside in each state. It shows that we have personnel available for necessary assistance and support throughout the country during these negotiations and beyond.



QUESTION:

My husband who is a member in good standing has told me that the union sent out strike ballots for all of the pilots to vote. Is this true?

Wife from Colorado

ANSWER:

Dear Family in Colorado,

The only Flight Options pilots allowed to vote to authorize a strike are those who are members in good standing, which includes furloughed pilots who have a valid Teamster's withdrawal card. You can now see one of the benefits of being a member in good standing of the Union. Those members in good standing, like your husband, will decide the fate of the strike vote. Thank you for your support.

QUESTION:

My husband just recently became a member in good standing. I just registered on the union web site and started looking into the information that has been put out. I must say that in some respects I kind of feel alone in all of this. I have visited the message board and website, but I was wondering if there were any plans in place to put us in touch with other spouses in our area?

**Sincerely,
Tennessee Family**

ANSWER:

Dear Tennessee Family,

By bringing families together during these difficult times and allowing them to talk through situations, they find that they are not alone and their problems are not so unusual. For over three years Flight Options pilots have been in negotiations for a first contract while being compensated as much as 40% less than their peers in the industry. As shown on the map above, we have IBT Local 1108 families living throughout the United States. The entire Teamster organization has over 1.4 million members. When the crewmembers at Amerijet recently went on strike, the pilots and their families received the support of many different unions and other Teamster members, which resulted in bringing management back to the bargaining table. In relatively short order, the parties reached an agreement on a first contract at that airline, making that strike a complete success. We will be no different should that need arise.

QUESTION:

What will happen if my husband is at work when a strike is called? How will he get home?

**Sincerely,
Concerned Wife**

ANSWER:

Dear Concerned Wife:

Final details are being worked out by the Pilot Preparedness Committee. A few months ago the union tested, with great success, an aircraft and crew member tracking system. Using this system, along with other methods and resources, the tracking team was able to establish the exact location of a large percentage of the on-duty crew members. This information will allow the volunteers in the strike command center to provide real time assistance to pilots who are on duty at the time of strike. Look for more detailed information to follow if we do, in fact, enter a 30-day cooling off period.

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FINAL THOUGHTS:

The coming weeks are very important! Please continue to communicate with each other. It is equally important that you continue to support the Union leadership as they continue the fight to reach a tentative agreement on a quality first contract.

Keep the questions coming, stay informed, and stick together. Let's continue to be the voice for the families and loved ones of our pilots as the end of October and the final round of scheduled bargaining approaches!

Donna Nedrow

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