

Jon J. Lewis “JJ”

CANDIDATE FOR MSP COUNCIL 1 CAPTAIN REPRESENTATIVE

Pilots of Council One:

We are approaching the final days of the Council 1 election process, as well as the final stages of a major merger. The importance of our representative elections is particularly critical in this election cycle since your newly elected representatives will be YOUR representatives on the newly formed (joint) DAL MEC. Minneapolis Council 1, the first in ALPA, will be moving intact to DAL (DAL ALPA currently has no MSP LEC). I encourage ALL pilots to vote for the candidates of their choice; and I respectfully seek your support as your Captain Representative.

We are all in this together. The nominating process and voting participation had relatively few participants. This is likely a reflection of the discontent some have with our union and/or a lack of interest. However, it is essential that we understand the real power of our union is at the local level, as ALPA is designed as a bottom-up organization. The future of our organization and our careers is in *Your* hands. WE ARE ALPA. The ALPA Board of Directors (which includes all airlines local elected pilot representatives) just concluded its biennial meeting October 20-22 2008. I am proud to have been a part of the overall effort to address concerns expressed by our pilots during the last 2 ½ years at the MEC level. I was more than a participant at this historic BOD meeting, and am honored to serve as your advocate. ALPA will be providing additional information on the new ALPA Strategic Plan, which addresses the concerns of all ALPA pilots. I am sure every pilot will be able to identify with most aspects of this historically unique initiative, and I ask that all pilots support our efforts in accomplishing our goals. The overall objective is a commitment to better protect and enhance our careers as professional airline pilots. We must be success oriented as a union. ***Failure is not an option.***

Thoughts for your consideration prior to voting in this election:

During our Council 1 Nominating Meeting, the candidates made a commitment to conduct a positive campaign. However, it is now clear that all candidates are not honoring their promise and commitment. It also seems apparent that the personal interests of pilots and Representatives from other councils, as well as the MEC office, are attempting to exert their influence by spreading misinformation and innuendo in an effort to directly affect the outcome of our elections, with their personal political interests as motivation.

Due to this negative campaigning, I simply request that any rumor, accusation, or negative comment concerning *any* of the candidates be verified with facts, rather than “just believing.” The best sources of accurate information are the participating candidates. Second hand accusations or hearsay is simply intended to influence your vote rather than to provide information for an objective decision. If you hear any accusations or innuendo, contact the nominee that is being targeted and get the facts.

For those of you who have already made the effort to verify something that you’ve heard or read, and on behalf of all candidates, I thank you. Accurate information is a fundamental basis for good decisions.

A couple of points about campaign statements. Be wary of candidates who base a campaign upon open-ended statements such as: working well with others, being “intelligent,” different, open minded, and non-divisive, then distribute campaign letters that:

- Provide misinformation and innuendo that they haven’t bothered to personally verify. Doing so indicates that they have already “chosen sides.”
- Show a clear misunderstanding about some key parts of the process, especially relative to where the Vote of Confidence / No Confidence issue came from, and the compromises made to address it.
- Comments about the current lack of “intelligent leadership” on the current MEC, raises questions about the judgment of a candidate who states those admirable goals, yet whose actions compromise them even before taking office.

MEC Cooperation. Over 85% of the 930+ votes made by the MEC during the past 2 ½ years of my current term have been unanimous, including all of the major key issue votes (with more than a few of these requiring extensive

compromise). These votes include all the steps along the way in the current merger process including the selection of the Merger Representatives, the TDC / MP3 process, the equity claim process, two LOA's that recovered key contract items lost in bankruptcy, one LOA that helped delay or prevent furloughs and displacements, as well as the unanimous compromise (that almost no one was happy with) related to the Bankruptcy Restructuring Agreement TA.

Roll Call (Representational Voting). Contrary to some of the "misinformation" that has been passed around, there have been relatively few roll call votes; 7 since March 2006. Most were over side issues. The current MSP CA and FO representatives each called for one roll, to decide a tie over MEC senatorial votes. These roll calls then led to final compromised resolutions. There was one roll call called by the Council 1 Secretary Treasurer during this same time.

Council One Communications. When I ran for the FO representative position I stated that communications was one of my priorities. Your MSP representatives have fulfilled that promise. A check of Council One communications on the MEC website shows between 1-2 updates per month (sometimes more). Timely, accurate, and informative LEC communications have been appropriate and delivered. Communications was also addressed at the recent ALPA BOD meeting. *Quality* of information that is received and communicated is more important than *volume*. Lastly, phone contact and email are often preferred by individual LEC pilots. If elected, I will assure that our MSP pilots know what is happening. While time consuming, I believe that I (we) have done a good job communicating to our pilots under unusually demanding circumstances.

Working with DAL ALPA. During the NWA/DAL MEC "Chicago Summit" and during the recent BOD Meeting, I continued my efforts to develop mutual respect and establish a positive relationship with members of the DAL MEC. This is extremely important moving forward as our membership expands from 5000 pilots to 12,000. We MUST become one pilot group and one cohesive MEC so that we can take advantage of our relative size, and be in a good position as a joint MEC to positively influence the direction of the industry, our union, and our careers.

SLI. Although we all are primarily spectators of the SLI process, the MEC has selected (and elected) very capable Merger Representatives who are working tirelessly, and very effectively, as our advocates. Once this process is behind us, we must be prepared to accept the results and move forward as one pilot group. We will remember our NWA history with pride and certainly remember the lessons of our history; however we cannot afford to live in the past. It is important for every member of the new DAL MEC, and ALL of our pilots to focus on our future. In many ways this merger provides a new beginning with many positive possibilities for both pilot groups. *As your MSP Captain Representative, I pledge to continue my absolute best efforts to support and leadership to facilitate this transition of our careers from NWA to DAL.*

Vote. You must vote; anything less than the overwhelming participation by the MSP pilots may undermine the influence your Council 1 representatives should have in the (new) DAL MEC. I encourage you ALL to participate in the election process and ask for your support as your next Captain Representative. I support two-way communication. As your FO Representative I have continuously solicited participation from our line pilots. Your feedback has provided the guidance and direction essential to best represent your interests. I will continue to listen and respond as your CA Representative. I clearly work for you. The better the participation and involvement of the line pilots, including the Compass pilots, the better your representation. I have, and pledge to continue, my cooperation with the MEC Compass Coordinator. The new LEC Representative team that you elect will be the voice and vote for ALL Council 1 pilots. *We all collectively are ALPA.*

Voting ends November 10th at 1000 Eastern Time; click <https://www.ballotpoint.com/ALPA> and vote now! If you have a problem with your VIN, password, or need another activation code to establish them, contact balloting or membership services at 1-888-FLY-ALPA option #3.

Fraternally,

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