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## **General Update**

### **New Subscribers to ALPAWatch**

We want to welcome our many new readers, particularly Delta Airlines pilots. We are glad to have you in our audience. Several DAL pilots have contacted us directly. We are always happy to talk with you.

Just for clarification, ALPAWatch was created just for NWA ALPA. When ALPAWatch started, we chose that name without considering the situation we find ourselves in today. Now we have an audience far beyond just NWA. While we welcome readers from Delta and other airlines, in the absence of a completed merger, our focus will remain on the activities of NWA ALPA.

That said, there is a great deal of interest in what ALPAWatch thinks about the possible merger with Delta. Our position is that any merger must be a good business deal for all involved and therefore must include a fair and equitable seniority integration list for all pilots from both airlines.

### **ALPAWatch in the News**

ALPAWatch website traffic and subscriptions to the ALPAWatch Newsletter soared after The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and others quoted our website in their news articles ( [http://www.ajc.com/search/content/business/delta/stories/2008/02/28/deltatalks\\_0229.html](http://www.ajc.com/search/content/business/delta/stories/2008/02/28/deltatalks_0229.html) ). As a result of this unsought publicity, we know that we have a much larger and diverse audience. That audience includes many major news media outlets, other airline pilots, investment firms, airline managements, and others. We have always had some non-NWA pilots (NWA management for example) reading the ALPAWatch website. But this new, more diverse audience combined with the sensitivity of a potential merger, puts us in the difficult position of fulfilling our stated commitment to NWA pilots without harming the merger process. We can and will rise to this challenge, however so long as there is a reasonable possibility of a merger, we will be choosing our words even more carefully than usual.

### **What is going on with the Merger?**

We continue to closely watch potential merger activities. While the process is following acceptable, established procedures we have no information that would allow us to predict an outcome. We will keep you posted. Be patient. Be vigilant. Stay informed!

### **Talking to the News Media**

We advise pilots to not talk with the news media. ALPAWatch has not and will not talk to the media. Many news agencies have and continue to contact us. Our standard response is to refer them to NWA ALPA. NWA ALPA is the union that represents all NWA pilots. NWA ALPA is tasked with the responsibility of speaking for all NWA pilots. Therefore we do not speak with the media. We strongly suggest you do the same. And be careful if you are contacted by pilots you don't know, from your own airline or others. Unless you know them or can identify them, consider the possibility that it could be someone pretending to be a pilot to gain your comments. We have not had this happen, but we have procedures in place to guard against it.

### **Inappropriate Messages**

When contacting your elected union representatives, union leaders, union volunteers, or anyone for that matter, be respectful and polite. A well thought out, factual, intellectually honest argument will carry the day. Personal attacks, threats and profanity are weak arguments. They undermine legitimate arguments and can

lead to serious personal distress, including career complications for their authors. Tap into your passion, but choose your words professionally.

### **5% Goodwill Resolution Withdrawn**

We are sorry to report that we were forced to withdraw the 5% Goodwill Resolution. All those that supported this resolution deserve a complete explanation, and we plan to provide you with all those details in the next ALPAWatch Newsletter.

On Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, Kevin Jones sat down with the ALPA attorneys to go over their objections to the resolution. In short, there were no arguments that could overcome NWA ALPA legal council's objections to the resolution. Both attorneys agreed with the intent and objective of the resolution. However, they were also unanimous that the resolution crossed several legal boundaries that would be very difficult to overcome if challenged in court. They supplied us with several court cases supporting their opinion. For example, the resolution stated that the 5% raise and the demand for contract repair negotiations were "non negotiable". That is un-defendable because labor laws require negotiations. There were several more serious problems with the resolution that we want to explain in detail. We will go into that in the next Newsletter, but first we want to review the previous court cases on this subject. Then we can give you the explanation you all deserve.

So why did we withdraw the resolution? We could have let it go before the MEC for a full vote. The reality is that even the most ardent supporters of this resolution were going to find it very difficult to vote YES in the face of the union's own legal council finding it un-defendable. We decided it was in everyone's best interest to not expend any more time and resources on it, but simply withdraw, start over and get it right next time.

We want to thank the MEC, and in particular the MEC Chairman, for giving this resolution the time, attention, and seriousness that it received. More importantly, we were given unprecedented access to ALPA legal council. Even though we did not get the answers we hoped for, we very much appreciate the efforts made to help it reach a successful conclusion.

We are obviously very disappointed but not deterred. We will continue with efforts to get some of our money back and repair the contract. Thank you again to all those that supported this resolution. We will keep you informed on how we plan to approach this issue again.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter MEC Meetings

We covered several days of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter MEC Meetings, March 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>. A Newsletter is in the works. We will get that done as soon as we can.

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.

[ALPAWatch.org](http://ALPAWatch.org)