

Family Awareness - A History

Get Families Involved

Family Awareness recognizes the importance of a pilot's family in making decisions regarding a pilot's career, livelihood and union involvement. Many of our pilot families have questions as our union enters the final chapter in attaining a fair and equitable industry contract. Therefore, we want to provide you and your family with additional tools and knowledge as we proceed in achieving this goal.

ALPA's Family Awareness program started in 1985 as the United Airlines pilots were preparing for the possibility of a strike. the pilot families, confronting spouses were about to walk or nothing about contract of information, it was easy to likely to react.

To win the ensuing strike, need to become informed, pilot goals. Thus, these pilots Awareness program as a support for their efforts to management.

Many of you were introduced to our Family Awareness program during our Family Awareness gatherings.

We want to thank all who attended for showing their support. This kind of effort makes a difference!

ALPA realized that many of the sudden reality that their off the job, had heard little negotiations. Given this lack anticipate how families were

United pilot families would involved, and supportive of initiated ALPA's Family means of building unity and gain a fair contract with

Today, we are in the middle of negotiations for a new contract for improved wages, benefits, and work rules. Our families will benefit directly from improved schedules that give us more time at home, from job security that gives us more stability to plan for the future, and from better pay that will raise our standard of living. But we have to communicate with our families so that they understand the process involved our goals for these negotiations, and what they mean to the profession in general. Families will make the difference in our commitment to our negotiating goals, if we are forced to strike to attain them.

Former ALPA First Vice President, Paul Rice compared Family Awareness to Cockpit Resource Management, or CRM, and the need to keep your spouse in the loop. He related an instance when a representative from management called his wife over the telephone, pressuring her to pressure her husband to cross the picket line.

You can imagine the difference in the way she received that call and how she responded had she not been familiar with the issues and the different phases of the negotiating process. Paul concluded by saying that, as a pilot, you need to communicate—to both management and your family—your “conditions” in these negotiations. He stated, “If (flying) is your dream—and it obviously is—make it a good dream. Don’t allow someone to take it from you.” And that’s really what these negotiations are all about—realizing our dreams. We can make the TSA pilot’s job better than it is today through our current contract negotiations. We can improve our pay and benefits and remove the ambiguity from much of our operational language.

However, we have to have unity and power to make this happen. That comes from pilots and families coming together in pursuit of a single goal. Only with a “united” front can we overcome the challenges before us. Then and only then can we make these dreams a reality.

Family Awareness – About ALPA

The Air Line Pilots Association, International (ALPA) is the largest airline pilot union in the world and represents nearly 54,000 pilots at 36 U.S. and Canadian airlines. Founded in 1931, the Association is chartered by the AFL-CIO and the Canadian Labour Congress. Known internationally as US-ALPA, it is a member of the International Federation of Air Line Pilot Associations.

THE ALPA STRUCTURE

Members of each ALPA carrier are represented by their Local Council Status Representatives, who make up each pilot group’s Master Executive Council (MEC). Each pilot group consists of one or more Local Councils, which generally correspond with the pilots’ major domiciles. These Local Council Status Representatives sit on ALPA’s Board of Directors, the Association’s highest governing body. The Local Council Representatives elect the officers of the MEC, the chairmen of which comprise ALPA’s Executive Board. ALPA’s Executive Council, which bears fiduciary responsibility for the Association, includes both elected Executive Vice Presidents and the National Officers.

