

# SPSC Flash

From your JetBlue Strategic Preparedness and Strike Committee



January 23, 2016

## Wear Your Lanyard

Wearing the ALPA lanyard is a simple concept that often engenders debate. By now I've heard every reason given for **not** wearing a lanyard:

- 🌀 Who really cares?
- 🌀 Nobody pays attention.
- 🌀 How is a \$5.00 piece of ribbon going to get us a contract?
- 🌀 I might be strangled.
- 🌀 I'm not a lanyard guy<sup>1</sup>
- 🌀 It doesn't match my earrings.
- 🌀 I hate ALPA.

There is one reason **to** wear a lanyard:

***It is a visible sign of unity to both your peers and to management.***

When I walk down the jetbridge and meet the offgoing crew, I often do not know them. When they are both wearing lanyards, I have an immediate sense of brotherhood with them. I know that whatever else, we share the knowledge that backing our MEC throughout our negotiations is the right thing to do. If one or both pilots are not wearing a lanyard, I cannot help but wonder what our union needs to do to gain their support. Many of us have worn lanyards before, and left them behind with bad memories and experiences. I'm here to tell you that we are not your previous MEC, we are the JetBlue MEC. 3400 unified pilots working towards the common goal of a **CONTRACT ABOVE ALL**.

If you really wonder if management notices, consider their reaction to a simple piece of neoprene wrapped around a bag handle stating our simple union goal of a **CONTRACT ABOVE ALL**. How many passengers have taken notice of these grips – yet management felt compelled to file a grievance.

***Visible signs of unity help build unity.***

As I walk through the terminals in our focus cities I am seeing more and more of our pilots wearing lanyards. I am encouraged that we are gaining momentum

towards a critical mass that will culminate in this pilot group voting in favor of a market rate CBA that reflects what we have earned as the day-to-day leaders of our company. I am proud to be a member of this pilot group.

In their fight for a market rate contract other airlines have used color campaigns to demonstrate solidarity. Spirit Airlines pilots are wearing green lanyards and both Hawaiian and Delta used orange lanyards. Due to our restrictive uniform policy we can only wear the standard ALPA lanyard. The ALPA lanyard we have sent you is OUR lanyard.

All human endeavors have symbols that tie them together. Our lanyard, as simple as it seems, is the symbol that identifies and unifies those who believe in our cause: a contract for our pilot group. In that sense, its importance cannot be understated. By wearing your lanyard and pin, you are a walking straw poll telling management that you will accept nothing less than what you are due as a professional. Our lanyard and pins are our symbols of unity and our brand showcasing our membership in the fraternity of professional airline pilots.

We ask you to please display them proudly.

In Solidarity,

Capt. Brian Dawson  
Chairman, Strategic Preparedness and Strike Committee

**WEAR YOUR LANYARD • STAY INFORMED • FLY SOP • BUILD UNITY**

**CONTRACT  
ABOVE ALL**



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<sup>1</sup>Most of us are not "lanyard guys". This is not a fashion statement – we wear them as a visible display of unity.