



# More than Just Paying Dues

Capt. Paul Rice, ALPA Vice-President-Administration/Secretary

In just 5 short months, ALPA's



Board of Directors will convene in Las Vegas to take up the business of this union and grapple with the many important issues that confront our mem-

bers daily. Many of those participating will, as newly elected officers, attend for the very first time, bringing with them the issues and concerns of the people they represent—their fellow line pilots.

As an ALPA member, you have a responsibility to communicate your concerns to your pilot group leaders and to make sure that they're knowledgeable about those issues that are important to you. This is the information that your elected officers will need as they prepare to represent you as a member of the Board. Our constitution makes the Board of Directors responsible for determining the course our Association will follow during the next 4 years. Make sure that your representatives know where you stand.

Unfortunately, many members feel that once they've cast their ballot, they've fulfilled their duty, leaving the difficult business of running a union to someone else. All too often, I've seen airline pilots abdicate responsibility for decisions that may have significant consequences for their careers. And just as often, I've seen those same pilots place the blame squarely on the shoulders of union leaders they themselves elected when the outcome on an issue isn't ideal.

Some of you may be waiting for a more convenient time to get involved in the work of your union. Let's face it—airline pilots carry a heavy load these days. We're working longer hours for less money and fewer benefits, all the while fending off fatigue and hoping to avoid the next round

of furloughs and bankruptcies. The truth is that a convenient time never comes. And the harder your individual situation becomes, the more important it is to involve yourself in the fight for safety, fair pay, and better working conditions.

If we have any hope of righting the

and women of our profession to come together in common cause, make their voices heard, and take action? Indeed, this Board—the heart of our constitutional democracy—will serve as a forum for discussion and potential action on such diverse topics as airline security, foreign control of U.S. air-

## Checklist for ALPA Officers And Members:

- ☐ Click on Crewroom.alpa.org
- ☐ Fill in member number and password
- ☐ Click on "e-Library"
- ☐ Click on "Administration"
- ☐ Click on "Constitution and By-Laws"
- ☐ Read, understand, and follow
- ☐ Check back frequently for updates and continuing qualification

***Special instruction:*** Submit any questions or suggestions to appropriate governing body.

## You are this union, and you own its policies.

wrongs that afflict our profession, we cannot afford to neglect our personal responsibility. We must take ownership of our union and give it direction. It's your career on the line. It's your family whose future is at stake. The time to get involved is now.

As a nationally elected union officer, I often wonder how some issues resonate with our members. Which issues inspire the hard-working men

lines, retirement and pensions, organizing new pilot groups, and the structure of the Association and its governing bodies.

ALPA's October Board of Directors meeting is a unique opportunity to have a direct effect on the positions that the Association will take on the big issues. Any ALPA member in good standing may attend and observe. I urge any member who feels so inclined to show up, witness your union in action, and get involved. You will be impressed by what you see. 