

What's in a NAM? ALPA Pilots Engage Globally

“What does globalization really mean?” Capt. Dan Adamus (Air Canada Jazz), the International Federation of Air Line Pilots Associations (IFALPA) North American (NAM) executive vice-president (who also serves as president of ALPA's Canada Board), wrote to the members of the Association's Executive Board. “While I won't pretend to be a mind reader, I can say with confidence that your interpretation of this term is a whole lot different today than it was five to ten years ago.”

Adamus was addressing the recent bilateral and open-sky agreements, liberalization of air rights, criminalization of pilots involved in accidents, multicrew pilot licenses, and other issues that affect any airline pilot entering international airspace today.

The July 19 letter from Adamus served as an invitation to all ALPA Executive Board members, encouraging them to attend the upcoming IFALPA North American, or NAM, regional meeting, which is slated to be held October 25–26 in ALPA's Herndon, Va., Conference Center.

“As this meeting will demonstrate, IFALPA continues to map out a mine field of challenges to the pilot profession as our industry continues to evolve,” he noted.

NAM is the second of five new regions in IFALPA's current restructuring and acts as the Federation's representative for all matters pertaining to the North American region. NAM is unique in that it represents one association that has two IFALPA members—U.S. ALPA and ALPA-Canada. This gives ALPA an added advantage in its ability to decide matters pertaining to the region in which it operates and promote its positions in the larger Federation. As a side note, Mexico is included in the Federation's Caribbean/ South American region.

ALPA's president, Capt. John Prater, applauded the new structure, rolled out

at IFALPA's Executive Council meeting in April, saying, “This protocol is another excellent example of how we continue to build new structures and relationships at every level of our industry—nationally, regionally, and globally.”

NAM meets twice a year and has scheduled the October meeting in conjunction with an ALPA Executive Board meeting.

“I want everyone to understand the

Wolfsheimer (Northwest), regional vice-president for U.S. Central Pacific.

“IFALPA provides a means of establishing cooperation and immediate lines of communication between and among member unions during crises and other critical events,” said Adamus. “IFALPA functions much like ALPA, only on a much larger scale, representing and protecting pilots and serving as a single voice for the



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role IFALPA plays in this ever-shrinking world,” Adamus said, stressing the point that ALPA is an active member of the Federation and the many reasons why this relationship is so important. “ALPA members need to be aware of the good work IFALPA does and how it affects their daily lives.”

The first day of the meeting will introduce IFALPA's president, Capt. Carlos Limon (Mexicana), and IFALPA's deputy president and ALPA's first vice-president, Capt. Paul Rice. Presentations about the Federation's structure and operation will follow. Representatives and members will then roll up their sleeves and get down to the business of this new Federation region.

Other prominent NAM representatives, who will make presentations during the October meeting, include Capt. Nick DiCintio (Air Canada Jazz), IFALPA director for ALPA-Canada; Capt. Ray Gelinis (Air Canada Jazz), regional vice-president for Canada/Arctic; Capt. Mark Seal (United), regional vice-president for North Atlantic; and Capt. Greg

profession, across the globe.”

IFALPA serves as the global voice of airline pilots, promoting the highest level of aviation safety worldwide and providing services, support, and representation to all of its member associations, including ALPA. The Federation reports that it currently represents more than 100,000 pilots belonging to 97 member associations around the world.

The Federation was born in 1948, two years after the creation of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the international body established by the United Nations to define policies and standards for global air travel. Thirteen pilot unions from 13 nations banded together in response to ICAO's creation, united in their mutual concern that the Organization's positions must be shaped by input from airline pilots.

To learn more about NAM, visit the ALPA website at www.alpa.org. To learn more about IFALPA, visit its website at www.ifalpa.org.—*John Perkinson, Staff Writer*