AERF 'Donate $3' Campaign Kicks Off

"Since its inception in 2005, the ALPA Emergency Relief Fund (AERF) has been an invaluable resource to our fellow ALPA members when they are dealing with the aftermath of disaster. To date, AERF has come to the aid of 123 of our fellow members and their families. Last year, however, we were challenged with not having enough funds to help all of our ALPA brothers and sisters in need. Greatly concerned, the AERF directors developed a plan to address this financial challenge. I'm proud to announce the AERF Donate $3 campaign and new website," declared ALPA's president, Capt. John Prater, in a recent letter to ALPA pilots.

"Capt. William 'Bill' Couette, ALPA's vice-president–administration/secretary, soft-launched this campaign in his report during the April Executive Board meeting, stressing the importance of ALPA's Emergency Relief Fund and the need for all of us to support this essential program," continued Prater. "Now it's official. We are asking all ALPA members and staff to contribute a modest amount of $3, which would assist in achieving the financial goal of $100,000."

For more information or to donate online to this U.S. tax-deductible charity, please visit the AERF webpage at www.alpa.org and click on Relief Fund on the top menu bar. The webpage will track ALPA's progress in achieving $100,000 and will include updates and upcoming AERF promotions. To contribute to AERF by check, please make your check payable to the ALPA Emergency Relief Fund, and mail to ALPA Emergency Relief Fund, Dept. 6035, Washington, D.C. 20042-6035.

ALPA Pilots First to Put Prints on CrewPASS

Several ALPA pilots enrolled in the CrewPASS biometric database on June 9 at BWI, taking the time to get their fingerprints scanned and to answer a few simple questions to pioneer the new identity verification program.

Enrollment is completely voluntary and took pilots about 15 to 20 minutes. Currently, pilots may still use CrewPASS without biometric enrollment during this pre-operational phase. But once CrewPASS becomes a standing, permanent program, the Transportation Security Administration will require every pilot to enroll in the biometric component.

"ALPA members instructed the Board of Directors to make airport security screening a top priority at its October 2006 meeting," says ALPA's president, Capt. John Prater. "And 3 years later, from challenge to implementation, CrewPASS enables pilots traveling through demonstration airports to be treated with dignity while improving the overall efficiency of the screening process, which now includes a fingerprint biometric component. We are currently pressing the TSA to make CrewPASS a permanent, standing program to be installed nationwide. Stand by for further news on that development."

ALPA developed the CrewPASS concept in 2007 to harness the proven technology of the Cockpit Access Security System (CASS), which accesses a database of flightcrew ID photos in real time. To date, thousands of pilots have passed through security in seconds, not minutes, thanks to ALPA.

ALPA Receives Collier Trophy For CAST Participation

On May 28, the National Aeronautics Association presented the 2008 Robert J. Collier Trophy to ALPA as part of the Commercial Aviation Safety Team (CAST), a government-industry partnership. CAST was formed in 1997 to reduce the fatal accident rate in the U.S. airline industry by 80 percent in 10 years.

"Through the tremendous resources provided by many organizations and the tireless dedication of hundreds of individuals, CAST has eliminated significant risks and created a quantum leap in aviation safety," said the Association's president, Capt. John Prater.

Accepting on behalf of ALPA were Prater, Capt. William

Shown at the Collier Trophy awards ceremony are, from left, Capt. Rory Kay (United), Capt. William Couette, and Capt. John Prater.