

AS WE GO TO PRESS

AirTran Pilots Approach End of the Line

On July 1, AirTran Master Executive Council officers and ALPA staff met with the National Mediation Board (NMB) to share their views of negotiations and to offer a roadmap for bringing closure to more than 5 years of contract talks. After the meeting, the NMB encouraged the Association and management to meet outside of mediation in an effort to narrow the list of open contract items. The NMB indicated that it would decide the next steps after examining the results of those sessions.

ALPA had proposed conducting marathon negotiating sessions with the goal of providing an environment conducive to productive talks, allowing the parties to find common ground on the most difficult issues remaining, including scope, scheduling, retirement, insurance, and compensation.

"We have said all along that we want a deal that is good for our pilots and good for the company," said F/O Linden Hillman, the pilot's MEC chairman. "These items are not mutually exclusive, and we believe that our pilots need to be treated as an asset and ally in the success of our company."

While the MEC pursues more time to talk with management, it is also ramping up its Strategic Preparedness and Strike Committee (SPSC) activities. Efforts are under way to secure space for a strike center near the airport. "We've learned a lot from visiting the Spirit pilots' strike center and from spending time with our brothers at Jazz. We plan on applying what we've learned back in Atlanta," said F/O Daren Black, the pilot group's SPSC chairman. "We want our strike center to be a hub from which we can coordinate our members, events, and news media outreach."

Family Awareness events are also planned, including a family night at an upcoming Atlanta Braves game.

"We're rapidly approaching the end of the line," said Hillman. "Our pilots demonstrated their unity with almost 98 percent of them authorizing a strike. Now it's time to close the deal. Only by standing firm will we be successful at attaining our goals and making AirTran an airline that we can be proud of."

Earlier this summer, AirTran pilots conducted infor-

mational picketing in Milwaukee, Wisc., to deliver their demands to company shareholders. AirTran management did not allow ALPA's president, Capt. John Prater, into the meeting, so instead he delivered the pilots' message to the public through televised interviews outside the meeting.

Adamus to Co-chair CARAC Fatigue Management Working Group

Efforts to reform and update Canadian flight- and duty-time limits and minimum rest requirements took a step forward in late June with the first meeting of the Canadian Aviation Regulation Advisory Council (CARAC) Technical Committee in Ottawa to establish terms of reference for the Fatigue Management Working Group and to select the members of the Working Group.

Capt. Dan Adamus (Jazz), president of ALPA's Canada Board, was nominated by the Technical Committee's executive chairman, Don Sherritt of Transport Canada, to serve as the co-chair of the Working Group. The other co-chair will be Transport Canada's Jacqueline Booth. The Technical Committee confirmed both nominations.



Capt. Adamus

Capt. Martin Gauthier (Air Transat), chairman of the ALPA Flight Time/Duty Time (FT/DT) Committee for Canada, will be ALPA's member on the Working Group. The Association will be allowed two technical advisors—Capt. Percy Wadia (Jazz), his Master Executive Council's FT/DT chairman, and legal and government affairs representative Al Ogilvie.

Other ALPA representatives who attended the June 28–30 meeting included Wadia; Capt. Bob Perkins (Jazz), a member of his pilot group's Airport Standards Committee; senior staff engineer Real Levasseur; and Ogilvie.