



AMFA

The Grapevine

Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association

www.amfanational.org#

The Locals' Voice







Safety in the air begins with quality maintenance on the ground

AMFA Local 11

www.amfa11.com

Be Involved With Your Future

Representing Members at Southwest Airlines and Mesaba Airlines



AMFA




AMFA Local 14

"Safety In The Air Begins With Quality Maintenance On The Ground"




AMFA Local 18

Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association

www.AMFA18.org



AMFA

LOCAL 32



ALASKA SOUTHWEST

FEATURES

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NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Louie Key	National Director
Floyd Looney	Assistant National Director
Steven Nowak	National Secretary/Treasurer
Fred Digne	National Safety & Standards Director
Earl Clark	Region I Director
Jack Coonrod	Region II Director

MISSION STATEMENT

Disseminate news in any manner to keep the membership alert and well informed.” – an Association Objective, AMFA Constitution.

AMFA National produces this publication because it is our firm belief that an informed membership creates a strong union. AMFA inalterably places the control of the Association with the membership. Every member has a responsibility to stay informed and involved.



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The Grapevine’s editorial content must be generally consistent with Association policies. The guiding principle governing all submissions is respect for one’s fellow member and for the Association. Submitted articles should address issues pertinent to the Association and its members, and must avoid references of a personal nature.

All articles, including guest editorials, should conform with policy positions of the Association as established by the AMFA National Executive Council, AMFA Constitution, and National Policy Manual. The responsibility for monitoring editorial consistency is shared by National Officers.#

National Director Update



The Locals' Voice Grapevine Edition

By: Louie Key, National Director

Dear AMFA Members:

The National Executive Council (NEC) concluded that at least one issue of the Grapevine per year should have a, "What's going on at my local?" theme. We decided the first issue of each year would be the perfect opportunity for each local to give a synopsis of what they have accomplished at their local during the previous year. Therefore, we invited the Local Presidents to contribute articles in this edition to share news from their locals with the entire Association .

As Tip O'Neil said, "all politics is local," and this issue will share insight about what's been happening around the Association at the local level.

Consistent with this theme, the NEC is always willing to consider member submitted stories and photos of interest that you would like to share in our national publication. If you believe there is a news worthy story that you would like the NEC to consider for publication, please contact Steven Nowak, National Secretary/Treasurer and Grapevine Editor, at 720-744-6632 or via email at steven.nowak@amfanatl.org

AMFA attends Charles E. Taylor Bust Presentation



Pictured left to right: Floyd Looney, AMFA Assistant National Director; Ken MacTiernan, AMTA Director; and Louie Key, AMFA National Director at the USAFA in Colorado Springs, CO. To the right is a close-up of the Charles E. Taylor bust that was presented to the Air Force Academy by the Aircraft Maintenance Technicians Association (AMTA).

AMFA Local 11

Based in Dallas, Texas (DAL)

2009 – 2010 Review

By: Keith Poole, Local 11 President

Overall, 2009 had been a good year at AMFA Local 11. While we had some challenges along the way, the members have shown true union spirit and in the end, the right thing was always done to strengthen our union.

The membership has approved of and provided thousands of dollars to help members in times of need throughout the year. The latest bylaw revision has created a Welfare Fund to ensure that this service to our fellow members could continue. The Local also awarded six \$1,000.00 Scholarships to the membership and their eligible family members in 2009, and we have increased the number of recipients to twelve for 2010.

The Local held their first Annual (hopefully) Labor Day Solidarity Party for the membership. Thank you to the Local Safety and Standards Chairman, Bill Darnell, for his work in putting this event together. A large number of members and their spouses, including Region II Director Jack Coonrod and his wife Cynthia, showed up at the Doubletree Hotel in Dallas for the party. With a large dinner buffet, open bar, dancing, and Las Vegas-style gambling tables, a good time was had by all.

After serving out their terms, two of our Local Officers have chosen not to run for another term. Local 11 would like to send special thanks to Vice President Mike Ballert and Treasurer Doug Collier who have served the membership and the Local admirably. Taking their places are Vice President Justin Wade and Treasurer Robert Wooster. Thanks to all for a smooth transition of these leadership roles.

We look forward to the new and exciting adventures that 2010 will bring. The Mesaba Airlines membership has joined our ranks, and Local 11 has already had some of their members and representatives down to Dallas for training. Mesaba Airline Representative Jim Schafer and National Secretary/Treasurer Steven Nowak recently joined President Keith Poole and Treasurer Robert Wooster for a station visit in Detroit. The Mesaba members in DTW were holding their station bid this day and it was an excellent opportunity to meet and speak with many of our new members. As members showed up to bid, they offered doughnuts, bagels, and pizza. We look forward to more station visits to promote union solidarity in the near future.

I would like to thank the members of Local 11 for a fantastic year, and we encourage their active participation in 2010.



Region II Director Jack Coonrod and his wife Cynthia enjoying the Solidarity Party.

Local 11 represents AMFA Members at the following airlines and stations:

Mesaba: AUS, CVG, DSM, DTW, MEM, MLI, MSP, and RHI (effective Jan. 2010)

Southwest: CWA, DAL, DSM, DTW, ELP, MEM, MSP, RHI, and SAT

AMFA Local 14

Based in Seattle, Washington (SEA)

Local 14 Technicians Finish ETOPS Conversions at Alaska Airlines

By: Jim Rea, Local 14 Vice-President

AMFA Technicians at Alaska Airlines have bucked the industry outsourcing trend by successfully in-sourcing ETOPS conversions. Seattle based AMFA technicians worked around the clock to finish the 13th conversion to ETOPS provisioned 737-800 aircraft. Each aircraft had a week of scheduled ground time, but with a concerted effort, all were finished ahead of schedule. Alaska Airlines put out a Request for Proposal (RFP) to several vendors for ETOPS conversions, and several contractors bid on the work. When Local 14 heard about the RFP, they engaged the Company and for the first time entered the RFP process. Local 14 received the job after out-bidding all competitors and performed the ETOPS conversions with such efficiency that the Company ordered more aircraft to be modified. The completion of the final ETOPS conversion on March 11, 2010, gave Alaska Airlines their required amount of ETOPS certified aircraft along with three spares.



Alaska Airlines Mechanics, Manuel Gonzalez-Vasquez (left) and Carl Nielsen (right), working on an ETOPS Conversion.

Seattle Maintenance Director Paul Taylor personally thanked everyone involved in the ETOPS conversions. In a statement to Local 14 he said, “This large scope project not only produced on time, but it produced early on each of the aircraft. This shows how skilled and dedicated the Technicians who participated in this project really are. The successful completion of this project will enable the Company to support the additional ETOPS flights that are due to start this month. All of you have shown how valuable of an asset Alaska Line Maintenance is. Again, thanks for all you do each and every day.”

This concentrated effort by the men and women of Local 14 has yielded significant savings to Alaska Airlines over any vendor, both directly from the modification, as well as the operational and logistical savings, all the while maintaining a level of quality second to none. In addition, the availability of ETOPS certified equipment will help Alaska Airlines succeed in new markets.

The completion of the ETOPS conversions instilled a feeling of “pride in ownership” and highlighted the professional skills of the technicians of Alaska Airlines. The members of AMFA Local 14 take great pride in this – one of the finest examples of interdisciplinary collaboration.

Local 14 represents AMFA Members at the following airlines and stations:

Alaska: PAE, PDX, and SEA

AMFA Local 18

Based in Houston, Texas (HOU)

What's New at Local 18?

By: **Scott Harris, Local 18 Vice President**

Throughout 2009 and into 2010, AMFA Local 18 has been working hard to make as many station visits as possible. Nearly all stations were visited, including BNA, BWI, MCI, MCO, MDW, STL, and TPA. Our visits to MDW revealed concerns at the hangar of and unsanitary environment and unhealthy air quality. The Local hired our own certified Air Quality/Industrial Hygiene vendor to perform independent testing at the hangar. After presenting the Company with our findings, all areas of concern were addressed and resolved. We look forward to continuing station visits to meet face-to-face and speak with our members. These visits help to build solidarity, encourage involvement in the Union, and to ensure that the membership is represented.

Local 18 is currently in the process of establishing a Continuing Education Scholarship Program to benefit the membership, and a Welfare Assistance Program is underway as well to help out members in need.

During the 2009 holiday season, Local 18 sent a gift card to all active Local members. In response to the gift cards, the positive feedback from the Local membership was tremendous.

The latest run of the Local Officer election has slightly changed our Local. Newly elected officers and representatives are Vice-President Scott Harris and Airline Representative Bob Cramer (former BWI Area Representative). Leaving these positions are Greg Hatcher and Jim Kinnerk. Local 18 would like to thank all for a smooth transition and a special thanks to Greg and Jim for their service to the membership and the Association.

The Local Area Representative elections have recently concluded and the results are:

Tom Foy	HOU Mechanics Area Representative
Jim Bartkowiak	Florida (MCO and TPA) Mechanics Area Representative
Will Abbott	MDW Mechanics and Appearance Technicians Area Representative

Local 18 would like to thank all the candidates for stepping up and running to fill these positions and congratulate those who have won.

Local 18 represents AMFA Members at the following airlines and stations:
Southwest: BNA, BWI, HOU, MCI, MCO, MDW, MSY, PHL, STL, and TPA.

AMFA Local 32

Based in Phoenix, Arizona (PHX)

Local Update

By: Aaron Hansen, Local 32 President

Our Local is home of some of the best Boeing 737 mechanics in the industry. Their experiences range from complex sheet-metal repairs to deciphering binary code out of an FMC. They deal with working under extreme conditions, from the blazing hot temperatures in the Phoenix sun, changing an engine to subzero temperatures in Anchorage, deicing or replacing a tire. We commend all of them for all of their hard work.

Throughout 2009 and into 2010, Local 32 has held many events and station visits to help keep the members informed and to promote solidarity and involvement in our Union. These station visits and events give the members and the Local Officers and Representatives an opportunity to meet face-to-face and speak with each other. We look forward to continuing these visits in the future.

As we have in the past, Local 32 will be honoring more retirees this year with our coveted Fan Blade Award as a token of our appreciation for their service. These Fan Blade Awards have been hand crafted by our own members, on their own time and some of the time being paid for by the Union.

Last year Local 32 awarded two scholarships to the members, and this July will be the annual drawing for five scholarships that our members can submit for by May 31st. See the AMFA Local 32 Web site for more information regarding scholarship applications.

The annual Local elections have brought some changes to our Local. Departing Office are former: Vice President, Pat Dunlap; Treasurer, Trent Derosia; Communications Coordinator, Mike Young; and Airline Representative, Mike Nelson. Local 32 would like to thank them for their service to our membership and the Association. Newly elected to these positions are: Mike Nelson, Vice President; Tim Ketschek, Treasurer; Mike Young, Airline Representative; and LeeRoy DeLaRosa, Communications Coordinator. We thank these members for stepping up to fill these vital positions.



National Director Louie Key swearing in the newly elected Local 32 Officers: Treasurer Tim Ketschek, Vice President Mike Nelson, and Airline Representative Mike Young.

We are still grieving the cockpit jump seat issue that was changed during the pilots' negotiations. It is a shame that Gary Kelly and Mike Van De Venn allowed something like this to occur and segregate the workforces and to create tribalism. We do challenge those individuals to engage in talks with us to create a win-win situation for the mechanics.

Stay strong, stay united.

Local 32 represents AMFA Members at the following airlines and stations:

Alaska: ANC, BRW, FAI, JNU, KTN, LAS, LAX, OAK, OKC, OME, OTZ, PHX, SAN, SCC, SFO, SIT, SNA, YXX

Southwest: ABQ, BUR, DEN, LAS, LAX, OAK, ONT, PHX, SAN, SLC, and SMF

Alaska Airlines Memorial

AMFA Attends Alaska Airlines Flight 261 Memorial

By: Timothy Cullen, Local 14 Airline Representative

January 31, 2010, marked the tenth anniversary of the crash of Alaska Airlines Flight 261 off the coast of California. A beachside memorial service was held in Port Hueneme, at the Flight 261 Sundial Memorial Monument. I was honored to attend with John Pollom, Local 14 Safety and Standards Chairman, and Dave Bole, Safety and Standards Coordinator, as representatives of the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association.

The memorial was sponsored by the Families of Alaska Airlines Flight 261, and began with a bagpipe procession to the Sundial Memorial Monument at Port Hueneme Beach Park. The monument is a working sundial segmented at its base by 88 bronze plaques bearing the name and birth date of each of the 88 passengers and crew who perished that day. The sundial is calibrated to highlight a bronze heart at the time of the accident, January 31 at 4:22PM.



The memorial continued with several speakers relaying their personal experiences on how they have learned to cope and live with the tragedy. A rose ceremony began with each of the names of the deceased being individually read, a bell sounding, then a family member coming forward to receive a rose to place on that individual's plaque. At 4:22PM there was a moment of silence followed by the flyby of a United States Coast Guard HH365 Dolphin helicopter. The helicopter then departed to the crash site, and dropped 88 roses over the crash site. The memorial ended with a bagpipe procession to the water, where 88 white balloons were released.

The event certainly reminds many of us of one of the most painful and difficult times in our careers. For those who have not read the NTSB report on the accident, I would encourage you to do so. There is much hype and speculation on the accident, and to this day we still see the media routinely pin responsibility on the "mechanic." I would like to encourage everyone to take a moment to remember this event, to remember that these were 88 people: mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, children, grandchildren, family, loved ones, friends, and coworkers.

With that, let's also take this opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to safety and our objectives as stated in our Constitution: *To safeguard with ceaseless vigilance, the safety of the air transportation industry in recognition of the high degree of public interest, confidence, and responsibility placed on the members of the Association and network with other people and organizations with similar interests and goals.*

Although our jobs may seem mundane and routine at times, the same old service check or routine task card, we must remember complacency is the enemy. Every time we touch that aircraft or aircraft component is an opportunity to make a difference.

In closing, we will never forget the people, the day, the commitment.

ASAP Concerns

AMFA Engages the FAA Over ASAP Concerns at Alaska Airlines

By: Timothy Cullen, Local 14 Airline Representative

On January 7, 2010, a coalition of representatives from Local 14, Local 32, and AMFA National met with representatives of the FAA's Seattle Certificate Management Office (CMO) to discuss concerns regarding the Alaska Airlines ASAP program. These concerns were a result of several recently excluded ASAP events that appeared to be a deviation from the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). These events significantly threatened the integrity of the program, which is paramount to its success. The FAA explained that much of the perceived changes to the program resulted from a directive to follow a legal definition of the term "inadvertent" as defined by the Ferguson v. NTSB case. We are continuing to follow up on this interpretation as we do not believe this case or definition should be applied to our program.



In photo from left to right: Timothy Cullen, Local 14 ALR; David Tarshis, Local 14 ACC; Mark James, Local 32 Safety & Standards Coordinator; Tim Bennett, FAA PMI; Earl Clark, AMFA Region I Director; Max Tidwell, FAA CMO Manager; Fred Digne, National Safety & Standards Director; Jim Dodge, FAA PMI; Mark Dahl, Local 32 ALR, Roger Nicely, FAA Program Manager; John Pollom, Local 14 Safety & Standards Chairman; Mike Althaus, FAA PAI; and Jason Munson, Local 14 ACC.

Additionally, we had concerns regarding changes to the Alaska Airlines Maintenance program as a result of recommendations by the ASAP Committee, some of which appeared to be inducing more problems than they remedied by over-complicating otherwise simple processes. We also discussed the Letter of Investigation (LOI) process, and came away with some interesting information. Prior to the conclusion of an investigation, we can discuss the possible repercussions of a certificate action with the FAA, and these possible repercussions can then be considered into the final outcome. Additionally, it was stated that the FAA considers the filing of an ASAP report, even if excluded, a show of cooperation in an investigation, and claim that it has a mitigating effect on the final outcome of an LOI.

The meeting maintained a positive, proactive tone, that has set the stage for future meetings. I believe it is vital that we stay engaged with the FAA, and make our presence known on both a local and national level.

From the Digital Wrench



Please email interesting photos of members on the job to: Steven.Nowak@amfanatl.org