



## **AIRCRAFT MECHANICS FRATERNAL ASSOCIATION**

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December 24, 2007

Dear AMFA Members:

Happy Holidays and best wishes to each of you and your families for a prosperous and healthy New Year.

This time of year provides us with the opportunity to pause and reflect on the previous year and what it has brought. Too often we tend to focus on the negative and less on the positive. I encourage you to take a few moments to reflect on all that is good in your life. While our profession and country in general face significant challenges, it is also important to remember just how truly blessed we are to live in such a great and prosperous country.

AMFA represents Mechanics and Related workers at seven carriers. We continue to achieve positive gains in spite of the current environment. The MSAP/ASAP safety awareness programs are a case in point. We affiliated with the Aircraft Engineers International (AEI), an important organization that provides insight and solidarity to our craft and class around the world. The Association is also concentrating on contract negotiations taking place with United Airlines for the SAMC controllers and planners as well as with Alaska Airlines and Southwest Airlines for our mechanic and related groups.

One of the unfortunate developments this past year was the reoccurring health challenges of our National Director, O.V. Delle-Femine (Dell). I have taken over Dell's duties while he addresses a couple of health complications that surfaced earlier this year. Overall, Dell's health is good and he appears to be on track for a full recovery. I expect him to complete his recuperation in the coming months; until then, I will continue to perform the duties and responsibilities of the National Director.

Some would say I should be bitter and resentful over sacrificing my 25-year career at Northwest Airlines as a result of our strike to try to save the jobs of thousands. And at times, I admit that the weight of that reality does bear heavy upon my mind. However, I never second-guess the membership's decision to strike NWA in an attempt to stop them from eliminating whole classes of employees. To stew over the outcome is counterproductive and does nothing to move us forward. We fought for a just and honorable reason and if presented again with a contract that forced the elimination of 53% of our jobs, I would stand and fight along side my co-workers.

Finally, we have a possible representation election coming up for our United Airlines members with the recent National Mediation Board (NMB) filing by the IBT (Teamsters). While some consider an election a threat to AMFA's members and cause for concern, I prefer to characterize it as an opportunity to compare and contrast AMFA's history, accomplishments, and democratic structure to a labor organization that has a long history of corruption and bureaucratic functioning.

AMFA is a union focused on the specific issues of our industry and profession. That focus gives us strength that the IBT and other industrial-type unions cannot match. When members compare both organizations, side by side, I am confident that AMFA will be the preferred choice. We have the best

record and a constitution that provides our members with democratic control of their union and leaders.

I look forward to seeing you and talking with you in the coming year as we work together to reinforce our place in the industry and in growing our Association as more mechanics and related seek to join us in our fight to keep good middle-class jobs in America for us and future generations.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve MacFarlane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Steve MacFarlane  
Acting National Director