



# An Update from the DP3 Chairman

September 29, 2008

## Our Mission Statement

**To work to preserve the earned pensions, health insurance and other benefits paid by Delta Air Lines to retired Delta pilots, their dependents and survivors.**

**Dear Roger,**

I am currently the acting chairman of DP3 and will serve in this capacity until our October Trustee meeting at which time a new permanent chairman will be elected.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our past chairman, Jim Gray, for his years of dedicated service to the retired Delta pilots.

I am writing today to ask for your assistance to help apply outside pressure on Delta Air Lines to honor the service of their dedicated, retired pilots by improving the pension benefits we are currently receiving from the PBGC.

As most of you know, DP3 has recently written two letters to the Delta CEO Richard Anderson, and recently published "open letters" in two major newspapers, the Atlanta Journal and Constitution and Roll Call (a Washington D.C. newspaper for members of Congress and government agencies such as the DOJ.) These letters discussed the proposed Delta/ Northwest airline mergers and the fact that Delta will now assume responsibility for the under funded pension obligations of all Northwest employees, including the Northwest pilots. Once the merger is consummated all Delta and Northwest employees will be covered by pension plans, funded by Delta, with the exception of the retired Delta pilots. You can read the text of the two advertisements on our web site [www.DP3.org](http://www.DP3.org), or by clicking these direct links:

<http://www.dp3.org/data/AJC%20AD.pdf>

<http://www.dp3.org/data/rollcall20080918deltaQtr3.pdf> .

Delta Air Lines has thus far refused to do the right thing and make any improvements to our pension funding. The Department of Justice must approve the proposed merger before it can be finalized, and we are asking all retired pilots, including their friends and family members, to write letters to the DOJ asking them to require Delta to reinstate the lost pension benefits of the retired Delta pilots as a pre-condition for granting approval to Delta's merger request.

You and your friends can easily prepare and send the appropriate messages utilizing the DALRC CAPWIZ system as described later in this letter, or by writing the DOJ directly at either of these email addresses: [antitrust.complaints@usdoj.gov](mailto:antitrust.complaints@usdoj.gov) or [antitrust.atr@usdoj.gov](mailto:antitrust.atr@usdoj.gov).

Click on a link above and then compose a short message to the DOJ explaining that you are a retired Delta pilot who has suffered pension losses as a result of the termination of your Delta pension plan during Delta's bankruptcy proceedings. To make things easy you can cut and paste from this sample letter:

*"I am a retired Delta pilot (or friend or relative of a retired Delta pilot) who has suffered significant pension losses as a result of the termination of my Delta defined benefit pension plan during Delta's bankruptcy proceedings.*

*Under similar proceedings in the same bankruptcy court, Northwest Airlines maintained its pension obligations to both its retired and active employees.*

*The Northwest commitment to its employees will now become the financial obligation of Delta Air Lines following the merger, while Delta's own retired pilots continue to suffer financial hardships due to the termination of their pension plan. It is also important to note that the pensions of all Delta employees, including the Delta executives, but with the exception of the pilots survived the Delta bankruptcy.*

*I respectfully ask that the Department of Justice require Delta to make whole the lost pension benefits of the retired Delta pilots as a condition of receiving federal approval of their merger request with Northwest Airlines."*

You should also send a similar letter to your elected representatives, especially those of you living in Georgia where both senators wrote letters during the USAIR hostile takeover attempt of Delta Airlines telling USAIR that rather than pursuing a merger with Delta, they should use the available money to restore the terminated pension plans of the USAIR employees.

Our friends at the DALRC have generously agreed to let DP3 members utilize their CAPWIZ capability to send messages to your Senators, Representatives and the Antitrust division of the DOJ using the Action Alert system. To send a letter to your elected representatives in the House and Senate, click this link: <http://capwiz.com/dalrc/issues/alert/?alertid=11986746&type=CO> . If you want the same message to be simultaneously sent to the Antitrust division of the DOJ, click this link: <http://capwiz.com/dalrc/issues/alert/?alertid=11986921&type=ML> . The Action Alerts default to the suggested letter above; alternatively you can delete the text and replace it with your own, or you can simply add your own comments to the suggested text. Please note that the Action Alert system uses your zip code to direct delivery only to the elected representatives of your state and district, since most representatives will only accept mail from their own constituents. We send our thanks to the DALRC for offering their support in this grassroots effort to improve the pension benefits of the retired Delta pilots.

Please help the DP3 Trustees help you, by following through today with these important messages to the decision makers in Washington. Don't assume others will carry the load. Because of the small size of our group it is also important for you to share this information with your friends and family members so that we can increase our influence. Time is of the essence, as the DOJ decision on the merger is expected very soon.

You can also help the DP3 Trustees by using our web site comment page [contactus@dp3.org](mailto:contactus@dp3.org) to let us know how we are doing, what you think we should be doing, and any other input you think may help us do our jobs and guide our efforts to fulfill our mission statement.

Looking forward, our next Trustee meeting is in mid October. After the merger, our next major concern will be possible challenges to the PBGC final benefits when they are provided to us sometime next year, a legal effort which will likely mirror the action the USAir Soaring Eagles are taking now. Let us know if there are other avenues you would like us to pursue in support of our mission statement.

If you are not currently an Honor Roll member of DP3, please consider upgrading your status so that we will have the funds necessary to continue this fight on your behalf. If you have never joined DP3, please consider joining now, keeping in mind that you must have legal representation in order to object to your final benefit assignments when they are issued by the PBGC sometime next year. While you can certainly retain your own counsel to object to your benefits, it will likely be much more cost effective to utilize the group representation provided by the DP3 attorneys. Finally, if you do not wish to join DP3, please at least consider supporting your fellow retired pilots by making a simple donation to offset the costs of placing our recent open letters in the newspapers.

To send a contribution, please make your check out to DP3 and send it to PO Box 76362, Atlanta, GA 30358.

We appreciate your continued support and will continue to work hard on your behalf.

## **BREAKING NEWS**

PS. As this letter was being prepared, DP3 Trustee Wendell Lewis, along with several other retired Delta pilots, attended the Delta Shareholder Meeting on Thursday, September 25. Wendell submitted the following report after the meeting:

*"Below is the text of the statement I presented at the shareholder meeting today. After presenting the statement I waited for a comment from Mr. Anderson or Chairman of the Board of Directors Mr. Carp, and neither had a comment. Cathy Cone (DALRC Chair) expressed concern about the security of the pensions of other employees and offered support for the retired pilots. Retired Captain Denis Waldron made reference to the corporate golden parachutes and payouts. Mr. Anderson did make a reference that the pensions had been terminated and nothing could be done. I got up a second time and stated that according to Senators Isakson and Chambliss they had 30 years to fund the plan after a reinstatement. Mr. Anderson stated that the issue was closed. Following the meeting, I did get to give the statement to the Atlanta Journal and Constitution (AJC) newspaper, the Atlanta Business Chronicle, and a card to the Associated Press reporter. WSB TV Channel 2 did a short interview and the AJC is including part of the statement in an article."*

### SHAREHOLDER MEETING STATEMENT

*"My name is Wendell Lewis; I am a retired Delta Pilot retiring in December 2004 I am a Trustee for Delta Pilots Pension Preservation Organization. I am speaking on behalf of our members and retired Delta pilots.*

*This proposed merger means that Delta will be assuming the pensions of all Northwest employees including pilots and retired pilots. Only the retired Delta pilots will receive no benefit from the merger and will in fact be the only group that lost their pensions during the bankruptcies of Delta and Northwest. Delta will be funding the retirement of Northwest pilots and retired pilots and will not pay their own retired pilots.*

*Our pensions have been turned over to the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation and the benefits for years of service have been drastically reduced. Many of the retired Delta pilots are receiving no pension or pensions that are a fraction of what was promised. I am but one example of those payments; I receive \$34.72 monthly from the PBGC for my pension.*

*Georgia Senators Isakson, Chambliss, and three other Senators stated in January 2007, that if USAir had the resources to merge with Delta then the PBGC should require them to reinstate the pensions of the USAir employees. We feel that that same logic should apply to the merger between Delta and Northwest.*

*This merger will provide each of 700 managers an equity stake of \$320,000.  
This merger will provide each Delta pilot an equity stake of \$32,000.  
This merger will provide each Northwest pilot with an equity stake of \$26,000.  
The merger will provide all employees with an equity stake in the airline.  
The total equity stake is approximately \$929 million dollars, almost \$1 Billion dollars.  
The merger will provide the average Delta pilot retiree with NOTHING.*

*This is simply not right. We are talking about a bunch of old pilots trying to live out their retirement. It is like kicking your aging parents out of their home, selling it, and using the money to buy more for yourself.*

*DP3 has sent requests to Mr. Anderson to consider either supplemental payments to the PBGC on behalf of the retired Delta pilots or reinstating the pension plan. The company could utilize up to 30 years to make payments to the plan as stated by Senators Isakson and Chambliss in their 2007 letter. Contrary to a response from Mr. Kight, Vice President of Benefits, this is an available option.*

*Last year of the top twenty executives in Georgia, six were Delta managers, with a salary of \$60 million. Mr. Kight stated that a \$70 million dollar contribution to the Delta Disability & Survivorship fund was a small amount for a company with \$35 Billion in revenue. Either of these amounts would have easily funded the retired pilots' pensions.*

*On behalf of all retired Delta pilots, I would like to appeal to the Board of Directors and shareholders for a fair and equitable treatment for the retired Delta pilots. We stand ready to work out a solution. It can be done, it should be done. Thank you."*

See this article in the AJC for a report on the meeting:

[http://www.ajc.com/business/content/business/delta/stories/2008/09/25/delta\\_shareholder\\_vote.html](http://www.ajc.com/business/content/business/delta/stories/2008/09/25/delta_shareholder_vote.html)

Sincerely,

Jim Bomar  
Acting Chairman, DP3

Trustees Will Buergey, Wendell Lewis, John Mills, Jeff Pickett, Roger Ross, Tom Seever, and Bill Wirth