



DP3 Update from the New Chairman

October 22, 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,

This past week the trustees of DP3 held a regular meeting in Atlanta. During this meeting we elected new officers and filled a vacant trustee position.

It is my honor and privilege to serve as the new DP3 Chairman, filling the position vacated when Jim Gray resigned from office. I would like to thank Jim for his dedicated service to the retired Delta pilots and also to Jim Bomar who filled in as acting chairman until new DP3 officers could be elected. Jim Bomar will continue to serve as a trustee while Jim Gray's talents will be missed as he enjoys his well earned retirement from DP3 duties.

The other newly elected DP3 officer was Wendell Lewis who was elected Vice Chairman, while Bill Wirth and Roger Ross were re-elected to serve as Treasurer and Secretary.

Following Jim Gray's resignation from the DP3 board we also had a vacant trustee position to fill. In accordance with the DP3 Bylaws, the remaining trustees are tasked with filling any vacancies that occur outside of a normal election cycle. During the last DP3 trustee elections, Bill Caiazza was the candidate who received the highest number of votes, who was not elected to the board. Based on the fact that Bill had run for trustee and was known and respected by many of the current trustees, we unanimously elected Bill to fill the vacant trustee position. We are pleased to announce that Bill has accepted his appointment to the board. Bill is a graduate of the Naval Academy who retired from Delta in September 2003 as a MD11 captain. During his Delta career Bill served as a check airman on numerous aircraft types and also served for four years as the MEC Professional Standards Committee Chairman.

For those of you who do not know me, I have a long history of ALPA service and have filled many elected positions both at Delta and as a representative to our global pilot alliances. Prior to my retirement from Delta in September 2004 as a B777 captain, I served as Delta MEC Chairman and as Chairman of the SkyTeam Pilot Alliance. I also have an extensive background in the creation of non-traditional communication tools such as the Pilot to Pilot program and Family Awareness.

As the new DP3 Chairman I will place a heightened emphasis on improved communications with both our members and with other retiree groups such as the

retired United and USAIR pilots. Both of those airlines have gone through similar bankruptcy trials as the Delta pilots, and because they are a couple of years ahead of us in the bankruptcy and termination processes, there is much we can learn from them that will help us anticipate future events.

When it comes to internal communications I believe that more is better than less. Hopefully you have already had the opportunity to complete the questionnaire that was recently distributed to our members and will soon be made available to all retired Delta pilots. This questionnaire allows us to learn more about you, how the bankruptcy and pension termination has impacted you, and how we can better represent your interests.

Your responses to the questionnaire will also provide the DP3 trustees with an opportunity to understand the pension issues you are not familiar with, and allow us to provide the information you need to make better informed decisions.

During the process of distributing that questionnaire we discovered that some of you have either intentionally or inadvertently reported our DP3 communications as SPAM, opted out of the email system, or unsubscribed from it. If you took any of those steps but want to return to our mailing list, you must ask to do so - we cannot return you to the list manually. To get back on the list, or get on the mailing list without joining DP3, click the new "**Sign Up for Email Updates**" link on our web site home page, and complete the update process with Constant Contact. We also discovered that many of our email addresses were invalid, probably because you have not kept us updated with changes. Please send us your new email addresses when they change.

In order for you to continue receiving important updates from DP3, our mail service has added a "permission reminder" to the top of our emails - please select **confirm** at the beginning of this message to mark your email address as valid and that you wish to continue to receive DP3 email. Additionally, you can add our bulk email service provider (Constant Contact) to your address book so that our messages are not automatically blocked by your SPAM filters by adding these two domains to your address book as approved senders: **@in.constantcontact.com** and **@in.confirmedcc.com**. These email policy changes, including an "opt-in" check box on our contact form, have been made to align us with standard email business protocols used by Constant Contact.

One of my first initiatives as the new DP3 chairman was to obtain board approval to establish committees to help us represent you more effectively. The initial DP3 committees will be: Legislative Affairs chaired by Wendell Lewis, Strategic Planning chaired by John Mills, Retirement and Benefits chaired by Tom Seever, and Communications chaired by Roger Ross who also serves as our information technology expert. We are now looking for volunteers to staff the committees. If you are willing to help out please let us know.

Most of you are probably not aware of the tremendous amount of time and energy the DP3 trustees spend in representing your interests. We are happy to provide this service to our fellow pilots, but it is time to ask you for additional support. In return for the time we invest in protecting your benefits, I ask you to do three things to help us better represent you:

1. Check the list of Honor Roll members at our website: DP3.org. If you notice that

some of your retired friends are not on the HR list, please contact them and encourage them to join DP3. Delta has never provided us with a list of retired pilots and we need the support of all retired pilots if we are to be successful in our future efforts. **We are asking every current DP3 member to help us recruit another member.** This will not only ensure that most pilots are protected if we must challenge the PBGC final benefit determinations when they are issued, but will help spread the associated legal expenses among more contributors. It is important for everyone to realize that when the PBGC issues its final benefit letters, retired pilots will only have 45 days to appeal those decisions. We have been preparing our legal arguments against the methods employed when Delta, and then the PBGC, initially computed our benefits, but we will only be allowed to represent DP3 members during the appeals process. For retired pilots who have never supported DP3 in the past, it might be easier to spread the past assessments totaling \$1000 over several payments. We can arrange a payment plan for those of you who prefer to make up these past assessments in smaller increments. If you have made contributions to DP3 but are not listed on the Honor Roll, we can also tell you how much our records indicate you owe to become a fully paid member.

2. For those of you who forwarded letters to DP3 during the Delta bankruptcy withdrawing your authorization for DP3 to represent you in legal proceedings, those letters have been attached to your original DP3 membership form. If you now desire that we represent you in future legal proceedings, please submit a short note advising DP3 to disregard your previous withdrawal of representation.

3. Over the past few months DP3 has been engaged in a grassroots effort to force Delta to restore our pension benefits as a condition of federal government approval of the Delta/ Northwest merger. In addition to newspaper advertisements announcing this effort, we have partnered with the DALRC (Delta retiree group representing all Delta retirees) to use their automated system to contact members of congress. When you go to the CAPWIZ website all you need to do is accept or modify the prepared letter and enter your name, address and zip code. The system then automatically generates messages to the Justice Department and all of your elected representatives asking them to force Delta to restore the Delta pilot pensions as part of the merger approval process. For those of you who do not already realize this, following the merger Delta will pay the pension benefits (including non-qualified benefits) of all active and retired Northwest pilots, while ignoring those pilots who provided decades of dedicated service to Delta Air Lines! I know we are a proud group and sometimes that pride prevents us from reaching out to others for assistance. Don't let that be the case in what may be our last opportunity to restore our terminated benefits. After I emailed my own automated letter to congress, I forwarded the link to my wife who then forwarded it to everyone in her personal address book. Within days my wife and her friends had generated over a hundred messages to congress. We are a relatively small block of voters, but by banding together with our friends and relatives we can create a much greater impact on the political process. Here is the link to the automated congressional alert system: <http://capwiz.com/dalrc/issues/alert/?alertid=11986921>.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and more importantly, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Will Buergey
Chairman, DP3

DP3 | P.O. Box 76362 | Atlanta | GA | 30358