



Feb./Mar./Apr. 2024

Potomac Air Lodge 1976

Potomac News & Views

Volume 70 – Issue 33



The President's Soap Box

GREETINGS, ALL,
Hopefully everyone had a joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year. This should be another great year here in PIT, with additional hiring in multiple classifications. I ask that all our veteran members continue welcoming our new

Brothers and Sisters and helping them as needed.

We would like to encourage our new members to attend our Local Lodge union meetings and consider stepping into any available union positions you might be interested in serving. This year marks the 25th anniversary of our Local Lodge Hall. Come on over and check it out.

Sincerely, Howard Ferguson, *President, LL 1976*

Greetings All ...

IT IS MID-JANUARY 2024 as I write this article. I have been selected to be on the Negotiation Committee for the next round of negotiations. We will begin meetings with the AA in September, if not earlier. I want to assure all that I do not take this responsibility lightly. I will do my best to represent not only the members at PIT but all Association members throughout the system.

As of today we still have many disagreements with AA about intent of contract language. The norm with AA seems to be to deny and push grievances to arbitration. This is a long process that leaves issues to linger and effects the morale in the work place. The Association has prevailed in two that were advanced to arbitrations. Just prior to two additional grievances entering arbitration, the company approached the union and settled the issues. We prevailed due to the dedication and persistence of the membership and Union Representatives.

Many of us know that negotiations can be a very long and frustrating process. It will be important to communicate to our newer members the process we must follow per the Railway Labor Act.

We know the importance of standing together and supporting the Association. For us to achieve an industry leading contract, all will need to participate, show up to meetings, squash rumors. We as a group may have our differences of opinion, but infighting on the floor, in front of management, is not the place to show it. Have your discussions with each other, but always have each other's backs.

Please utilize your Union Reps, LL1976 website and ATD142 website as sources for information.

I am committed to doing my best, on your behalf, throughout the negotiation process. I ask all to stand together and support your Negotiators until a new contract is ratified.

In Solidarity, Mark Ball, *Grievance Committee Chairman, LL 1976*

Flight Safety Report for January 2024

HERE ARE SOME recent findings to watch out for during routine maintenance on the Aircraft. These are issues that we are working on at this time to correct the paperwork and associated procedures that pertain to the tasks accomplished here in PIT Base ...

- 1.) Be aware when tagging the breakers out on an engine change or fuel filter replacement, at the end of the breaker list is a separate block to leave Eng #1 and Eng #2 HP Fuel SOV, (A01) and (A02) circuit breakers in. Pulling them out has caused gallons of fuel to dump.
- 2.) Checking H Dimension: After servicing we need to create a deferral to accomplish a one time check between 5-10 Flight Cycles after the first subsequent flight. This has to be accomplished after the H Dimension check is completed.
- 3.) When installing the FWD and AFT cargo door seals

make sure you install the door seal correctly. The holes must be inward so when the door is closed the pressure forces the seal outward to fill any gaps in the door. Make sure you use the AMM Reference in the job card to help you orient the seal to the door. Improperly installed seals have resulted in a "Return to Field."

- 4.) When accomplishing a borescope inspection insure the borescope plugs are reinstalled and torqued per the paperwork. We have had a few issues in the system that the plugs were either left out or fell out that have burned holes directly through the cowl.
- 5.) We are having issues system wide with Tie Bolts breaking and destroying the brake fans. When accomplishing any Maintenance check on the A/C make sure you put eyes on those wheel bolts to ensure none are missing. Stay safe.

Jim Puhalla, *LL 1976 Flight Safety*

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY
Potomac Air Lodge 1976
IAM/AW

Local Lodge Directory

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Howard Ferguson	President
Ken Goddard	Vice President
Steve Mader	Recording Secretary
Randy Powell	Secretary-Treasurer
Richard Keller	Trustee
Tom Perkins	Trustee
Leo Rubino	Trustee
Gary Dyer	Conductor Sentinel

Union Label

Brian Lewis 412-216-4876

Medical Benefits

Vacant 412-538-4353

Education

Steve Mader	Shift 1	412-538-4353
Garry Jacobs	Shift 1	724-480-2244

Auditors

Mike Lewandowski
 Jim Onuska
 Lenny Pushinsky

Employee Assistance Program

IAM & AW - AA System

Paul Shultz	District	704-907-3563
Robert Rodriguez	Local	724-315-7234

Member Services

Richard Keller	Shift 1	412-538-4353
Pete Wojtechko	Shift 2	724-738-3227
Joe English	Shift 3	412-848-0106
Fred Bosh	(Retirees)	412-833-6276

Grievance Committee

Mark Ball, Chairman	412-538-4353
Ernie Fritz	412-538-4352
Dennis Tkacs	412-538-4350
Union Office Fax	412-538-4359

Legislative Committee

Dennis Tkacs, Chairman	412-538-4350
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Community Services

Steve Gallagher, Coordinator	412-538-4353
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Workman's Comp

Rick Palaschak	412-551-8519
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DL 142 General Chair

Ken Coley

DL 142 Ground Safety

Brian Szolodko, Director	407-825-6370
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DL 142 Ground Safety Rep

Tom Perkins	412-779-6195
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Ground Safety Committee

Vacant	Shift 1	412-538-4353
Dan Gibson, Chairman	Shift 2	412-630-7868
Robert Hribal	Shift 3	412-538-4353
Ben Kachmar (Alternate)		412-398-6359

DL 142 Flight Safety

John Hall, Director	704-907-2162
Mark Ball	412-538-4353

L/L Flight Safety

Garry Jacobs	412-480-2244
Jim Puhalla	412-551-3948

Potomac News & Views / Web

Richard Keller	PNV Editor	412-538-4353
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Passed Away

Name	Position	Department	Relation	Date
Larry Snodgrass	Retired Mechanic	Base	Wife	Oct 19
Gary Woodman	Retired Instructor	Base	Self	Nov 14
Jeff Maher	Mechanic	Base	Mother-in-Law	Nov 22
Vince Trombetta	Deceased Mechanic	Base	Wife	Nov 24
Michael Swaney	Mechanic	Base	Self	Dec 01
Dan Savilisky	Mechanic	Base	Mother	Dec 17
Robert Beaumont	Retired Mechanic	Base	Self	Dec 20
William Charles Sr	Mechanic	GSE	Father	Dec 21
John Novak	Stock Clerk	Stores	Mother	Dec 22
Paul Pindilli	Mechanic	Base	Mother	Dec 24
Keith Mason	Mechanic	Base	Mother-in-Law	Dec 24
Michael Morra	Mechanic	GSE	Mother	Jan 03
Dan Wicklund	Stock Clerk	Stores	Brother-in-Law	Jan 04
Tammy Cuthbert	Inspector	Inspection	Mother	Jan 05
Greg Cuthbert	Retired Mechanic	Base	Mother-in-Law	Jan 05
Iver John Stenberg	Retired Mechanic	Base	Self	Jan 18
Brandon Warren	Mechanic	Base	Grandmother	Jan 19

Please accept our condolences on the loss of your loved ones.

Mark Capra recently retired with 40 years of dedicated service.
Congratulations Mark and enjoy your retirement!



Mark receiving his I.A.M. watch and IAMAW Retirement certificate from Local Lodge Vice President Ken Goddard

2024 LL 1976 Scholarship Competition

Announcing our annual college scholarship essay contest with a prize of \$1,000.00. Available to eligible dependents of members in good standing for a minimum of one year. The subject of this year's essay is: ***"How are Unions working to improve the Workplace?"*** Essays will be accepted between February 1st and midnight April 30th. Entry forms will be available from the union office or can be downloaded from our local lodge website at: www.pal1976.com

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

LET ME BE THE FIRST to say - Welcome New Hires! There was a question recently asked by some of our new hires, having never been in a Union previously, just what the Railroad Labor Act (RLA) is that we work under.

To begin with, let me define what the Railroad Labor Act is and how it pertains to the airline industry. History: The RLA was enacted in 1926 as the joint work product of rail labor and management. It was amended slightly in 1934 and 1966, and expanded to include airlines in 1936. The RLA is administered by the National Mediation Board ("NMB") an independent Federal agency.

Second, Airlines vs. Railroad Bargaining: While the airline and railroad industries are subject to the same statutory procedures, collective bargaining in the two industries differs. Individual airlines and their employees typically negotiate comprehensive bargaining agreements for a definitive period; if a class or craft of employees is represented by a union, that union represents all employees of the carrier. Some general union chairman on carriers may elect to negotiate directly with the carrier

rather than to grant the national officers the authority to bargain for them in national negotiations.

We, as the TWU/IAM, select a bargaining committee with a lead negotiator who is a General Chair. During negotiations there are discussions to the Union Contract of changes to rate of pay, work rules or working conditions during what is called - Section 6 Openers, normally.

What is a Union? Unions are workplaces that decide on company policy together while nonunion are workplaces where the company decides on company policy. With unions, there is a higher level of job security, meaning that an employer can let go of an employee only if there is sound or just reason to do so. Having a union job allows a union employee to express themselves more freely because they know their employers cannot let go of them easily. But in nonunion companies employers hire their employees "at will" which means that employers can dismiss them for any reason. There are some expectations to this, such as laying off someone for discriminatory reasons, but other than that, employers can let go of nonunion members for almost any reason.

In Solidarity, Dennis Tkacs, Legislative Committee Chairman, LL1976

Retiree Club Chairman

ONE THING FOR SURE is that we missed out on the severe snow storms like the one that hit the Buffalo area for the Steeler's/Bill's game. What a mess. Find your seat and don't forget your snow shovel.

Well, I hope everyone made it past all the confusion during the Medicare insurance sign up period back in December. I noticed that even after the deadline date of December 15th for people that were eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid could sign up for special policies from certain companies.

I wonder if you all got to read the note that Jack sent out to our Retirees about the increase in manpower for PIT Base. This year, the base expects to have more that 320 Aviation Maintenance (AMTs), aka mechanics, meaning that number nearly doubles its staffing level from August 2022. That's not counting support staff, such as Inspectors and Aircraft Cleaners, who work at the facility as well. Starting annual salaries range from

\$50,000 to \$55,000 Experienced mechanics can easily make six figures. In all, the Maintenance Base expects to add more than 200 jobs between this year and next, with the base supporting approximately 600 jobs in total.

These staffing additions have made Pittsburgh the second largest maintenance base in American's entire network, only second to Tulsa. PIT has been designated an "Airbus Center of Excellence" for its expertise. Hangar 5 will house 3 aircraft at a time, 2 of which are for C-checks.

I can remember, as most of you reading this article, a ways back when PIT Line mechanics were changing a airbus engine and have it on the gate by morning. Airbus Reps came to town to see how this was done. They went back to say it was happening in PIT, a great crew of dedicated mechanics doing it right. It's nice to look back and see that a great tradition is still being carried on. Nice job all.

Fraternally, Bill Hollowood, Chairman, Retiree Club

ANNUAL RETIREE ADDRESS CHANGE AND/OR UPDATE FORM

----- Please Print -----

Date _____

Name (First, MI, Last) _____

Street _____

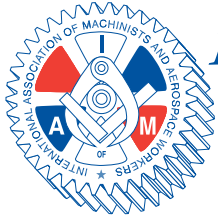
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Employee Number _____ -OR- Last 4 Digits Of SS # _____

Is this a change of address? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Mail form to — Attention: Randy Powell, Potomac Air Lodge Local 1976, 228 Moon Clinton Rd., Moon Twp., PA 15108 or e-mail to: (sectres1976@comcast.net)

No phone calls please.



Potomac News & Views

Potomac Air Lodge 1976 IAM&AW
228 Moon Clinton Rd.
Coraopolis, PA 15108



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Also join us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/potomacairlodge1976



The IAM is among the nation's largest and most diverse industrial trade unions.
With nearly 600,000 members in aerospace, manufacturing, transportation,
shipbuilding, woodworking, electronics and the federal sector.



Innovations & Technology for the 21st Century



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Union Meeting Schedule

FEB	07	Daylight LL Meeting	3:15 PM
	21	Afternoon LL Meeting	11:15 PM
MAR	06	Daylight LL Meeting	3:15 PM
	13	Midnight LL Meeting	7:15 AM
APR	03	Daylight LL Meeting	3:15 PM
	17	Afternoon LL Meeting	11:15 PM

Retiree's Meetings 11:00 AM

FEB	MAR	APR
(No Meeting)	05	02

Pit Maintenance

BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULE

(Due to Vitalant Blood Banks reduced staffing, the time
has been adjusted to 5 AM - 10:00 PM)

Wednesday, Feb. 21st

Wednesday, Apr. 24th (2:30 PM - 7:30 PM)

Wednesday, June 19th

Wednesday, Aug. 28th

Wednesday, Nov. 13th

Located Hangar 3 - 3rd Floor - Rooms 319 and 322

Please donate if you can ... there is no substitute for blood.

Pension Fund Information ... Web Sites and Phone Numbers:

IAM NATIONAL PENSION FUND:

1-800-424-9608

FAX # 202-457-8653

Website: www.iamnpf.org

E-Mail: pensions@iamnpf.org

AMERICAN AIRLINES BENEFITS:

1-888-860-6178

E-Mail: <http://my.aa.com>

PBGC

1-800-400-7242

E-Mail: mypension@pbgc.gov

Plan Sponsor: US Airways

Case Number: 20357000 (Machinists)

Plan Termination Date: 1-10-2005

Nominations and Elections for the Convention of the Grand Lodge

In accordance with the IAM Constitution, nominations for the delegates for the 41st Convention of the Grand Lodge will take place at the regular Local Lodge meeting on April 3rd, 2024 at 3:15 P.M. and the elections will take place on May 1st, 2024 from 6 A.M. until 5:30 P.M.

Nominations must be made from the floor by a member in good standing. No member shall be nominated unless he/she is present or has given his/her consent in writing to the Recording Secretary.

Absentee ballots will be available for the election, as outlined in the Grand Lodge Constitution. Absentee ballot requests must be returned to the Recording Secretary in person or by U.S. Mail no later than 10 days prior to the election.

**Fraternally,
Stevenson B. Mader, Recording Secretary, LL 1976**



ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST

For Delegates to the 41st Convention of the Grand Lodge

Requests must be returned in person or by U.S. Mail to the Recording Secretary, not less than 10 days prior to the date of election, at the following address:

Stevenson B. Mader 228 Moon Clinton Rd., Moon Twp., PA 15108

- ☐ Reside more than 25 miles from polling place
- ☐ Confined because of illness, injury or Family Leave
- ☐ Active Member on Vacation
- ☐ Retiree more than 25 miles from residence on election day
- ☐ Members who are on official IAM business approved by the Local, District or Grand Lodge
- ☐ Members who are on employee travel assignment
- ☐ Members who are on Reserve Military Leave

_____ Please Print _____

Name _____

Address _____

Signature _____

*Election will be held May 1st, 2024 at Potomac Air Lodge 1976
228 Moon Clinton Road, Moon Township, PA 15108*