



**PRESIDENT'S DEPARTMENT  
AIR LINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION, INTERNATIONAL**

1625 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, NW □ WASHINGTON, DC 20036 □ 1-888-FLY-ALPA (1-888-359-2572)  
FAX 202-797-4007

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**A message from ALPA President Captain John Prater to the Simulator Technicians of Delta Airlines**

**Fellow Professional and Airline Employees:**

**The Air Line Pilots Association, International (ALPA) proudly represents over 53,000 airline pilots at 38 airlines in the United States and Canada. Since 1931 our mission has been to improve the safety and security of our shared industry, while representing pilots' interests through collective bargaining and recognized legal representation. We believe having a legally enforceable contract between our union and management that governs our working conditions, joint safety programs, retirement and healthcare benefits, seniority and job protection rights, wages, and other important provisions, creates a solid foundation for establishing and protecting our members. Just as important it establishes contractual rights and legal processes to resolve grievances that survive changes in supervisors, owners and corporate business plans.**

**A contract also creates stability between professional workers and their managers so that everyone knows the rules and expectations allowing us to focus on doing our jobs. The airlines and their workers face a very unstable environment of domestic and foreign competition along with ever increasing pressures to reduce employee costs. Outsourcing of airline employee jobs to other companies or subsidiaries has become all too common as a method to lower costs. Protecting our members from that threat is always a primary goal in our contracts.**

**Pilots, instructors and check airmen depend upon high fidelity simulators to train maneuvers and for emergencies to attain complete proficiency and leave training prepared to fly revenue trips. We depend upon the highly professional skills of simulator technicians to ensure that these complex machines perform perfectly in each situation from normal to extreme as will the real airplane. Just as pilots work 24/7 and 365 days a year so do you. The time and economic pressures placed on you when a simulator is broken is not much different than pilots and line mechanics face on the line when an airplane is broken.**

**As fellow airline employees we must work together with each other and with our managers to ensure a safe airline. As workers and professionals who have made the airlines our career, we have the right to expect the stability of a contract that covers our work. But there is only one way that you can have the contractual rights that our 53,000 members have obtained through collective bargaining. Many of your fellow simulator technicians have joined together to meet the National Mediation Board requirements for an election to organize and obtain those legal rights that you do not have as individual employees at will. Now it is up to you. I have worked alongside many elected leaders of the International Association of Machinists on issues that affect our industry ranging from safety and job protections, to protecting retirement and insurance benefits for their members.**

**As an airline pilot for the past 34 years, working for many of your current senior managers and CEO while they were at Continental, and as President of the world's largest Pilots Union, I strongly urge you to vote for Union Representation by casting your vote for the IAM.**

**John H. Prater, President**

