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Step Up and Make a Difference

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Delta MEC Scheduling Committee

I am an ALPA volunteer. Like every other pilot who has stepped up, I got involved because I saw a problem and believed I could fix it. I was interested in scheduling anyway, and I had some ideas on how to make the trips, schedules and quality of life better, not only for myself, but also for the rest of the pilot group.

I spoke to my Local Executive Council (LEC) representatives, shared my ideas and what I thought needed to change to improve our schedules. My reps liked my ideas and told me to contact the Master Executive Council (MEC) Scheduling Committee to pass along my ideas. The volunteers on the Scheduling Committee also liked my ideas and asked if I would be willing to work with the company to incorporate my suggested changes. A short time later, I began working with the company's crew planning department to implement enhancements to the monthly trip mix and bid package construction.

That was 17 years ago, and since that time I have worked on many different ALPA committees, all with the same goal of improving the lives of the Delta pilots. Do you have an area of expertise or special interest? That's all it takes to become an ALPA volunteer. Today we have over 600 fellow Delta pilots who have stepped up. Ask any of them *why* they do the work and the answer is always the same, they saw a problem, they knew they could make it better, and so they got involved.

The pilot profession doesn't always make volunteering for union work easy. While the Delta MEC is always looking for help in the committee ranks, we realize that not everyone is going to have the time to give to our union. If you don't have the time to volunteer, at least pass your ideas, thoughts and input along to your local council officers, or to the volunteers in the committees, such as Safety, Scheduling, Contract Administration or Government Affairs. Help make things better for *all of us* by getting involved.

I got involved because I wanted to improve our schedules. What do you want to see changed? Do we really need a whole new union to make those changes? How about changing from within? Speak up, write it down, email it, and talk about it with your fellow pilots. Our association is only as strong as the volunteers that are willing to get involved. Don't just sit on the sidelines; get involved and together we can make a difference.