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## *Transparent and Accountable to Membership*

The Air Line Pilots Association, and especially your Delta MEC understands the importance of transparency to the pilots it serves. We entrust the Association with our hard-earned cash, and not only expect the best results possible, but also require transparency and accountability. As pilots we are conditioned to expect more than just faint hope as a replacement for the facts about how our money is put to work.

Verifying trust by checking ALPA's books is easy. Just as any other collective bargaining agent, ALPA is bound by the reporting requirements of the United States Department Of Labor (DOL) in its enforcement of the 1959 *Labor-Management Reporting And Disclosure Act*, and ALPA's financial records are available to anyone in the form of the LM-2 report.

The current LM-2 format has been in effect since October 3, 2003, and it imposes stricter financial reporting standards for *unions* than for *corporations* in America. Anyone who claims that our union operates in the shadows ignores the facts. Here's a [LINK](#) to LM-2 reports; select "ALPA" from the abbreviations, and then select "international" as the union type. It's that easy, and the resulting fire hose of data makes compelling reading for insomniacs.

From the ALPA "members only" website, there is also an immediate link for pilots to check the latest report on the Major Contingency Fund, and consolidated financial reports are easy to find, whether in the e-library or in the resources section of the ALPA Finance page. The 2012 report, prepared by Grant Thornton LLP, is there for everyone to see, along with reports back to 2006.

In addition to ALPA's financial reporting at the National level, each and every quarter the Delta MEC Treasurer submits both a full accounting of Flight Pay Loss as well as a detailed *Treasurer's Report*. This information is readily available to the membership on the Delta MEC website <http://dal.alpa.org> under the Officers tab, and then selecting MEC Treasurer.

But transparency goes beyond just dollars and cents, and the Delta pilots deserve more than just accurate accounting. Just as important is the trust we place in our elected representatives, and their adherence to ALPA's constitution and by-laws, the Administrative Manual and the Delta MEC policy manual which are all derived from a decades-old and strictly followed democratic process.

ALPA operates as a representative democracy in the truest sense, and the will of the electorate is consistently reflected in the work of the elected pilot representatives that make up the Master Executive Council (MEC). ALPA is continually changing, and the impetus is often line pilot driven by local council resolution. The outcome of every Master Executive Council (MEC) resolution is duly recorded on the MEC Secretary's webpage; this is the best evidence that the direction and willpower of our Association flows directly from voting membership to elected representation.

Our Association operates from the bottom up in every imaginable way, and this borne out by the volunteers on the various committees, nearly 600 Delta pilots who trade their time and effort for a better professional life. Their commitment is contingent on their trust in the organization, and the understanding that their service does make a difference. Every MEC member, every MEC officer and every committee chair knows that he or she must keep faith with the volunteers, or no one worth having will show up for the heavy lifting.

Transparency and accountability are the foundation of trust, and trust is indispensable to effective leadership.