

The opportunity to Vote

(is that too much to ask?)

Well, here we are at the end of 2019. Four plus years after the LAA/LUS merger and the behind the scenes, back room deal that landed us in an Association that pretty much no one wanted. No one at LAA, anyway. AND NO ONE VOTED FOR!

The Railway Labor Act gives us the right, via the National Mediation Board, to petition the government to hold a representational election, whereby WE the membership determine what union will represent us. There has not been a representation election at LAA since 1945 when the TWU replaced the Airline Mechanics International Union.

Craft Union - vs - Industrial Union

Differing philosophies:

A craft union believes your value comes from your skill, knowledge, and responsibility. An Industrial union believes your strength is derived from your sheer numbers.

It can't be over-stated: Our Pilots have a craft union. Our Flight Attendants have a craft union. Across all the skilled trades: Electricians, Roofers, Plumbers, all have CRAFT UNIONS.

The IBT, (Teamsters), while not strictly a craft union represents United Mechanic and Related only. They are completely separate from Fleet Service. Ditto for Southwest and Alaska as well.

In contrast, Industrial Unions like the TWU and IAM lump everyone together in a "strength in numbers" ideology. That's fine for unskilled laborers. It does not work for skilled technicians who end up the minority.

Yes, there have been attempts in the past 2 decades to make this happen. Understand that it is no small task to collect 8 to 10 THOUSAND authorization cards. And though we have been successful in the past, for various reasons we have been denied a vote. A topic for another day, perhaps.

This is our only way out of the catastrophe that is the ASSociation. Others have been successful in calling for an election and replacing their union and we can be successful as well.

For those nay-sayers that tell us "*nothing will change, it'll be the same guys at the union hall*". Wrong. First off, the local is not the problem, and new people will get involved with a new union. The problem is and has always been the international union leadership.

Vote AMFA and we are rid of Sito Pantoja, John Samuelson, Alex Garcia, and all the other over-paid, unaccountable, UNELECTED Subway workers and Fleet Service Clerks that currently rule on high at the International.

What can you do? Sign a card? Yes, but more than just that. Educate yourself and get others to sign as well. We cannot have too many.

O.V. Delle Femine, the man credited for starting AMFA, had a dream of uniting all A&P Mechanics across the industry in one craft union. Let's get back to that mindset for the betterment of our profession.

NO VOTE, NO PEACE

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AMFA NOW!