



TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION LOCAL 555

REPRESENTING THE RAMP, OPERATIONS, PROVISIONING, AND FREIGHT AGENTS OF SOUTHWEST AIRLINES
TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA • AFL-CIO • AIR TRANSPORT DIVISION • TWU555.ORG
ESTABLISHED IN 1996 • 1341 W MOCKINGBIRD LN STE 1050E DALLAS TX 75247 • 1.800.595.7672

Brothers and Sisters,

In a few months we will turn the page on a new year. The blank pages of a new year provide opportunities for us to advance as individuals and as a Union family. The current contract becoming amendable is one such opportunity.

As we prepare for the negotiations, there are a few things you should know:

- Your Negotiating Committee is approaching these negotiations with extreme caution. We understand the uncertainties in the airline industry due to the Covid19 pandemic.
- The amendable date of the current contract is February 19, 2021. This means nothing changes until we reach an agreement with the company and it is ratified by the Membership.
- Training classes for the Negotiating Committee are tentatively scheduled for October.
- You will receive surveys throughout the negotiating process. This will allow you to communicate to us your priorities during the negotiations.

The Members of the Negotiating Committee applied for the position and were interviewed by the TWU 555 Executive Board. Four TWU 555 Members were selected to represent you.

MELVIN BAKER (LAS)

Greetings from Las Vegas,

My name is Melvin A. Baker, I am honored to be selected to the Negotiating Committee. I have been a Member of Local 555 since 2001 as a ramp agent in LAS. During the negotiations of our current CBA, I became more active at the station, explaining the process to the Membership. In 2016, I became an Alternate Representative for Ramp and Ops, handling Grievances, System Boards and Arbitrations. In 2018, I was selected to the Local's Election Committee serving the entire Membership. I look forward to our upcoming Contract Negotiations, to give our Members the best Contract possible.

ROBBIE GADD (STL)

Hello my fellow TWU 555 Brothers and Sisters, my name is Robbie Gadd and I am serving on your new Negotiating Committee. I am currently 35 years of age, married, and attended the University of Missouri before being hired at SWA. I have worked as a ramp agent for 13 years in both STL and PDX stations. During this time, I have held various positions within our Union, and take great pride in fighting for our Membership. I have served as an Alternate Ramp Representative in both STL and PDX, Elected Ramp Representative in PDX, and Alternate District Representative for District 8. I have also served as a board player on System Boards as well as testified and sat 2nd in multiple Arbitrations. I am a firm believer in the power of organized labor, and the good living that a strong Union can provide its Members. I am excited to meet new Members from across the system, and eager to listen to all of your ideas and input, so together we can reach an agreement that provides the greatest benefits for our Members.

JESUS GOMEZ (MCO)

Sisters and Brothers,

It is my absolute honor and privilege to serve the Membership on this committee. I have been with the company for 20 years. All in Orlando. I started on the ramp in 2000 and have been an operations agent since 2007. I have held positions for the Union as Ops Union Representative Alternate from 2013-2015 as well as elected Representative from 2015 to 2019. During my time as a Union Representative I handled my fair share of grievances, served as board player in system boards and participated in arbitrations. I believe our most important goal for these upcoming negotiations is to maintain the work rules, benefits and wages we have come to enjoy while also improving language on various articles that affect the Membership as a whole. I look forward to working with my fellow negotiating Brothers to deliver the best collective bargaining agreement for our local. I appreciate the hard work by all our Members and will work hard on your behalf. Stay Strong! Stay United! Be Blessed!

ED GREEN (MDW)

You work hard. As a Member of your Negotiating Committee, I would like to see that work rewarded. My SWA career began as an Appearance Tech at MDW in August of 2002. I moved to Operations in April 2005, and served as a Safety Representative at MDW for several years. I hold two degrees. I enjoy working with my hands and understand the enjoyment of seeing a project completed.

DAN AKINS - Economist

Dan Akins is a transportation economist with over thirty-five years of experience consulting in the commercial transportation industry. Dan specializes in financial and operational analysis, as well as labor contract costing and negotiations support. He has provided detailed demand and supply projections and economic impact analysis for a variety of interests and has been heavily involved in airline labor negotiations and contract valuations on behalf of dozens of organized labor groups. During his career Dan has been instrumental in evaluating changes to collective bargaining agreements for pilots, flight attendants, dispatchers, mechanics, ramp agents and other groups at virtually every large U.S. air carrier.

Recently Dan has taken his experience in the airline industry to evaluate the challenges facing the industry to train, attract and retain skilled workers.

Dan has testified as an expert witness on behalf of labor before US District Courts, US Bankruptcy Courts, the Postal Rate Commission, Canadian Transportation Commission, and before Presidential Emergency Boards, as well as before numerous arbitration panels. Dan holds a post-graduate degree in transport economics from the London School of Economics.

In closing, we understand you will have questions on the process. As we proceed, we will update you on the process and future developments.

In Solidarity,

TWU 555 Negotiating Committee

CC: Andre Sutton
International Vice President