



# TEAMSTER AVIATION PROFESSIONAL

*Newsletter of the Teamsters Aviation Mechanics Coalition*

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## TEAMSTERS STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH IAM, TWU WORKERS AT AMERICAN AIRLINES

*Company Needs to Keep  
Maintenance in Hands of  
Unionized Professionals*

The following is a statement from Teamsters Airline Division Director Capt. David Bourne regarding American Airlines' ongoing negotiations with the Transport Workers Union (TWU) and International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM):

"American Airlines has unfairly accused the TWU and IAM of participating in an illegal work slowdown. The men and women of the IAM and TWU have been in contract negotiations with American Airlines management to keep the maintenance work from being sent offshore.

"The highly trained professionals at the IAM and TWU show their dedication each day as they put the safety of our passengers and crew first when doing their jobs. Sending aircraft maintenance overseas threatens the safety of workers and passengers. We support and stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters of the IAM and TWU in their fight to secure a fair contract."



## Teamster Airline Mechanics Shine at the 2019 Aerospace Maintenance Competition

The TAMC and the Teamsters Airline Division are proud to be sponsors of 2019 Aerospace Maintenance Skills Competition that was held at the Atlanta convention center on April 9, 10 and 11. This year's competition was the largest to date, including six Teamster teams from Horizon Air, UPS Air Cargo and United Airlines. Eighty teams from around the world and from every sector of the industry competed in 30 events to win the ultimate prize, the William F. "Bill" O'Brien Award for Excellence in Aircraft Maintenance.

Congratulations to UAL Team CLE for winning the overall competition for the third year in a row. Their names will be engraved on the William "Bill" F. O'Brien Excellence in Aviation Maintenance trophy again this year. Great going guys! The tool raffle was also a great success again this year, with the winner, Stella Burton, coming from Team UPS.

The Airline Division and the TAMC unveiled our new look at this year's competition with a new booth design that not only has great graphics but will allow for advanced video presentations. We will be using it to promote the Airline Division and the TAMC at STEM and other events across the country.



*See list of winners on page 2*

## 2019 Aerospace Maintenance Competition Winners

**2019 William F. "Bill" O'Brien Award for Excellence in Aircraft Maintenance – AMC Top Overall Score:** United Airlines CLE. It is the third year in a row that United Airlines Cleveland came out on top.

**Paul Cousins Award Top Overall International Team Score:** JetStar

**United Airlines Competing with Professionalism Award:** Liberty University

**Charles E. Taylor Professional AMT Awards:** Bobby Akin, American Airlines DFW; Michael Henriquez, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

**AMC Phoebe Omlie Scholarship:** Leoga Fofung, Tulsa Tech; Rebecca Hines, Rock Valley College; Brandi Williams, West Los Angeles College; Garrett Chapelle, Aviation Institute of Maintenance Atlanta; Raj Gouden, Aviation High School; Laura Pantoja, Aviation High School

**PAMA Scholarship:** Ben Thompson, Tulsa Tech; Immanuel Bankole, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University; Jennifer Moua, Joaquin Valley College

**Overall Standings:** First Place – United Airlines CLE, Second Place – FedEx Express IND, Third Place – Alaska Air SEA

**Airline Category – 17 Teams Total:** First Place – United Airlines CLE, Second Place – FedEx Express IND, Third Place – Alaska Air SEA

**School Category – 27 Teams Total:** First Place – Embry-Riddle University, Second Place – West Los Angeles College, Third Place – Liberty University

**MRO/MFR Category – Ten Teams Total:** First Place – FedEx Express, LAX Second Place – Boeing, Third Place – United Airlines Base Maintenance

**Military Category – 26 Teams Total:** First Place – United States Coast Guard C-27J APO, Second Place – Royal Canadian Air Force 435 Squadron, Third Place – United States Army 128th Aviation Brigade

**Event 1: 8Tree & Alaska Airlines Airframe Damage Inspection:** First Place – FedEx Express IND, Second Place – United Airlines Chicago, Third Place – Broward College Team 1

**Event 2: Perfect Point & Ntegrity Aircraft Parts E-Drill Fastener Removal:** First Place – United Airlines Base Maintenance, Second Place – Royal Canadian Air Force 435 Squadron Third Place – United States Marine Corp MALS 39 Team 2

**Event 3: Aircraft Technology Group Sheet Metal Accuracy:** First Place – Pratt & Whitney WiseMen, Second Place – United Airlines CLE, Third Place – Jetstar

**Event 4: Alaska Airlines External Power Receptacle:** First Place – Alaska Air SEA, Second Place – Alaska Air ANC, Third Place – Horizon Air

**Event 5: U.S. Air Force Flex Fluid Lines:** First Place – FedEx Express IND, Second Place – Alaska Air ANC, Third Place – United Airlines Base Maintenance

**Event 6: Aerospace Maintenance Council Safety Wiring:** First Place – Alaska Air ANC Second Place – American Airlines TUL, Third Place – Alaska Air SEA

**Event 7: Eastern Florida State Space Vehicle - Vacuum Loading Operation:** First Place – Indian Hills Community College Second Place – United Airlines Chicago, Third Place – Aviation Institute of Maintenance Houston

**Event 8: ULTRAX Aerospace Condition Based Intelligence:** First Place – West Los Angeles College, Second Place – Pratt & Whitney WiseMen, Third Place – Jetstar

**Event 9: Boeing Cable Rigging:** First Place – Boeing, Second Place – United Airlines CLE, Third Place – FedEx Express IND

**Event 10: Daniels Manufacturing Corporation Electrical Troubleshooting:** First Place – FedEx Express IND, Second Place – Alaska Air ANC, Third Place – United Airlines CLE

**Event 11: Daniels Manufacturing Corporation Safe-T-Cable:** First Place – Alaska Air ANC, Second Place – FedEx Express IND, Third Place – United States Air Force 1 SOMXG

**Event 12: Click Bond, Inc. Adhesive-Bonded Fastener Installations:** First Place – United Airlines Base Maintenance, Second Place – United States Air Force Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex Team 2, Third Place – JetBlue

**Event 13: Michelin Tires Aircraft Tire Inspection:** First Place – Jetstar, Second Place – Tarrant County College, Third Place – Alaska Air ANC

**Event 14: Alberth Aviation Wheel and Brake Removal and Installation:** First Place – Broward College Team One, Second Place – Embry-Riddle University, Third Place – Southern Illinois University Carbondale - Detail Dawgs (only schools competed, not factored in overall standings)

**Event 15: Olympus & PPG Aerospace Ultrasonic Testing:** First Place – WestJet Airlines, Second Place – JetBlue, Third Place – Jetstar

**Event 17: Barfield Air Data Testing:** First Place – United Airlines CLE, Second Place – Horizon Air, Third Place – Qantas

**Event 18: Barfield RF Antenna Testing:** First Place – United Airlines Chicago, Second

Place – Alaska Air SEA, Third Place – Australian Licensed Aircraft Engineers Association

**Event 19: Boeing Fiber Optics:** First Place – Boeing, Second Place – JetBlue, Third Place – United Airlines CLE

**Event 20: Nida Corp Power Troubleshooting:** First Place – Alaska Air SEA, Second Place – Alaska Air ANC, Third Place – FedEx Express IND

**Event 21: W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc. Leading Edge & Panel Sealing:** First Place – Alaska Air SEA, Second Place – JetBlue, Third Place – United States Coast Guard C-27J APO

**Event 22: American Airlines APU Burner Can:** First Place – American Airlines DWH, Second Place – American Airlines DFW, Third Place – Alaska Air SEA

**Event 23: United Airlines Fuel Tank Entry Precautions:** First Place – United Airlines Base Maintenance, Second Place – United Airlines CLE, Third Place – United Airlines Chicago

**Event 24: American Airlines Pedestal:** First Place – United Airlines Base Maintenance, Second Place – United States Air Force 1 SOMXG, Third Place – Royal Canadian Air Force 435 Squadron

**Event 25: JetBlue University ADS-B Troubleshooting:** First Place – JetBlue, Second Place – Embry-Riddle University, Third Place – United Airlines Chix Fix

**Event 26: Spectro Scientific Oil Test Analysis:** First Place – FedEx Express IND, Second Place – Jetstar, Third Place – Aviation Institute of Maintenance Atlanta

**Event 27: ABARIS Composite Repair:** First Place – FedEx Express IND, Second Place – Alaska Air SEA, Third Place – United Airlines Base Maintenance

**Event 28: PPG Aerospace Transparencies, Paint and Wing Sealant:** First Place – Alaska Air ANC, Second Place – American Airlines DWH, Third Place – FedEx Express IND

**Event 29: FedEx Turbine Engine PDU Removal and Installation:** First Place – FedEx Express IND, Second Place – FedEx Express LAX, Third Place – Qantas

**Event 30: Pratt & Whitney ACC Valve R/R & Bleed Valve Solenoid Test:** First Place – Pratt & Whitney WiseMen, Second Place – American Airlines DFW, Third Place – JetBlue

**Event 31: Northrop Rice Aviation Training Solutions Charles Taylor Exam:** First Place – FedEx Express IND, Second Place – United Airlines CLE, Third Place – United Airlines Chix Fix





## Teamsters and Allies Advocate for Safety at Aircraft Maintenance Outsourcing Summit

**T**eamsters joined Congressman John Garamendi (D-CA), Consumer Advocate Ralph Nader and other aviation industry stakeholders at the Aircraft Maintenance Outsourcing Summit, an event that was organized by the Transport Workers Union (TWU) and the Business Travel Coalition. Teamsters and their allies brought attention to the life-threatening hazards to consumers and workers associated with having aircraft repaired overseas.

“Commercial carriers that have their fleets repaired in countries with lax regulation and oversight to cut costs are endangering their passengers,” said Capt. David Bourne, Teamsters Airline Division Director. “They are putting the lives of their passengers in the hands of non-certificated aviation maintenance helpers who are tasked with repairing an aircraft when they are not even licensed aircraft mechanics. Aircraft in the United States should be repaired only in the United States, by professionally licensed mechanics who abide by regulations that were implemented to prevent tragedy.”

Congressman Garamendi gave the opening remarks, noting that he introduced the Aircraft Maintenance Outsourcing Disclosure Act last year. The bipartisan legislation that would require airlines to disclose the most recent location and date that an aircraft underwent maintenance, and post that information on airline websites, ticket purchase confirmations, and boarding documents.

“I want to be sure that when I get on a plane, when the other millions of Americans and foreigners get on an American plane,

operated by an American airline, that the maintenance is done by the best possible mechanics in the world,” Garamendi said.

Teamsters International Representative and Chairman of the Aviation Mechanics Coalition Chris Moore attended the summit, where he was on a panel that addressed the future of aviation maintenance. Moore emphasized that the Teamsters are working with their fellow airline unions to fight outsourcing.

“What the industry has never seen before, and what they’re about to see, is all of the major airline unions coming together as a group to talk about the same issues and move in the same direction,” Moore said.

The keynote address of the summit was given by legendary consumer advocate Ralph Nader, who tragically lost his grandniece when she was killed in the Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302 crash last March. Nader emphasized that if safety isn’t a priority, there could be more accidents to come.

“We are moving into a new era of risk,” Nader said. “It’s like if you had a rubber band, and you keep stretching it. You say, ‘Things are OK, nothing’s happened!’ and then it snaps.”





## Sikorsky Teamsters Win the Ergo Cup

**M**embers of Teamsters Local 1150 and a group of Sikorsky engineers won a competition at the Ergo Cup in New Orleans. The workers are responsible for manufacturing helicopters for Sikorsky Aircraft, a subsidiary of the Lockheed Martin Corporation.

The Ergo Cup takes place at the Applied Ergonomics Conference, a national convention geared towards showcasing the latest developments in the field of optimizing workplace efficiency. The competition took place on March 28 of this year, with the Sikorsky members winning the “Team-Driven Workplace Solution for Teams with Internal Competition” category for their Sikorsky CH-53K Harness Hooks and Spook Installation.

The installation is a series of magnetic hooks on the inside of a CH-53K helicopter that allows the workers to hold a wire harness in place. Previously, the workers had to carry the harnesses on their shoulders, a process that had a greater risk for on-the-job injuries. Not only do the hooks for the wire harness make the process safer, they also make what used to be a nine-person job a two-person job, thus increasing workplace efficiency.

“We would have to walk in [to the helicopter] with nine guys, we would have to hold the equipment over our heads, and then we would have to wait for another guy to come and zip-tie it in,” Local 1150 Member Leonard Duffus said. “You’re holding your hands over your head for longer than two, three minutes and the temperature is over 90 degrees, it could be painful after a while of doing that. The hooks eliminated the guy having to come through with a zip tie, and it also made it so we don’t have to hold the harness up over our heads.”

In addition to Leonard Duffus, Anthony Alfonso Jr., Charlie Pitsch, and John Mencucci were Sikorsky workers also who represented the company at the competition. Congratulations to all of the Local 1150 members who won at this year’s Ergo Cup!

## Shop Stewards for United Airlines Mechanics Wrap Up Training at Teamster Headquarters



**S**hop stewards who represent aircraft mechanics at United Airlines (UA) wrapped up a two-day training last week at Teamster headquarters in Washington, D.C.

“I’d like to thank everyone who made time to come out to our training last week,” said Capt. David Bourne, Teamsters Airline Division Director. “Whether you have been a Teamster in the aviation industry for three years or 30 years, there’s always something new to learn.”

The training covered a wide variety of topics and was geared toward equipping UA stewards with the tools that they need to give their membership the best possible representation. Teamster Attorneys Deirdre Hamilton and Nick Manicone provided attendees with an overview of the Railway Labor Act (RLA). Hamilton and Manicone also led a session on what stewards need to know for arbitrating grievances and other matters under the RLA. The stewards were also provided with a presentation by Richard Edelman, an attorney from the union-side law firm Mooney, Green, Saindon, Murphy & Welch, P.C. Edelman covered the history of the RLA and other pertinent labor laws.

In addition to these presentations, the stewards went through a detailed training on how to make the best possible case to the System Board of Adjustment (SBA) that was led by Iliana Flores, Southern Region Training Coordinator; Vinny Graziano, Teamsters Airline Division National Coordinator for Technicians and Related Classifications; and Deirdre Hamilton. They also learned how to use a new software system that will make the process of arbitrating grievances more seamless and efficient.

“This week gave us excellent opportunities to share best practices with one another and learn new skills that we can use to advocate on behalf of mechanics at United Airlines,” said Chris Moore, TAMC Chairman. “The more knowledge we have, the better representatives we can be, and the workers we represent will be happier and better off because of it.”

Thanks so much to everyone at United Airlines and the Teamsters Airline Division who came out to our training!



## United Airlines Mechanic Becomes an Inventor After Losing His Sight

In March 2016, Jimmy Uharriet's entire life changed when an accident left him totally blind. What's interesting about Uharriet is that he didn't just overcome incredible odds to get back on his feet and return to work, he also took his new circumstance and turned it into something life-changing for so many others.

"I had to be retaught everything," Uharriet said. "There was a point when I wanted to give up, but I decided success was my only option, failure was not."

Uharriet credits his family and friends for reminding him that he was still alive and he was still the same person he was before he lost his sight.

In September 2016, Uharriet went to the Vista Center — a nonprofit that among other things, teaches blind or visually impaired individuals orientation and mobility skills. Uharriet says staff at the Vista Center noticed how motivated he was to relearn and regain his independence and put him in contact with Project Invent at the Nueva School — a private school in San Mateo, Calif.

Part of the goal of Project Invent is to help high school students invent technologies to solve real-world problems. Students at the Nueva School wanted to develop a belt that would help prevent blind people from veering — an issue Uharriet understood very well.

"I used to walk to my local grocery store and barber shop, which were three blocks away from my house," explained Uharriet. "I want to be independent, but as a blind person I can't walk a straight line and doctors say veering can't be fixed."

Uharriet worked with the students at the Vista Center to create a prototype of the Stria Belt.

"There's a zipper on the belt with motors on each side that vibrate," Uharriet con-

tinued. "I switch the belt on and the two motors vibrate and set the straight pattern. The second I begin to veer, the belt vibrates on one side until I stop veering."

After their success at the Nueva School, Uharriet worked with Project Invent founder, Connie Lu, at a camp for students at East Palo Alto Academy. Uharriet talked to the kids about the problems he had with his walking stick and they all got to work.

Together, they developed a prototype of a walking stick that uses flashing LED lights, tactile feedback, and shock absorbance to help users navigate safely and painlessly.

"I take everything as a blessing," Uharriet said. "The Stria Belt won the top prize at South by Southwest's Student Startup competition and Project Invent is now in eight states and over 16 countries."

"Everything happened to me for a reason and I think that reason was Project Invent," he continued.

On top of helping students develop award-winning technologies that will improve the lives of people with disabilities, Uharriet was also focused on getting back to work.

"There was a point in time when I was bedridden that I would wake up and rip everything off and say I needed to get to work," he said.

The Teamsters Member Assistance Program offers United Airlines Teamsters with help when they need assistance with issues like getting back to work after an injury or illness.

"Our team communicated at different times with United to make sure the company was willing to go forward with getting Jimmy back to work," said Teamsters Member Assistance Program Coordinator Steve Loone. "We were there to be cheerleaders for Jimmy."

The Teamsters contract with United Airlines provided Uharriet time to prove he could perform his work as a mechanic.



"I did the evaluation and even shocked myself," said Uharriet, who was able to return to work last June. "If you'd asked me a year and a half ago if I thought I'd be back at work, I would have said no."

Before losing his sight, Uharriet worked on jet bridges, ground power, and locksmith work. "Now I do bench work," he explained. "I am brought electric motors, clutch brakes, and gearbox reducers for the back system to rebuild and overhaul."

For Uharriet, transitioning to this new phase in his life has been about not allowing the smallest or the biggest things to bring him down. "I know this won't be my hardest battle," he said about being blind. "I also know I want to build something that will last forever. I think that's why I'm here."

Uharriet wanted to give a special thank you to the people who have helped him since he lost his sight: his parents, his brothers, and the surgeons to which he owes his life; Valerie Campos who trained him on using his walking stick; Cathy Abbott, Bill Quirke, Jeff Sanchez, Ed Tanaupol, Andrea Charles, and everyone in his department at United Airlines; and all of his friends and union family. Teamsters 856/986 shop stewards, Greg Sullivan and Steve Loone also advocated tirelessly on Uharriet's behalf.

### TAMC ONLINE

Check out previous issues of the *Teamster Aviation Professional* at [www.teamsterair.org/tamc/newsletter](http://www.teamsterair.org/tamc/newsletter).

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