

COMMO CHECK!

Volume 16, Issue 2

Dedicated to the proposition that a career in aviation is not something you do, it's something you survive!

FEB2016

The Official Newsletter of the Professional Helicopter Pilots Association,

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

This month finds me 3 check rides complete and 2 to go in the UH-72 transition. My wife, Debby has told me that I appear to be a bit stressed of late. I will say that I have been pulling some late nights trying to get the EP's and limits down. Just when I thought I had them down pat, we started the Contact IP phase, which our course requires you to MOI the maneuvers and recite EP's while flying. That incited several DUH! Moments, which helped me to realize that I did not have them down pat! More study time later and I'm in the Instrument IP phase now. I just want to say that the course is not set up to teach you to be an instrument IP. So please get ready now before you start the course.

The first class of IERW students going through in the UH-72 are about to start instrument training. So far so good, no one has pranged one in, but don't let down your guard. This aircraft will get you if you don't respect it.

It appears that the Company, read that as the corporate weenies are getting close to getting a 401k package with Fidelity put together. I'm hoping that we can brief that plan and compare the two together sometime next week. If there is a big enough difference between the original Fidelity plan and the new one, we can still re-vote the move. If we do re-vote the movement of the 401k plan, it will be done at workplace by flights. Details will follow, if necessary. That way we will minimize the people who didn't vote last time.

One of the members of the Scholarship Committee had to resign recently, so we are looking for someone to volunteer to help out. It doesn't require very much time at all, maybe 4-5 meetings all year. If you would like to volunteer, please get in touch with one of the E-Board members.

Grievances 15-03 USAF Goal Day and 15-04 Thanksgiving DONSA are going to arbitration. The Company did not agree with our position, so we were at an impasse. After discussion with our lawyer, we are moving forward and referring both grievances to an arbitrator for a decision. This process may take a while so please be patient.

Grievance 15-05, overtime payments is moving forward. The Company had to do some research, out then got stalled in the 401k mess. However they have put it back on the front burner. Hope to have something for you soon on that one.

Last topic for this month is the transition from URS to AECOM when it comes to pay and benefits. That transition has been way less than perfect. If you are having trouble with something associated with AECOM pay and benefits, get in touch with Mr. Keith Sasser immediately. Keith is our HR manager and is the go to guy to get things like that fixed. To get in touch with him call bldg. 4509 at 334-598-6342 and ask for Mr. Sasser. As always Fly Safe!



President

Ron Arsenault
PHPA Local 102

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**FEBRUARY 11, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President Ron Arsenault. All E-Board members present. There were 20 members present.

Recording Secretary: The January meeting minutes were read by Jim Guy and the minutes were approved after a revision.

Secretary-Treasurer: Rod George read the January Treasurer's report and the report was approved as read. There are 227 members. That is approximately 75% membership.

Trustees' Reports:

Primary Division: Bill Haaren reported that the only ongoing issue was in reference to the 401k.

Advanced Division: Mel Strobel reported that the only ongoing issue was in reference to the 401k.

BWS Division: Mark Souza had nothing to report.

Trustee at Large: Matt Hedger reported that the Air Force was now sending Flight Engineer trainees to Fort Rucker straight out of Basic Training. This puts up to 6 people on board the UH -1's during their training flights. This is also an issue with the Academics Division because of the additional load as well as different classes that they get. More academic instructors may be needed.

Vice-Presidents Report

Al Hauenstein had nothing to report.

Old Business

By-Laws Committee: The committee is just about finished with the review. They plan to conduct the first reading of the amendments at the next membership meeting.

UH-72 Transition: Twenty IP's started from Advanced Division on January 7th and one has dropped out so far. This IP was not happy with the transition from the beginning and he self-eliminated from the course. An intermediate class may be scheduled to begin sometime in May of this year after the BWS class is finished. This would be to replace those we have lost up until that time. This has not been officially scheduled yet and we don't know how many IP's would be going through. Also, there is a rumor that the goggle IP's may have to go through the entire goggle academics if they have not flown goggles for 10 years.

Grievances: Thanksgiving DONSA, Air Force Goal Day, Life Insurance age issue, and Overtime grievances are all ongoing. We are talking to our lawyer on each of these issues. The Overtime issue may need to be re-negotiated.

New Business

401k Briefing and Vote: Our 401k was moved to Merrill Lynch and has been in an account the whole time. Keith Sasser hoped that he would have something for us to put out at this meeting about Fidelity but that did not happen. Our plan is to brief the new Fidelity plan, but not from a Fidelity Rep. Corporate is working hard on this to supply us with as much information as possible to allow our members to take some time to review and research it before a re-vote takes place. Our plan is to have the re-vote conducted by the Company through the Flight Commanders the same way they conduct new job announcements. This will ensure 100% participation. Remember we are dealing with all 401k participants, not just Union members.

Union Insurances: We are still trying to get a representative to come here and brief us on the available insurances through the Union. Also, remind everyone in your flights to check the beneficiary's they have listed.

Scholarship Committee: Bob Timmerman is retiring in March and Bobby Hardrick resigned from the committee last month. Bob may stay as committee chairman for a while as an associate member but we need to find someone to replace him as soon as we can. We also need to replace Bobby as soon as possible. The committee needs three members.

(Continued on page 3)

January Minutes (Continued from page 2)

From The Floor

A member brought up the issue of vision insurance. He stated that he has not been able to use his entire \$250 because of certain restrictions with our plan. Other members have not had any trouble with it. Check with BC/BS on any restrictions that may apply to your case before you go to your exam. Any problems should be brought up to Keith Sasser.

A medically grounded member in BWS spoke with an insurance rep from Unum about his disability payments. This rep did not know the details about our unique plan and would not approve payment just because he couldn't fly any more. She told him she would research it further and it looks like this should be resolved.

A member stated that he had received a health insurance tax form and wanted to know what it was for. The Affordable Care Act requires that everyone that has health insurance is sent a document stating who you have insurance through. This is just an information document that you need to keep with your tax paperwork. You don't need to send it to anyone but you will need it in the event you are audited by the IRS.

A member asked if we are getting new Health Insurance cards. We have no information on this but will ask.

A member stated that our flexible spending account has been changed from ADP to Anthem.

A member asked if OPEIU was aware of our upcoming negotiations in 2017. He wanted to know if we were letting them know that we may need some help. We are on the phone on a regular basis with OPEIU and they are well aware of our situation. They are always available to send someone here if we need them to. The E-Board is always discussing issues that may arise during negotiations.

Bob Price and Dave Van Conant are both retiring soon. No actual dates have been announced yet.

UH-72 pilots flying goggles will get extra pay for it.

A member asked about a "sustainment" program for pilots after they finish the UH-72 transition. There is no such program right now. It is up to each individual pilot to remain proficient and study as necessary to remain that way. Academics will always allow us to attend any classes that they are teaching. Go through your MOI section to schedule this or contact Academics Division directly. We can look at setting up such a program but this will probably come down to funding.

It was reported that CSC is removing TH-67 simulators to replace them with UH-72 simulators.

The winner of the raffle took home \$30 tonight.

There being no new business the meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM.

James W. Guy

Recording Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

The undersigned, Treasurer of the PHPA, submits the following report for the month of January 2016

Beginning Balance Checking:	\$ 78,795.69
Received from All Sources: (+)	\$35,243.48
Total: (=)	\$114,039.17
Disbursements: (-)	\$56,486.27
Ending Balance	\$57,552.90
 AACFCU Share	 \$44,743.18

The annexed statement of receipts and expenditures will show in detail the sources of funds received and expenses to which disbursements were applied.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Rodney M. George- Treasurer, PHPA

2/4/2016

AACFCU CD values as of 31 January 2016:

Certificate #37543-6	\$30,831.13
Certificate #37543-7	\$30,831.13
Certificate #37543-8	\$30,831.13
<hr style="width: 20%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	
Total Value of CDs:	\$92,493.39

Total Members: 227

Comparison with January 2015:

Members: 231

Checking Account Balance: \$81,249.47

Comparison with January 2015:

Vice President's Note

By Alan Hauenstein



As your vice president I am working hard to look out for your interest. I know it seems like I am dragging my feet but being on the staff of the union (and working a full time job) we have to prioritize your concerns. Yes we are still working on the grievance for the DONSA at Thanksgiving and the Goal day for the Air Force. We are getting closer to resolving our 401k issues. Expect more information from the company within a couple of weeks, Then re-voting to follow.... For those of you that don't come to the monthly meeting: Did you know we have pizza delivered from Marco's? Come join us for pizza and lively, spirited debates. Then we will talk union stuff....next meeting March 11.

Random thoughts: Happy President's Day (I know I'm late) Did you know that Alexander Hamilton was a 22 year old Captain in the artillery when he was selected to be the Aide-de-camp to General George Washington and promoted to the rank of Colonel? talk about fast tracking....

MOLON LABE (mo-lone lah-veh) "come and take them" or "come and take it" an act of defiance or an expression of an army's or nation's determination to not surrender. Individual courage or valor. Think of the "300"

That is all.

aloha, Alan

Office Manager's Spot

By Teresa Hess

Hello Members

My main message this month is **MAKE SURE YOUR BENEFICIARY FORM IS ON FILE!** I also wanted to share a few points about our various insurance policies that you may not know:

UNUM – Life/AD&D (\$5000/\$5000)

The payout on this policy decreases to 65% or \$4935 at age 65 and to 50% or \$2500 at age 70.

UNUM-Long Term Disability

1. This plan has certain qualifying items that are deductible sources of income. They are:
 - Any funds that you are entitled under workers' compensation law
 - Social Security Disability
 - Company Pension Plan (which the union has none)

(Please note that your military retirement and/or military disability do not fall under these qualifying items)

2. Should you pass away due to the condition you have suffered for more than 180 days and are collecting payments for, your beneficiary is eligible to receive a lump sum payment of equal to 3 months of your gross disability payment on the date of your death.

3. You are entitled to a lump sum payment equal to 3 months of your gross disability payment if you have been diagnosed with a terminal illness with a life expectancy of less than 12 months and you are currently receiving monthly payments. This is only allowed once. (in case you are able to recover)

If you ever have questions or concerns about any of your premiums or benefits please give me a call or email.

All the best

CHECKLIST

Your next general membership meeting will be 10 February 2016, 630pm at the union hall.

MEETING AGENDA

1. Meeting called to order.
2. Officer Reports.
3. Old Business.
4. New Business.



PHPA, OPEIU LOCAL 102
PO BOX 427
DALEVILLE, ALABAMA 36322

PHONE: 334-598-4121
FAX 334-598-1620
E-MAIL: LOCAL102@PHPA.NET
WWW.PHPA.NET