

THE GRAPEVINE

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Retirement of Harold 'Gene' Painter, National Vice President



Gene Painter, longtime AMFA activist and officer retired effective December 31, 2021

By Bret Oestreich, National President

Gene Painter has served as the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association (AMFA) National Vice President, formerly known as Assistant National Director, from October 2016 to his retirement on December 31, 2021.

Gene has served AMFA with the utmost passion and loyalty promoting and elevating our craft. He has been instrumental in his role on the National Executive Council (NEC), specifically in his leadership with organizing work-groups seeking AMFA representation and advocating for our craft-specific union.

Over the years, Gene has also served as a union steward and Vice President of Local 11 in Dallas. Gene's father, Eugene Painter, was also a member of AMFA, was always involved with the union serving on his contract negotiating committee. In talking about his service to the Association, Gene said, "I'm proud to be following in his footsteps and being a part of serving the union."

Gene Painter grew up in Independence, MO, home of Harry Truman. He graduated high school in 1977 and joined the United States Air Force, where he served as an electrician, environmental system technician, Quality Control, Depot level maintenance, and instructed aircraft damage repair and

CPR-first aid until 1994. Gene started with Southwest Airlines in October of 1994 in Houston, transferred to Phoenix in 1996, and Gene's last stop was Dallas in 1998, where he is currently a Lead Inspector. Gene's Southwest Airlines retirement date is January 22, 2022.

Gene is moving to Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri for retirement, where he will enjoy the great outdoors and plans to keep fishing and hunting.

Gene, we wish you the best in your retirement and the next chapter in your life. You will be missed.



Local 11 LEC wishing retiring National Vice President and Local 11 member and former officer Gene Painter well as he heads to the Ozarks to enjoy his retirement

2020 Officer of the Year – Thomas Nolan



Photo: Thomas Nolan (center) with Local 18 LEC

By Jay Johnson, National Secretary / Treasurer

Since he was hired at Southwest Airlines in Houston, Thomas Nolan has been an AMFA supporter. Tom was heavily involved with the Local 18 Local Executive Council (LEC) as the Local Secretary and GrievTrac Administrator from January 2005 through January 2021 and a Local Delegate for the 2016 National Convention.

As the Secretary at Local 18, Tom was responsible for conducting all elections, generating all correspondence of the Local, keeping minutes of Local meetings, preparing and signing all delegate credentials to the National Convention, as well as many other duties.

Tom is a graduate of Harvard High School and went to Airframe and

Powerplant School at Rice Aviation in Houston, graduating in 1987. After receiving his Airframe License, Tom went to work for Continental Express Airlines in 1987 in Houston and, at the same time, completed the remainder of his licenses. He went on to work for Continental Airlines from 1988 to 1990 and has worked at Southwest Airlines since 1990.

Thomas is a family man. He enjoys playing golf and working with his mind and hands. I have had the pleasure of working with Tom at the Local and National levels for the past eight years and consider him to be a good friend.



Thomas Nolan, 2020 Officer of the Year recipient with AMFA National President, Bret Oestreich

If you see Tom in Houston around the Line Maintenance, please congratulate him on his 15 years of dedication to AMFA.



Knowledge - Skill - Integrity

2022

Scholarship

AMFA National is pleased to announce that it is accepting applications for its 2022 AMFA Scholarships. Scholarships will be awarded to three individuals totalling \$2,000 each, payable to the recipient's institution of higher learning. Those interested in obtaining the scholarship must follow the process listed below to be considered:

Qualifications:

- Applicant must be enrolled as a student in an A&P school or university attempting to obtain their A&P license
- Applicant must be a U.S. citizen
- Applicant must demonstrate a passion for the craft as demonstrated in a 500-word essay described in the application.

Application Process:

- Applications are found on the AMFA National Website > About AMFA > Workforce Development and Education
- Completed applications must be submitted to AMFA National via email to finance@amfanatl.org or fax to 303-362-7736, including:
 - Application Form
 - 500-word essay explaining *"What is your interpretation of Air Worthiness and Safety of Flight"*
 - Applicant must send transcripts proving current enrollment and grades
- Applications are due no later than February 28, 2022

Selection Process:

The Selection Committee, comprised of National Officers, will review applications and make recommendations for final approval by the National Executive Council (NEC). Once a recipient is chosen and notified, the scholarship will be awarded and paid directly to their institute of higher learning.

Questions, contact the National Secretary/Treasurer at Jay.Johnson@amfanatl.org or 720-744-6632.

2021 Safety Year in Review

By Scott King, National Safety & Standards Director

2021 has not been quiet on the safety front. In addition to the concerns of COVID-19, we have seen the 737MAX return to service, numerous reports from our Aviation Safety Action Program (ASAP) representatives, and continued success with our Professional Standards Programs.

The FAA had grounded the 737MAX in 2019 after two fatal crashes, and in March of 2021, the 737MAX was returned to service. AMFA representatives attended Congressional hearings with the FAA. There was much debate within the industry, the FAA, and Boeing as to how this problem was fixed and how we ensure that a similar issue does not reoccur in the future. As many shortcomings were identified and ad-

dressed, this event magnified how vital the role of safety first is in our industry. As licensed professionals, we must stay vigilant in the pursuit of perfection.

The ASAP had continued success at all of our represented carriers throughout the year. AMFA encourages anyone to utilize this Program to identify mistakes and hazards our members encounter. The most important step in this process is to talk to your AMFA ASAP Representative before talking to anyone within the company.

The Professional Standards Program has continued to tackle the challenges that arise within our workgroups. This Program gives members an opportunity to resolve conflicts or issues that may occur between members without company/management involvement. We all have different personalities,

and sometimes they clash. When this happens, stay professional and seek out the Professional Standards Representative to help resolve the issue. All of the AMFA-represented carriers have agreed to let the AMFA Professional Standards Program have the opportunity to resolve these types of conflicts. It is a voluntary program, which means each member involved must agree to participate. Training classes for Professional Standards members will be held in 2022. The first class is set to take place in Seattle during the first week in March, and subsequent classes will follow.

In closing, please remain safe and compliant. Watch out for your fellow members and acknowledge when a member is trying to watch out for you.

AMFA: There's an App for That

AMFA has a mobile device app for its members. Available for both Android and Apple tablets and phones, the app is a quick link to the latest news and information from your Union. With built in GrievTrac access, the app also gives our contract representatives private access to file grievances on behalf of our members.

In addition to being a great tool to get Association news, the AMFA app is a quick and easy way for members to access their AMFA Number. The AMFA app is only available for download from the AMFA National Website; it is not found on iTunes.

Download your copy today at:
<http://apps.unionactive.com/clients/amfa/amfa.html>

If you encounter problems registering with the site or downloading the app, contact the AMFA National Office for assistance.

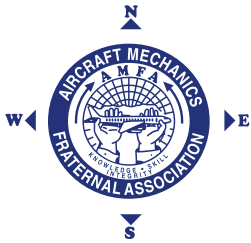


Happy
new year



ALL THE BEST FROM
THE OFFICERS AND STAFF
OF AMFA





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Dues Objector Notification

Federal law requires that the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association (AMFA) notify all AMFA-represented employees annually of its dues objector procedures. These procedures require that you notify AMFA between February 1 and March 15, 2022, if you intend to be a dues objector for that year.

Dues objector notices received either before or after these dates will not be accepted and you will not have dues objector status for that year. Dues objectors are required to pay only the portion of dues that is germane to collective bargaining, including but not limited to grievance adjustment and contract administration. The non-germane percentage of dues is

set annually by June 1 and is based on an independent CPA's verification of germane/non-germane expenses for the prior year. A compilation of 2020 expenses was conducted and the fees paid by dues objectors in 2021 were 88.13% of full membership dues.

If a dues objector disagrees with the calculation of the percentage of the reduction, our policy allows for an appeal before an independent arbitrator. Costs of the arbitrator are paid by the Association. Objectors bear the costs of presenting their appeal.

It is important that if you elect to become a dues objector you will no longer be entitled to the rights and priv-

ileges of membership, including but not limited to: the right to hold a National or Local office, vote in National or Local elections, attend union meetings, participate in contract negotiations, or vote on a contract ratification. We suggest you consider these restrictions before deciding whether or not you wish to become a dues objector.

To receive more information on filing for dues objector status, please call the AMFA National Office at (303) 752-2632 or write to AMFA National, 7853 E. Arapahoe Court, Suite 1100, Centennial, CO 80112.