To the Membership:

Happy Thanksgiving!

This year has so far been rather difficult with the continual slow pace of negotiations; however, there are many things that have happened in our Local that I am thankful for.

For starters, I am thankful for each Local 591 Representative who has served every member to the best of their abilities in what has been a rather difficult year. I know all too well what it is like communicating second and third hand information, and your efforts in trying to keep the membership informed during these stressful times is greatly appreciated.

I am very thankful for the tremendous work our Local has done this past year in Safety, ASAP, MAP/EAP, Benefit assistance, and Legislation. These are areas of our Local that often get overlooked by our continuous focus on obtaining the industry’s best contract, and the work done by this Local and those responsible is second to none. The continual efforts of our Local on getting HR 5119—The Safe Aircraft Maintenance Standards Act—introduced and passed in committee is a monumental feat for the Aircraft Maintenance Profession, and we will be calling on all members to help push its passage soon.

I am thankful for the many positive messages I receive each day from around the country that reinforce our Local’s goal four years ago to not bring back anything to vote on except the best in the industry. While I understand there are some, who often are not part of our Local, who want to vote on an incomplete contract, and do not have the same needs in a JCBA like our membership does with Aircraft Movements, Avionics, Facilities Maintenance, for example; your messages of support reinforce that we must complete the collective goals we set out on.

I am also thankful that the majority of our Local’s membership fully understand what life in the “Little” years was like with incomplete contracts. They continually remind me that we must not bring back a contract that still lacks language, or has loopholes in it, or has phrases like “to be determined” inserted in it. I am thankful that with those negotiating this contract will not allow that to happen again.

I am very thankful for representing a membership, who understand that the common adversary throughout negotiations is, and always has been, American Airlines management. I often speak with members about how this contract mediation process with this management group feels more like divorce mediation than negotiating the best contract in the industry.
That said, I am encouraged by Doug Parker’s statement on video in the flight attendants crew news that is posted on Jetnet from November 14, 2019. Doug says: “so as we head into 2020, we are really excited by what lies ahead. We will have this contract done...”. If management follows through during the first two weeks of December with what Doug has declared on providing an industry leading contract, then we can also be excited by what lies ahead in 2020.

I am very thankful to lead the professionals of Local 591 to the goals we set out when we each had a chance to submit what we desired in a new contract. I am thankful that we have stuck to those goals, and if management follows through with what Doug Parker just stated over the next two weeks, we will either be very close to, or have fulfilled, achieving those goals.

Finally, I will be thankful when the objectives of Local 591’s membership of a contract that leads the industry are fulfilled, so each of us can be thankful for what we achieved as a Local by standing as one.

Fraternally:

Gary Schaible
TWU Local 591 President