

The Role of the MEC, Negotiating Committee, and Specialty Committees

The pilot group's elected officers—the MEC—represent the pilot group on the team. Once the goals and priorities are established, the Negotiating Committee works to achieve these goals. As with other ALPA committees, Negotiating Committee members come from the pilot ranks and are chosen by the MEC.

Because of the complexity of a typical pilot contract, the work of the MEC and Negotiating Committee is supplemented by numerous specialty committees made up of pilot volunteers selected by the MEC. Most pilot groups have active Retirement and Insurance, Scheduling, Grievance, Hotel, and Professional Standards Committees.

While these committees are active year-round, during contract negotiations they play the vital role of analyzing and developing negotiating options and recommendations in their area of expertise so that both the Negotiating Committee and the MEC can fulfill their responsibilities to the pilot group in the most informed and effective way.

The MEC is also charged with building unity of purpose and support among the pilot group. The Communications Committee is responsible for creating and implementing a communications plan that educates the pilots and their families about collective bargaining and the goals for negotiations, updates them on progress, and encourages them to engage in the process.

The Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) is designed to help prepare pilots and their families build leverage throughout negotiations but particularly help them prepare for the end stages of negotiations and any contingencies that may arise (including strike preparedness) during that period. The SPC also works to enlist help from other pilot groups, and secure guidance and funds from national resources to prepare for endgame negotiations and to sustain an effective strike, if necessary.