



**TUS VANGUARD
NEWSLETTER**
Volume 9, Issue 2

2017



*Happy
Valentine's
Day*

Special points of interest:

- February Speaker
- February Anniversaries and Birthdays
- National Vanguard web site
- Members "on the mend"

MEETING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2017

**American Legion Post 36
5845 E.22nd Street**

10am Social Time

10:30 Business Meeting

11am Speaker

**Mr. Eric M. Lopez
Border Patrol Agent—Canine Instructor**

~ ~Lunch is available after the meeting~ ~

Stay and socialize with your fellow Vanguards!!

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ERIC M. LOPEZ

I am a 10 year U.S. Army/Army & Air National Guard Veteran. During my time with the military, I served as an Non Commissioned Officer in the Joint Counter Narcotics Task Force for almost 3 years. I have been a U.S. Border Patrol Agent since 1999, assigned to the Willcox Station and have since transferred to the Tucson Station. During my career with the Border Patrol, I have been a certified K9 Handler for 12 years and a K-9 Instructor for 9 years. My current partner is K-9 **Rossi**, a German Shepherd

imported from Europe. Prior to K-9 Rossi, my partner was K-9 Andy-A, a Belgian Malinois who passed away peacefully in 2014.



~~2017 OFFICERS~~

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Please contact :

Judy Hunter, Ambassador

Email: jahunter@cox.net or call 743-3717 (if you are unable to reach Judy, please contact any officer) if you have information you wish to share regarding sickness, hospitalization or death of a Vanguard member or family member.

If your address, phone number or email changes.....please advise Karen Shudy. We would like to keep all information up-to-date.

**We're on the web:**

www.aavanguardscities.com

2017 SCHEDULE

April 19, 2017 Meeting
May 17, 2017 Social Event
October 18, 2017 Meeting
November 15, 2017 Meeting
Christmas Luncheon December 6, 2017

**ALL MEETINGS ARE NOW ON
WEDNESDAYS
American Legion Post 36
5845 E.22nd Street**

****Helpful AA Telephone Contacts****

*A-9 Death/ Emergency Passes
1-888-WE-FLY-AA (888-933-5922)
*Flight listings & ZED fare PNRs
1-800-433-7300



*American Airlines Benefits Service Center
AON Hewitt 1-888-860-6178

HR Services has a new "dedicated" phone contact

for retirees
844-543-5747

To access the new RETIREE JETNET
Go To: retirees.aa.com
1-888-207-2607



Richard & Carole Curtin 55 years

Roger & Carol Collier 49 years

**---FEBRUARY---**

Bob Mencil
Lori Carlson
Roger Collier

CONGRATULATIONS



Our leader, **JOHN HORN**, is recuperating from knee surgery.

MICKEY COMWAY is on the mend from a broken leg. We wish you both a speedy recovery.

GET WELL FELLOWS!

Most Read No. 4: American Airlines CEO says employees 'still don't trust us'

Gaining the trust of American Airlines' employees proved to be harder than chief executive Doug Parker anticipated after taking the helm of the merged American-US Airways. Speaking at Wall Street investors conference in March (2016), Parker acknowledged that management needed to do a better job of engaging its employees. "We have to be out working to find ways to positively surprise our employees," Parker said. "They still don't trust us. It's not their fault they don't trust us. They don't trust us because of what they've experienced. They haven't experienced trustworthy things. Not because the people they work for are necessarily not trustworthy, simply because the people they worked for couldn't live up to the promises they made. They're still gun shy from it." He did not address profit-sharing in his comments at the conference, but a few weeks later Parker announced that American was reintroducing a profit-sharing plan for its employees for 2016.

THE AMERICAN TEAM HAS LIVED IN THAT OLD WORLD OF MANAGEMENT-LABOR TENSION FOR SO LONG AND CHANGING THIS CULTURE REQUIRES THEM TO UNDERSTAND THE INDUSTRY IS NOW A DIFFERENT PLACE, AND THEY HAVE TO GET PAST THAT. WE ALL HAVE TO GET PAST IT.

American Airlines CEO Doug Parker

Doug Parker says management needs to "positively surprise" workers
Culture shift needed if American is going to be competitive
"Happy and engaged" employees treat customers better, Parker says

United, American key economic engine for Chicago

United and American Airlines grew passenger volume out of Chicago in 2016 as the city's major airports saw a record 54.1 million air travelers. "O'Hare and Midway are the gateways to the city and key economic drivers for the region," said Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel. Chicago Sun-Times (free registration) (1/8)

American sees growth in revenue

American Airlines is projecting a better-than-expected fourth quarter, despite a 0.8% drop in December traffic. The company also reported increases in traffic and seat capacity for all of 2016.

The Dallas Morning News (tiered subscription model) (1/12)

American to add capacity at Mobile Regional Airport

American Airlines is expanding capacity out of Alabama's Mobile Regional Airport. Beginning in March, the number of seats on daily flights to Dallas-Fort Worth will increase from 50 to 76 per flight, and seats for service to Charlotte, N.C., will grow from 50 to 65 as American brings in larger aircraft.

The Huntsville Times (Ala.) (1/12)

Berkshire Hathaway makes long-term bet on bright future for airlines

Berkshire Hathaway's \$1 billion investment in the airline sector, including in American Airlines and United Continental, is likely a long-term bet given the company's investor profile, experts say. "They may be saying that the industry has finally figured things out," said analyst Andrew Davis. Morningstar (1/16)

How American Airlines (AAL) Stock Stands Out in a Strong Industry

One stock that might be an intriguing choice for investors right now is **American Airlines Group Inc. AAL**. This is because this security in the Transportation-Airline space is seeing solid earnings estimate revision activity, and is in great company from a Zacks Industry Rank perspective.

This is important because, often times, a rising tide will lift all boats in an industry, as there can be broad trends taking place in a segment that are boosting securities across the board. This is arguably taking place in the Transportation-Airline space as it currently has a Zacks Industry Rank of 24 out of more than 250 industries, suggesting it is well-positioned from this perspective, especially when compared to other segments out there.

Meanwhile, American Airlines is actually looking pretty good on its own too. The firm has seen solid earnings estimate revision activity over the past month, suggesting analysts are becoming a bit more bullish on the firm's prospects in both the short and long term.

American Airlines named ATW Airline of the Year



Air Transport World honored American Airlines with its top ATW Airline Industry Achievement award. "American Airlines has never been in better shape to deliver more to all of its stakeholders, and that is because of the leadership skills of American's executive team and the dedication and hard work of its employees around the world," said Karen Walker, editor-in-chief of ATW.

American Airlines offers new 'basic economy' fares with no carry-ons

American Airlines will offer a new "basic economy" options, though fliers looking for a deal will have to pay the price of their carry-ons.

Passengers on certain routes will be able to get seats for lower prices, the company announced Wednesday, (1-18-17)

It was not immediately clear what the new prices would be, though the company said it is "not a new discount, but a new set of attributes for our lowest fares."

Fliers can only bring a personal item for under the seat in front of them, with all other luggage required to be checked, generally for at least a \$25 fee.

Tickets are non-refundable, customers don't get seat assignments until check in and fliers will be in the last group seated in the cabin.

The other major U.S. carriers, Delta and United, have implemented their own "basic economy" offers to compete with discount airlines such as Spirit and Frontier that charge for carry-ons and many services. United's program has a similar baggage restriction as American, though Delta's does not.

Many European low-cost airlines also offer low fares while allowing passengers a free piece of carry-on baggage.

Airline industry continues creating jobs

Airlines hired 416,046 full-time workers in November, the highest number since 2005, marking three straight years of hiring growth for the industry. Alaska Airlines, United Airlines and American Airlines all reported an increase in hires.

The Business Journals (tiered subscription model)/Honolulu (1/19)

Signs point to strong 2017 for airlines

Airline stocks jumped 45% in the last half of 2016, and analysts see signs for a strong 2017 ahead. A rebound in business travel could drive sales for the industry.

The Dallas Morning News (tiered subscription model) (1/25)

American Airlines introduces Cole Haan amenity kits

American Airlines and luxury fashion designer Cole Haan have launched their new amenity kit partnership. First- and business-class travelers on some long flights will receive beauty, skin care and sleepwear items, as well as head-phone protectors, ear plugs and socks.

BusinessTraveller.com (U.K.) (1/25)

TSA looks to boost enrollments for PreCheck access

In February, the Transportation Security Administration will reduce its random selection of non-enrolled travelers in PreCheck lanes, in an effort to boost enrollment in the successful expedited screening program. TSA and airlines are encouraging travelers to enroll in the program.

Skift (1/30)

American, United to rebook, refund passengers affected by order

United and American Airlines announced plans to accommodate customers affected by President Donald Trump's executive order on immigration. CEO Oscar Munoz says United will offer affected customers "refunds and other accommodations" and American Airlines said it is "treating all of our customers with respect and taking great care of any affected customers by assisting them with rebooking options and full refunds."

American Airlines, Qantas may revive joint venture plan under Trump

American Airlines and Qantas are continuing efforts to obtain Department of Transportation approval for a joint venture through modifications of their codeshare agreements. "We are hopeful our new application will get a fair review under the new administration by making a strong case for the even greater consumer, tourism and trade benefits that would come with antitrust immunity," American said in a statement.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram (Texas) (1/31)

Investors express optimism in United, American

United Continental Holdings' market capitalization reached \$22.9 billion on Thursday, as investors show faith in the airline's potential for growth. United's stock is up 54% since Aug. 29, 2016, while American Airlines' stock has risen by 22% in the same period.

Skift/Bloomberg (2/2)

American makes progress in last phases of US Airways integration

American Airlines is "hard at work" on moving all flight attendants to a single system, a project that should be completed in about a year, says Beverly Goulet, chief integration officer. American's successful integration with US Airways earned it Air Transport World's Airline of the Year award in 2016.

American Airlines has made solid progress in its integration of US Airways over the past couple of years.

For starters, 15,000 American Airlines (Nasdaq: AAL), US Airways and America West pilots have been rolled into one workforce, and most barriers that tied them to each company's planes, flights and crew bases have been removed. Switching to one system has allowed Fort Worth-based American to eliminate duplicate operations for scheduling pilots and equipment and provided flexibility to manage disruptions caused by weather or other events.

But a few items remain on the airline's to-do list, Beverly Goulet, the airline's chief integration officer, said in an earnings call last week.

"Really (there are) three major projects left to get done," Goulet said. "First of all is getting our flight attendants into a common system. We're hard at work on that right now. It's a complicated matter ... We are optimistic within the next 12-plus months we ought to see something there."

The other projects Goulet mentioned are:

Installing a state-of-the-art human resources and payroll system that covers roughly 650,000 people.

Integrating technical operations. "That is a long-term process," Goulet said. "Best case probably another three to four years."

The handling of the integration so far has earned American the recognition of Airline of the Year for 2016 by industry publication Air Transport World. ATW called the integration "practically flawless despite it being the largest, most complex airline merger in history."

American also won a business integration award in October from ConfluCore, an Irving-based business consultant.