



Vanguard Eagle

San Diego Chapter    February 2020

Annual Membership Donation (per single or couple - includes newsletter subscription) ----- \$ 20.00

Please submit membership donations to Kay Bays, Vanguard Treasurer, 5038 September Street, SD, CA 92110



Happy Valentines Day



---The Jan 14th Vanguard Meeting---

We had 19 attendees at our January 14th meeting. Irene gave us information on Joe Ritacco who has been hospitalized and would like to receive some cards from his former friends. His address is: **Joseph A. Ritacco, 2 Montauk Ct. St. Louis, MO 63146.** We had no guest speaker at the meeting so Walli Stebel gave us her story about acquiring her American Citizenship. She told us that the date of our Vanguard meeting was exactly 60 years after her immigration to the US at New York. That was on 14 January 1960. Walli mentioned at the beginning that the difference between Germany in 1960 and the US at that year was very great, with the US being very prosperous in contrast to a much poorer Germany. Walli decided to apply for citizenship in 2000 as the fee was going to be raised from \$ 95 dollars to \$ 250 dollars in a few months. Her friend June, who was from England wanted to apply also, but did not take the opportunity at the time. Over the past years, Walli had visited her parents in Germany with her children, who were born in the US. On going through customs, her children went through the American line while she had to use the German one. That issue prompted her to think about American citizenship.

Once she applied, she had to study up on US History and the structure of the government. This was very interesting for her and she passed the test easily. Then she was interviewed and asked if she wanted to change her name. She thought about being a Mary, Sandy or Sally but decided to remain a Waltraud, which was shortened to Walli by her American friends. On the date set for her naturalization, she came to the courthouse and saw long lines at the doors. There were 600 candidates to be sworn in on that date and most were Asian and Mexican. But there were also people from 15 to 20 other countries.

After the swearing in ceremony, Walli went out with her family and her friend Allannah Feeney to celebrate. Her children had brought red white and blue flowers and her son had had a ring made for Walli which had precious stones included. (Ruby, Diamond, Sapphire -red-white-blue) Walli was very grateful to her thoughtful children and friends.

Her Friend Allannah then asked her to attend a meeting at the Sheraton on Harbor Island where she had to give a presentation on travel plans for a group. When they got to the Hotel banquet room the whole room rose to give Walli a surprise greeting. Her children and friends had arranged a party for her which included a beautifully decorated cake again in red-white-blue. It was a celebration to be remembered and treasured.

We had our usual 50/50 drawing which was won by Walli Stebel, our speaker for the day, and the birthday drawing was won by Louise Oliverio whose birthday is on January 14, the same day we held our meeting. For both these ladies the date had a special meaning. For Walli, 60 years in the US, for Louise her day of birth.

We received this notice from Local 591 through the efforts of Bill Eccles, who worked in Stores and had a good rapport with Bruce over the years that he worked in San Diego. More about Bruce on page 3 of this newsletter. Sadly, the picture of his 40 year celebration was cropped by someone who thought Bruce was in the center of the photo, but he is on the left side.



PASSING OF RETIREE BRUCE HUNTER - AMT

Brothers and Sisters:

Local 591 has received word of the passing of one of our Brothers. Retired QA Inspector and AMT Bruce Hunter (LAX, DFW, SAN) passed away on 12-31-19 after a long battle with ALS.

Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Attached are two photos of our Brother Bruce Hunter. The first photo of Bruce was during his time in QA Inspection while in LAX. The second photo was taken during his 40-year celebration of his time at AA (in SAN).

As soon as we have more info, we will get it posted.

In Sadness,

John T. Ruiz
Regional Vice President
Western Division
TWU Local 591 AFL-CIO



Happy Birthday **Vanguards**



Feb 1 – **Ron Burgess**
Feb 2 - **Cecil Goddard, Jim Wilson, Jeanne Welch**
Feb 4 - **Raymond Metcalfe**
Feb 5 – **Edward Dillon, Mildred Donley**
Feb 7 – **Julita Chabot**
Feb 8 – **Paul Anderson**
Feb 9 – **Sue Parsons**
Feb 11 – **Mary Cox, William ‘Bill’ Larsen**
Feb 12 – **Margaret Ryan, Juanita Gibson**

Feb 14 - **Rosemary Dahlem**
Feb 15 - **Irene Garret**
Feb 16 - **Mary Pelletier**
Feb 19 - **Lloyd Davis**
Feb 24 - **Linda Steven**
Feb 26 - **Jim Donley**
Feb 27 - **Clara Stewart**
Feb 29 - **Dorothy Stey**



31 Dec 2019 - **Bruce Hunter**

Our great friend and Vanguard member Bruce Hunter was born in Norman Oklahoma on July 5 1949. He spent over 40 years with American Airlines in Los Angeles, Tulsa, Dallas Fort Worth and San Diego. When he started working in Los Angeles as an airframe and power plant mechanic, his first boss was Joseph Kotula, the father of his wife, Mary Jane Kotula. Bruce and Mary Jane met in high school (rivals) when she was 16 and he was 17. Their first date was his Grad Night at Disneyland at the graduation outing of his high school (1967). They married on 22 February 1969 in Torrance, CA. The marriage proved to be successful and long lasting as the couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in February of 2019. At work Bruce was very focused on solving repair problems on various aircraft and would study the computer entries of incoming aircraft to see what had already been done to solve the current problem. He would then weigh possible additional repairs. AA Aircraft Maintenance saw that he was a very conscientious mechanic and upgraded him to QA inspector for repairs, where he oversaw the work to fix current problems. As time passed he and Mary Jane ventured to seek new horizons and moved to Dallas Fort Worth where Bruce continued to work in his life's occupation. Bruce was always work conscious but also had a very likeable disposition, which made him a favorite of both his fellow mechanics as well as management. In 1989 he won the coveted Golden Wrench Award as an outstanding aircraft technician. That is voted on by his fellow mechanics who recognized his knowledge, dedication and ability. Bruce and Mary Jane decided to relocate to San Diego to be near family in 1999. After retirement, 28 November 2015, Bruce joined the Vanguards. They decided that they wanted to build a retirement dream home in Oregon. Before the house was finished, however, Bruce started to have leg problems and further exams showed that the cause was ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease. Over the past year and a half the disease took its toll and Bruce and Mary Jane moved to Texas, to be close to their daughter Natalie and her family. Bruce leaves behind his wife, his daughter and her husband David, two granddaughters Sonia (10) and Samantha (8), a large extended family and good friends and fellow workers with whom he shared his life. Those of you who knew Bruce and wish to send condolences, his wife's address:

Mary Jane Hunter
1304 Fernglade LN
Cedar Park, TX 78613

---Qatar Orders CFM A321neo Engines in \$4 Bn Deal--- 14 Nov 2019 Airwise
Qatar Airways has placed a \$4 billion dollar order for CFM International LEAP-1A engines to power the 50 Airbus A321neos it ordered in 2017. The Doha-based airline originally ordered 50 A320neos, but amid reliability issues with Pratt & Whitney engines it had selected for that order, eventually converted to the larger A321.

The CFM deal came with a pointed remark from the airline's chief executive, Akbar Al Baker, about the power plant's efficiency. "We chose the LEAP engine based on its proven efficiency in commercial operations. This engine addresses our strategy to operate a state-of-the-art fleet with the most advanced technologies in the industry, while expanding our network and maintaining flexibility for our customers."

The deal includes a support agreement with CFM to cover its LEAP-1A engined fleet, and includes spares. Qatar Airways currently operates a fleet of 38 A320ceo aircraft, eight of which are powered by CFM's CFM56-5B engines. The rest are Pratt & Whitney powered. The first A321neo is scheduled for delivery in 2020. CFM International is a 50-50 joint venture company between General Electric and Safran Aircraft Engines.

---Airbus Lands in Dubai, Boeing Adds New MAX Order--- 18 Nov 2019 Airwise
Airbus has had a strong start to the Dubai Air Show, with orders and options for 290 aircraft, and **Boeing** racked up a follow-on order from SunExpress for 10 737 MAX 8s. The headline order came from Emirates, with the Dubai airline ordering 50 Airbus A350-900s in a list price deal valued at \$16 billion dollars, according to the airline. Airbus has stopped publishing aircraft list prices as airlines receive large discounts on pricing. The A350s will be powered by Rolls-Royce Trent engines, with first delivery expected in May 2023. The order supersedes an earlier Emirates intent to purchase 30 A350s and 40 A330neos. The second bumper offer for Airbus was from Sharjah-based low cost carrier Air Arabia, which placed a \$14 billion dollar order for 120 Airbus A320-family aircraft. The new order, for 73 A320neos, 27 A321neos and 20 A321XLR aircraft will more than triple Air Arabia's fleet of 54 A320s and A321neos.

Boeing received a boost from Turkish leisure airline SunExpress as it converted options for 10 737 MAX 8s to firm orders. The follow-on order, valued at \$1.2 billion dollars at list prices, will take the Antalya-based carrier's 737 MAX fleet to 42. SunExpress currently operates a fleet of 65 737-800s as it waits for delivery of the first of its 737 MAX aircraft. Boeing also announced a follow up order from Biman Bangladesh Airlines for two additional 787s, this time going for the larger -9 to add to its in-service fleet of four 787-8s. Other Boeing news included Egyptair adding to its Dreamliner fleet with the lease of two 787-9s from AerCap.

Embraer of Brazil announced a contract for three additional E195-E2s from Nigeria's Air Peace, worth \$212.6 million dollars at list prices. Air Peace now has 13 E195-E2s on order, with purchase rights for 17 more. Embraer said first delivery is scheduled for the second quarter of 2020. Cairo-based CIAF Leasing also signed a firm order for three Embraers, this time for E190s in a \$161.4 million dollar list price deal.

De Havilland Canada and aircraft lessor Palma signed a Letter of Intent at the airshow for the purchase of 20 Dash 8-400 aircraft. A final purchase agreement is expected soon. Nigeria's Elin Group signed a firm purchase agreement in Dubai for three De Havilland Dash 8-400 aircraft.

---Qantas Completes London to Sydney Non-stop Flight--- 15 Nov 2019 Airwise

Qantas has completed the second of three Project Sunrise long-haul research flights, after a Boeing 787-9 landed in Sydney after a non-stop flight from London. The aircraft, operating as flight QF7879 and carrying 50 passengers, landed on Friday at lunchtime local time in Sydney after a 19 hour 19 minute journey.

The research flight, which follows a non-stop New York to Sydney flight last month, is aimed at improving crew and passenger wellbeing on ultra long-haul services. The direct flight reduced total travel time by around three hours compared with current one-stop services. It flew across 11 countries and had fuel for about 1 hour 45 minutes of flight time when it landed.

Qantas is looking at aircraft selection for a possible 2023 launch of scheduled service between the east coast of Australia and London and New York. The arrival of the research flight coincides with the 99th anniversary of the founding of the Australian icon. The “Flying Kangaroo” was founded in rural Queensland in 1920 as Queensland and Northern Territory Aerial Services. The airline’s chairman Richard Goyder said at the launch of the centenary year:

“Qantas is a national icon because it’s been such a big part of Australian life for so long. We started in outback Queensland carrying mail and a few passengers in the 1920s. “Our founders talked about overcoming the tyranny of distance and through the years we’ve moved from bi-planes, to single wing, to jets to help bring things closer.”

---Boeing Continues 737 MAX Recovery in Dubai--- 19 Nov 2019 Airwise

Boeing continued to build momentum for the 737 MAX at the Dubai Airshow, with an intention to buy 30 of the type, and Airbus added to its strong start. Kazakhstan’s Air Astana signed a letter of intent with Boeing to order 30 737 MAX 8s for its low cost carrier FlyArystan. A firm order for the aircraft is valued at \$3.6 billion dollars at list prices. Entry into service is expected in late 2021. The Republic of Ghana signed a memorandum of understanding for three Boeing 787-9s, and a letter of intent with **De Havilland** Canada to purchase up to six Dash 8-400s. The aircraft will be placed with a new airline Ghana is setting up to serve domestic, regional and international routes. Based in Accra, the airline will fly to destinations in Europe, North America and Asia in addition to a domestic network. “There is a growing demand for air travel to and from Ghana and we believe the advanced 787-9 Dreamliner gives us an efficient and flexible machine to launch a regional network and eventually serve international destinations in the future,” Minister of Aviation Joseph Kofi Adda said. The list price value of the Boeing deal when completed is \$877.5 million dollars.

Airbus continued its strong start at the air show with a number of orders and conversions, including a 32-plane order from General Electric’s leasing arm GE Capital Aviation Services. GEECAS ordered 12 A330neos and 20 long-range A321XLRs. According to Airbus’s last published list prices, the overall order would be worth over \$6.1 billion dollars. The lessor has now ordered a total of 588 A320-family aircraft.

UK budget carrier easyJet exercised purchase rights for 12 Airbus A320neos to take its order total of the updated family of aircraft to 159. EasyJet is Europe’s largest A320-family operator with 333 in service, comprising 39 A320neo-family and 294 A320ceo-family aircraft. It is also Airbus’s largest European customer for neo aircraft. Rounding out Tuesday’s order list for Airbus, Saudi airline flynas placed a firm order for 10 A321XLRs, and Air Senegal signed a memorandum of understanding for eight A220-300s.

---More Delta employees sue Lands' End over uniforms they say made them sick---

Curtis Tate

USA TODAY

3 Jan 2020

A new group of Delta Air Lines employees is suing Lands' End over illnesses they say resulted from wearing new uniforms issued in 2018. The lawsuit, filed on Dec. 31 in U.S. District Court in Wisconsin, where Lands' End is based, is similar to another suit filed by two Delta flight attendants in New York in May. The Wisconsin suit seeks class-action status on behalf of 64,000 Delta employees who were issued the uniforms, including flight attendants, airport customer service employees, ticket and gate agents, and SkyClub workers. The lawsuits claim that wearing the uniforms caused skin rashes, headaches, fatigue and other problems. The workers who brought the lawsuit want Lands' End to recall the uniforms and initiate a health monitoring program for those affected. **Delta is not named as a defendant in the suit.**

Lands' End declined to comment on the lawsuit. In a statement, Delta said it invested in "a rigorous toxicology study" of the uniforms. "The results of the study confirm our uniforms meet the highest textile standards," the company said, "with the exception of the optional flight attendant apron, which we removed from the collection." The Wisconsin lawsuit claims Lands' End added various chemicals to the uniforms to make them stretchier, wrinkle- and stain-resistant, waterproof, anti-static and deodorizing. The Delta employees claim that the uniforms contained amounts of chromium, mercury and formaldehyde, among other chemicals, in excess of garment-industry standards. "These chemicals and heavy metals are known to cause significant reactions and severe personal harm," the Wisconsin suit says. A report issued by [a workplace safety watchdog](#) in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention last June recommended that Delta offer employees alternative uniforms. "It is possible that textile chemicals in the uniforms or the physical irritant properties of the uniform fabrics have caused skin symptoms among Delta employees," the report concluded.

---Close call: Air Canada Express flight loses wheel after takeoff---

Jayne Deerwester

USA TODAY

6 January 2020

The new year got off to a shaky start for some Air Canada Express passengers and crew Friday when their plane lost one of the wheels on the landing gear just after takeoff. "So I'm currently on a plane that just lost a wheel," wrote French-speaking passenger @caf_tom in a tweet alongside a video of the wheel coming off. "2020 is starting off rather well." Flight AC8684 was taking off from Montréal-Trudeau International Airport when one of the two wheels on the left main landing gear detached, explained Manon Stuart, a spokesperson for Jazz Aviation, which operated the regional flight.

"The Dash 8-300 aircraft is equipped with six tires: two on the right landing gear, two on the left, and two on the nose wheel landing gear," Stuart told USA TODAY. "The experienced pilots maintained complete control of the aircraft. Our pilots are well trained to deal with such situations and responded according to our standard operating procedures. After burning some fuel, the aircraft returned to Montréal and landed safely. There were no injuries." There were 49 passengers and three crew members aboard.

Stuart added, "Emergency vehicles were called as a precautionary measure – the safety of our passengers and crew is our top priority. Our maintenance personnel in Montréal are conducting a thorough inspection of the aircraft to determine the cause and proceed with the necessary repairs."

---Spirit Airlines unveils new flights between Florida and Colombia---

Julia Thompson

USA TODAY

7 January 2020

Budget carrier Spirit Airlines today announced new nonstop routes between Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and two Colombia cities. The discount airline will add Bucaramanga and Barranquilla, both in the northern part of the South American nation, flights to and from Fort Lauderdale starting in April.

Spirit first flew to Colombia in May 2008 between Fort Lauderdale and Cartagena. Additional Colombia destinations have since been added to Spirit's route map, and the airline claims with the latest additions that it will serve more cities in Colombia with nonstop flights from the U.S. than any other airline: 10 routes between Fort Lauderdale and Orlando, Florida, to seven Colombian cities. Bogota, Medellin, Armenia and Cali round out the Colombia destinations with existing service.

"Colombia is considered home to many in Florida, and it is also a destination that has gained so much interest in the past years from the leisure traveler," Ted Christie, Spirit president and CEO, said in a news release announcing the routes.

The Bucaramanga-Fort Lauderdale nonstop flights begin April 22 and will operate daily Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The Barranquilla-Fort Lauderdale flights start April 23 and will operate Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday. The routes are available to book now.

---Delta CEO unveils cool new travel tech at CES, but free Wi-Fi didn't make it---

Dawn Gilbertson

USA TODAY

7 January 2020

LAS VEGAS – A futuristic message board that delivers tailored airport information to travelers, in their own language, with a scan of a boarding pass. New app alerts that let you know when your group, not just your flight, is boarding so you're not glued to the gate. In-flight movies you can start on your way to the airport, and a new binge button on seatback screens.

Delta Air Lines CEO Ed Bastian, the first airline CEO to deliver a keynote address at the mammoth tech trade show CES, took advantage of the spotlight Tuesday and unveiled a flurry of tech features the airline says will smooth travel in the future. Some, like the more detailed boarding alerts, will be introduced this month, others, including the parallel reality airport screens, will only be tested this year, using a small sample of travelers in Detroit. Many more features Bastian touted, including a permanent bag tag with GPS and seamless security screening with biometrics at every step of the travel journey, are farther out.

All are designed, the airline said in a video at CES, "to make sure traveling isn't something that stresses you but something that delights you." One thing on travelers' minds not rolled out at CES: a timetable for free Wi-Fi on Delta. Bastian reiterated that free Wi-Fi, which Delta has been publicly floating since late 2018, remains Delta's goal and said in his keynote address Tuesday that the airline has a team working "nonstop" to add bandwidth and make its Wi-Fi faster ahead of offering it for free. He said he's confident they can do that "in the next couple years."

The airline did a limited test of free Wi-Fi in May. In an interview with Bloomberg television last fall, Bastian said offering free Wi-Fi comes with a lot of technological challenges, including travelers' crashing the system. JetBlue Airways is the only U.S. airline offering free Wi-Fi. Budget airlines don't even offer Wi-Fi, though Spirit plans to roll it out.

**San Diego Vanguards
c/o Kay Bays
5038 September Street
San Diego, CA 92110**

**Next Meeting
February 4th, 2020
10:15 AM
SAN DIEGO AIR & SPACE
MUSEUM**