



2020



Happy St. Patrick's Day

FEBRUARY MEETING UPDATE

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MARCH 19

President Horn welcomed 17 members and guests to our first 2020 meeting. He reminded members that it is renewal time, if you have not yet renewed see Bonnie.

At the Christmas luncheon, Tom Kaminski said he meets monthly with a group of AA retirees and shared information about Vanguards. Judy Hunter volunteered to go to the next gathering to promote and encourage them to join us and that we would consider changing our meeting day to Saturday. Since some of them are still in the work force, even though retired from AA, they are not able to meet during the week.

They meet at Thirsty's which is not a good venue since they do not have a private room.

The consensus was, they are only interested in a

social gathering and do not wish to have speakers.

At our February board meeting we discussed a change in the Vanguard format.

Instead of a meeting with a speaker, a suggestion was made to have a game day.

Those in attendance were interested and we asked for a show of hands to continue with our social event in May.

So Vanguards, we will have our GAME DAY in MAY!

We will try Bingo and if that goes well, we will consider other games. Suggestions are always welcome.

Membership was also discussed. In view of our declining membership, we asked for your thoughts of continuing

TUS Vanguards or dissolve the Chapter at the end of 2020 with our Christmas luncheon. We are aware that some members are no longer driving and may and would like to continue attending meetings.

Hy Reed and Ellie Pump have graciously offered to pick anyone up.

**PLEASE LET US
KNOW IF YOU NEED
A RIDE AND WE
WILL MAKE SURE
YOU WILL HAVE
TRANSPORTATION.
CONTACT JOHN
HORN OR KAREN
SHUDY TO ARRANGE
THIS FOR YOU.**

Those in attendance voted in favor of continuing TUS Vanguards.

John volunteered to put TUS Vanguards on Facebook.

50-50 Winner was Karen Shudy who donated it back to the Chapter.

FEBRUARY GUEST SPEAKER

We were delighted to have Havala Schumacher, US Census Bureau, as our guest speaker.

She provided an in-depth explanation of the workings of the 2020 Census and how every household responds.

A letter invitation and paper questionnaire will be mailed to every household. You will have the option to respond online, by mail or by phone. The dates are on or between March 12-20, reminder letter March 16-24 reminder postcard March 26- April3, reminder letter and paper questionnaire April 8-16 and a final reminder postcard before they follow up in person, April 20-27.

She explained that it is very important for this information as each state's representatives are governed by the population.

~2020 OFFICERS~

John Horn, President
869-1288
jwh946@gmail.com

Ron Hackman, Vice President
790-3740

Bonnie Conway, Treasurer
299-6462
abconway68@comcast.net

Karen Shudy, Secretary/Editor
883-8030
tusvanguards@hotmail.com

Ellie Pump
Consultant/Activities Director
579-9627
epump11@aol.com

2020 SCHEDULE

February 19
April 15
May 20 **GAME DAY**
October 21
November 18
December 9*
*Christmas Luncheon



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

****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

NRSA Department

480-693-8164

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

Hours: Mon - Fri 7am - 7pm CST

AA Team Member Service Center

844-543-5747

To access the new **RETIREE JETNET**

Go To: retirees.aa.com
1-888-207-2607

Team Member Service Center

Phone: 1-844-543-5747 to speak with a member of the team.

You'll first choose from a few prompts to make sure your question goes to the right department.

Hours: Monday through Friday: 7am – 7pm CST, Saturday and Sunday: 8am to 4pm CST

We handle questions related to:

- Travel
- General policy
- Retiree data management

Please contact :
Judy Hunter, Ambassador
Email: hunterja8@gmail.com
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.



We're on the web:
www.aavanguardscities.com



MARCH

4 John & Karen Shudy 48 years

30 Mickey & Bonnie Conway 52 years



MARCH


10 Joe Quagliata



NEVER REGRET BEING A GOOD PERSON TO THE WRONG PEOPLE. YOUR KINDNESS SAYS EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU. THEIR BEHAVIOR SAYS EVERYTHING ABOUT THEM.

- ANONYMOUS

JENTOFT, Olav "Ollie"



Born and raised in Norway, Ollie dreamt of the "Wild West" and made Tucson his home for over 60 years. He has now gone home to Jesus. He is preceded in death by his wife Ebba and his daughter, Bente-Lee. Ollie is survived by son, Dennis (Deborah); daughter, Anne-Lise; son, Jan-Olav; his grandchildren, Robert and Sedona; and niece, Randi. Olav loved and respected nature. Ringo, his faithful canine companion was always by his side. He will be missed by all who knew him. "Hvil i fred." To honor his love for animals, please make a donation in his name, in lieu of flowers to: The Humane Society of Southern Arizona, 635 W. Roger Rd., Tucson, AZ 85705, 520-327-6088 hssaz.org Per his wishes, Olav will be remembered with a gathering of friends. Arrangements by **MARANA MORTUARY.**

.A4A urges Congress to reject tax hikes on passengers

Airlines for America urged Congress to reject the proposed tax hikes on air travel that are included in President Donald Trump's fiscal year 2021 budget request. The suggested tax hikes would cost passengers an additional \$2.7 billion per year on top of the \$26 billion they paid in 2019. These are unnecessary tax increases that would jeopardize the unprecedented choice, access and affordability that consumers enjoy today. US aviation and its customers are already subject to 17 federal aviation taxes and fees.

American Airlines celebrates Black History Month

Pamela Camarena had a desire to follow her father's footsteps and work in aviation from a young age. When she was hired in July 1974, Camarena became the youngest person hired by PSA Airlines and has now worked in aviation for the last 45 years. Camarena says her work has led to unique experiences, including an advertising campaign. "It has been my pleasure to make our customers feel welcome and at home no matter their age, race, gender, ethnicity or sexual orientation. At American, I'm living out my dream job every day as I get to care for our customers on their journeys," she says.

A4A unveils Real ID resources ahead of Oct. 1 deadline

With less than eight months until the Real ID deadline, Airlines for America has unveiled a new, 30-second video and a new website, RealIDFacts.com, to help raise awareness and educate travelers. Passengers who do not have approved identification will not be allowed through Transportation Security Administration checkpoints starting Oct. 1. "US airlines are advising all travelers to plan ahead. Do not wait until the last minute to get a Real ID. ... We want to ensure you have a smooth and enjoyable journey," A4A's Lauren Beyer says.

Delta celebrates profit sharing with "thank you" plane

Delta Air Lines paid out a record \$1.6 billion in profit sharing to its employees Feb. 14, and unveiled a "thank you" plane. The aircraft, whose livery features the names of Delta's 90,000 employees. "Delta would be nothing without our 90,000 people worldwide. They deserve all the credit for our success," Delta CEO Ed Bastian said. TravelPulse (2/14),

American celebrates expansion at N.C. hub

American Airlines executives gathered Feb. 18 to celebrate the airline opening four new gates at Charlotte Douglas International Airport. American now operates more than 700 daily flights from 93 gates, some 90% of the airport's flights. The airport's ongoing expansion plans could add even more flights for American, which serves 149 destinations in 25 countries from the Charlotte hub.



The 777X Takes to The Skies

The world's largest and most efficient twin-engine jet took its first flight, a major milestone for Boeing's 777X built on years of development, testing and rigor. The 777X will safely fly passengers more comfortably and efficiently with less fuel. Together, we're building the future of flight.

Determination leads to success for American Airlines pilot

When American Airlines First Officer Charlene Shortte was young, she worried that the lack of black female pilots might present an obstacle to her career of choice, but she didn't let that stop her. Along her journey from the US Air Force Academy to the Air Force to American Airlines first officer, she built a support system and found mentors and now is able to pay it forward.

.American uses Google translate at O'Hare airport lounges

American Airlines is using Google translation technology at passenger lounges at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. The device can translate languages and will assist passengers when multilingual agents are not immediately available.

American renews partnership with Qatar Airways

American Airlines is reviving its codesharing agreement with Qatar Airways, linking its Doha hub with American's US network. "Our goal is to continue to expand and deepen our global partnerships to complement American's network and create more choice for our customers," American's Chairman and CEO Doug Parker said. Reuters (2/25)

American employee serves as education advocate

Calvin Hightower, American Airlines' manager of airport vendor operations at O'Hare International Airport serves in his community through coaching and advocating for improvements to the education system. Hightower, who's had a 48-year career with American, says his upbringing motivates him to make a difference in his community and share the importance of education.

American named official airline of English soccer team

American Airlines will be the official airline of the English soccer team Watford for the rest of the season. The partnership will feature match highlights in the airline's inflight entertainment systems and arena branding SportsPro Media/Memphis, Tenn. (2/26)

Retired MD-80 planes make a difference for students

When American Airlines retired its remaining McDonnell Douglas MD-80 aircraft, the planes found new purpose as training tools at Illinois' Lewis University and CareerTech in Oklahoma City. The aircraft provide students with the opportunity to receive hands-on training. American Airlines American Stories (3/5)

American Airlines CEO reveals why he engineered 2 of the biggest airline mergers in the last 20 years
That's why we merged with American Airlines, we were worried US Airways as a stand-alone was no longer in a safe harbor."

A 40-year-old Doug Parker found himself dejected on a flight home to Phoenix, Arizona from Washington D.C. He had just been turned down for the government loan guarantee needed to keep his airline from folding.

Parker had become the CEO of America West Airlines only three months earlier on September 1, 2001. At the time, he was just 39-years old, one of the youngest CEOs in the industry. It was the beginning of a career ascendancy that would culminate with him running the largest airline in the world.

For Parker, the good times at the beginning of his America West tenure would last only 10 days as the tragic events of 9/11 plunged the nation and its airline industry into a period of darkness.

"I sat in my seat on the way home from D.C., kind of this woe is me, what am I going to do here?" Parker told Business Insider. "I'm this brand new CEO, I'm going to have a resume that says I got to be CEO and then three months later the airline liquidated. What am I going to do?"

A conversation with one of his flight attendants during the trip home put things into perspective.

"I went to the back and talked to a flight attendant because I always do, even though I didn't really want to because I wasn't sure what I was going to say," he said. "She asked of course about how this is going and she just looked at me and said, 'You can't let that happen. I'm a single mom and I've been doing this job for 13 years,' is my recollection. 'This is what I'm trained to do, this is what I do and I'm really good at it,' which she was. 'And you can't let that happen.'"

The short conversation stuck with Parker and effectively changed the way he views what it means to be a company's chief executive.

"From that point forward I stopped worrying about my own career and realized that those people that are in our care, are dependent upon us to go fight for them," Parker said. "It's not their fault that their company isn't as strong as another one, they're out there doing amazing things. We needed to get our company strong enough."

It's this mindset that guides Parker's decision making to this day.

Read More: American Airlines CEO reveals why a small Italian airline is the focus of the nastiest feud in the airline industry

As for the loan guarantee, Parker re-applied days later and was eventually granted the lifeline America West needed.

However, Parker's airline was far from safe waters. The days following 9/11 were bleak for the entire airline industry. Airlines slashed costs while their employees took major pay cuts. When that wasn't enough, there were layoffs and bankruptcies.

America West Airlines was a medium-sized network carrier based in Tempe, Arizona with a single hub at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. America West couldn't challenge the likes of American, United, and Delta in terms of revenue, but survived by having lower operating costs.

According to Parker, the airline's only competitive advantage at the time was that it paid its employees less. However, as rival airlines emerged from bankruptcy, they did so with pared-down labor costs comparable to that of America West.

"All of a sudden we had a model that was not long-term viable," Parker said. "So as they got their cost near ours and we have a revenue disadvantage, we knew we had to do something in order to keep that company viable."

Read More: American Airlines CEO reveals the most important lesson he learned from the legendary founder of Southwest Airlines

Parker added, "So we at least had the foresight to recognize this wasn't long-term sustainable, we needed to figure out a way to expand our network to get more scale."

For America West, the answer to its problems would be to merge with US Airways.

By 2004, Virginia-based US Airways had filed for bankruptcy twice in two years. Parker pushed for a merger with US Airways even as many in the industry felt it was time to let the airline liquidate its assets and disappear from the market. However, Parker noted a US Airways liquidation would have simply resulted in American, United, and Delta picking up most of the defunct carrier's assets.

"(Liquidation) just made them even stronger and made us even weaker," he told us. "We thought instead, let's merge with them. So that was really just out of strategic necessity, this is a big opportunity for us to get some scale and we did."

The merger worked. In 2005, a new US Airways with America West in the fold emerged from bankruptcy.

Over the years that followed, US Airways fought through some operational woes to find success. Its hub in Philadelphia would prove to be more successful than United's much bigger hub in Newark, New Jersey. Something former US Airways President and Current United Airlines President Scott Kirby would begrudgingly admit. At the same time, US Airways' hub in Charlotte would go on to become one of the most profitable operations in the airline industry.

In fact, the merger worked so well that US Airways would soon be strong enough to merge again. It tried and failed to merge with both Delta Air Lines and United Airlines.

Delta would merge with Northwest in 2008 while United went on to merge with Continental in 2010.

US Airways would finally find the right partner in American Airlines, the company where Parker's airline career began in 1986 under the tutelage of former CEO Bob Crandall.

In 2013, US Airways and American Airlines came together in a merger valued at \$11 billion. Parker's reasoning for this merger was the same as the first one.

"It was all about what moves are we making to make sure we get these people into safe harbor," he said. "That's why we merged with US Airways because we were worried that America West standalone wasn't in a safe harbor. That's why we merged with American Airlines, we were worried US Airways as a stand-alone was no longer in a safe harbor."

In 2018, American Airlines with 57-year-old Doug Parker at the helm reported a \$2.8 billion profit and on \$44 billion in revenue.