



SWAPA Fast Facts

Contact us during normal office hours:

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SWAPA Mission

The Southwest Airlines Pilots Association (SWAPA) is a non-profit employee association representing the pilots of Southwest Airlines. Our mission is to provide a secure and rewarding career for our pilots and their families by equitably enhancing compensation and quality of life issues through contract negotiations, faithfully defending individual and collective contractual rights via administration and enforcement procedures, and actively promoting professionalism and safety through effective organizational communications.

SWAPA Boilerplate

Headquartered in Dallas, Texas, SWAPA is the sole bargaining unit for more than 10,000 pilots of Southwest Airlines. SWAPA is an independent union and is not affiliated with any national or international labor organization.

SWAPA Facts

- Headquartered in Dallas, SWAPA is the sole bargaining unit for more than 10,000 pilots of Southwest Airlines.
- Pilots are based at 11 domiciles (crew bases): Atlanta (ATL); Baltimore (BWI); Dallas Love Field (DAL); Denver (DEN), Houston Hobby (HOU); Las Vegas (LAS); Los Angeles (LAX); Orlando (MCO); Chicago Midway (MDW); Oakland (OAK); and Phoenix (PHX).
- Southwest pilots are among the most experienced in the industry and are considered experts on the B-737 aircraft.
- SWAPA governance includes three full-time executives (president, vice president, and 2nd vice president) who lead a Board of Directors (BOD) comprised of two elected representatives from each of the 11 domiciles. Executive officers and BOD members serve two-year terms with a term limit of two consecutive terms. The board meets roughly every quarter at SWAPA headquarters in Dallas.

SWAPA History

- Since its founding in 1978 with 112 members, SWAPA has negotiated nine contracts with the Company.
- Under terms of the Railway Labor Act governing airline union negotiations, pilot contracts do not expire but rather become amendable on a certain date.
- SWAPA and the Company ratified their most recent contract in November of 2016.
- The current contract became amendable in September 2020 with a March 1, 2020 early opener option.

SWAPA Services

- Collective bargaining
- Contract administration
- Grievance assistance
- Legal and disciplinary representation
- Proactive safety program
- Organizational, labor, and aviation industry communication
- Aeromedical, Special Services (Critical Incident Response Team), and Professional Standards programs

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