



International Aviation Professionals

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Atlas Air Pilots Elect New Union Leadership Team

*Experienced Labor Leader Elected President;
Accomplished Team Fills Other Posts*

CINCINNATI—Capt. Yngve Paulsen, a 21-year veteran pilot and longtime union activist, has been elected the first president of the International Aviation Professionals (IAP), International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 2750, which represents more than 2,600 pilots working for major cargo airlines Atlas Air, Polar Air Cargo and Southern Air.

Paulsen will lead a team of six other newly elected members of the union's first Executive Board, all of whom are experienced union leaders elected by wide margins. Local 2750 is currently in trusteeship and has been under the direction of two IBT-appointed trustees since its inception in October 2019. The election was held from June 15–July 20, 2021.

A 747 captain with Atlas Air and an Atlas pilot since 2011, Paulsen has served in a wide range of union activities since joining the airline. Over the last few years, he was the vice chairman of the union's Executive Council and has functioned in leadership roles before and during the establishment of Local 2750. He also served as the lead negotiator for the contract negotiating committee in the pilots' five-year battle to get a new working agreement.

"Paulsen's election is a clear indication that pilots are unified and committed to a knowledgeable and experienced leadership team, one that is not afraid to challenge the company's tactics when concerns over pilot safety, work rules and policies are raised," said Capt. Robert Kirchner (ret.), one of the current IBT trustees.

Active in pilots' unions for two decades, Paulsen recently has been instrumental in such efforts as negotiating industry-leading COVID-19 protocols and agreements, as well as securing a 10% interim pay raise for all Local 2750 pilots during the pandemic.

In addition to Paulsen, the other newly elected officers, who will serve three-year terms on the Local 2750 Executive Board, are:

- **Chris Knox, Vice President-Elect:** A 747 captain and Atlas pilot since 2011, Knox has served on the union's Executive Council for the last seven years and was the chairman of the contract negotiating committee. He also has been instrumental in the formation of new Local 2750.

- **Christopher Grable, Secretary Treasurer-Elect:** A 767 captain, Grable has led a pilots' union in the past, having been in union leadership positions for 15 of the nearly 17 years he has been a commercial pilot. Over the last few years, he has assisted the trustees in many roles, including the many duties required of a secretary-treasurer.
- **Justin Wargo, Recording Secretary-Elect:** A 767 captain, Wargo joined Atlas nearly seven years ago after a decade flying for ExpressJet Airlines. He has overseen many of the union's most active committees and is the leader of the union's COVID-19 Task Force. He has been instrumental in negotiating some of the best COVID-19 protections for the union's pilots.
- **Keith Carbine, Trustee-Elect:** A 767 first officer, Carbine joined Atlas three years ago. During this time, he has been involved in many union activities, including serving on the union's IT committee, where he was instrumental in the development of the local's IT infrastructure. He also served on the contract negotiating committee and was part of the successful integration of the seniority lists between the Atlas pilots and the Southern pilots.
- **Brent Desserich, Trustee-Elect:** A 747 captain and Atlas pilot since 2013, Desserich has distinguished himself as a contract expert, while quickly rising to assume the duties of lead steward. He is responsible for the 16 union stewards who have the task of upholding the provisions of the pilots' collective bargaining agreement.
- **Greg Longie, Trustee-Elect:** A 747 captain, Longie has served in multiple union roles since becoming an Atlas pilot more than six years ago. He has served as chairman of both the union's IT committee and hotel committee, where he has secured some of the safest and best hotel accommodations in the airline industry for the Atlas pilots.

The results of the voting were released by Global Election Services, a leading third-party elections administrator for labor unions and other nonprofit organizations. The officers-elect are expected to formally take office once the required procedures are complete and IBT releases Local 2750 from trusteeship.