



USA, LATIN AMERICA, AND THE CARIBBEAN DISTRICT NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2022 WINTER EDITION

From the Director's Desk: Winter 2022

Hi Everyone!

Hoping everyone is well and out celebrating the holiday season with loved ones. It was wonderful visiting with friends and colleagues at our Pionairs holiday luncheon. Everyone looked great! You all continue to age as "fine wines"! For those that were unable to come, we missed you.

Below is important information for those who travel positive space:

In celebration of its 85th anniversary, Air Canada is offering employees and retirees a ONE- TIME SUBSTANTIAL SYSTEM-WIDE DISCOUNT CODE for use between now and the end of January 2024.

This "recognition discount" was originally offered only to active employees. Thanks to good relations between Pionairs and Air Canada and action taken by Pionairs National Board members, management agreed that retirees contributed to the success and longevity of the company, and should share in the reward.

Retirees should have received by now, an email from:

recognition@aircanada.ca

The email contains your UNIQUE TRAVEL DISCOUNT CODE which you should make note of. The code will NOT be included in your employee travel profile. If you did not receive it, please check your junk mail, as it was not spam. The code is valid for 35 percent off any base fare within North America or to sun destinations. There are also discounts on international destinations and fares. The code is valid for ONE SINGLE BOOKING ONLY AND FOR A MAXIMUM OF SIX PASSENGERS. Full details are available on the Employee Travel Site.

Your current USA PIONAIRS TEAM accepted our volunteer positions with Pionairs for a two- year term. We have now been doing this for over five years. Time flies when you are having fun, but we are also recruiting "new blood", we need new ideas, new newsletter stories or anecdotes, and new volunteers. We need to be certain that US retirees remain in touch with Air Canada and stay in tune with what is happening regarding their benefits, privileges, insurance, pensions, etc., many of which are unique and specific to US retired staff. If you are either willing to help your existing board or possibly have an interest in becoming a successor board member or have stories to contribute to our newsletter, please let us know. Our email contacts are located at the end of this newsletter.

Wishing you and your family and friends many blessings during the holiday season as well as throughout the coming year!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY AND HEALTHY 2023

Team USA



AIR CANADA UPDATES

Airbus A220-300 aircraft: Air Canada announced the order of 15 Airbus A220-300, bringing the number to 60 of the Canadian-built aircraft in Air Canada's fleet. "This purchase order is a clear indication that we are emerging from the pandemic solidly positioned for the future. Passenger comfort is enabling us to compete effectively in the North American market," said Mike Rousseau. **Air Canada News Oct. 25, 2022**

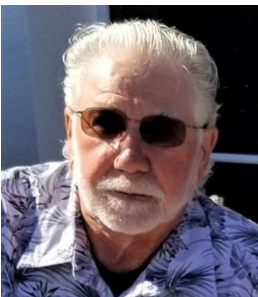
AC has a purchase order for 30 ES-30 Electric Regional Aircraft. The ES-30 will serve regional and commuter routes more sustainably, and provide low-emission connectivity to local communities over the medium-to-long term. It will be capable of carrying 30 passengers seated three across, with a galley and lavatory. The aircraft will be powered by lithium-ion batteries. It will also be equipped with reserve-hybrid generators that can use sustainable aviation fuel.



New and Restored Services: Air Canada is committed to elevating the customer experience and will be offering world-class services. Maple Leaf Lounge, Premium Cabins, New Economy Class dining, New Bistro choice in North America, complimentary High-speed Wi-Fi when traveling Premium Rouge will be some of the new features.

Bangkok, Thailand Service: Air Canada's first non-stop from YVR to Bangkok. This is the only direct service from North America to Thailand. This four times a week, seasonal service from Vancouver began in December and will end March 26th.

BOB'S BENCH



The Gathering: This quarter, I will not talk about exercise and other related items that I have been talking about over the past several years.

This month I want to tell all of you that we were able to attend the Holiday Luncheon in person. It was very exciting for Martha and me after missing last year, to be able to meet so many of you and our Board of Directors was fantastic. All of the hard work that it takes to put on a function of that magnitude takes plenty of caring and hard work.

3

I will be getting more involved with the retirees in the west and hope to bring in new members to the mostly sales side as I was more of an operations person. I have some personal goals (achievable goals are always a good thing) that I will be working towards as we bring in the New Year.

Thanks again. We had a great time. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Bobby and Martha

(Bob's Bench)

EMPLOYEES WORKSHOP CIRCA 1990



Customer Care Workshop held during the 1990's in Tampa. Standing left to right: Sharon Tillman, Cathy Salvage, and Charlotte Clayton of Tampa, Fairie Kraft of Nassau, Doris De LaRosa, Sandra Garcia, Ken Jefferson, Kaye Love, Lise Johnson of Tampa, Willshire Bethel of Nassau, Pennie Jefferson, Agathe Pacquette, and Helen Pizzutto of Tampa. Kneeling in front are Mel Long and Gloria Sterling of Tampa. **Netletter @ 1490, reprinted July 23, 2022.

LAUGHTER PRESCRIPTION

Laughter can be beneficial to the mind and body. The perks of laughter and humor are far-reaching. A 2016 study titled, "The Laughter Prescription" and published in the American Journal of Lifestyle Medicine found that the amount of laughter a person experiences is related to the immune system's ability to fight off infections, among other benefits. Spontaneous (not forced) laughter boosts the immune system by increasing natural killer (NK) cell activity which can kill a broad spectrum of cancerous and virus-infected cells. Laughing out loud improves immune system functions and increases heart rate and oxygen levels. Individuals who laugh often have lower blood pressure than those that laugh less.

Doctors have found that the stress hormones epinephrine and cortisol decrease following laughter. The phrase “laughter is the best medicine” looks like it has scientific data to support it. Go ahead and have a *good laugh at my expense* after reading this newsletter. Better yet, send us a funny story that happened to you in your career so we can all have a good laugh.

pionairsusa@gmail.com

**The Village Lantern” Aug. 2022



CANADA RUNNING OUT OF STREET NAMES

Canada was definitely running out of ideas for street names.



Zeeshan Hussein Visram

Uber guy: where do you live exactly?

Me: that street

Uber: which street

Me: that street near this street

Uber: wait what which street where?

is there any other street near you?

Me: yes exactly near the other street

*call ended

Me: well that was rude

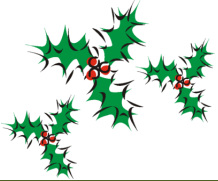


Facebook posting

100 YEARS AND COUNTING

Betty Reid Soskin is one remarkable woman. Just look at her as she was about to retire from the U.S. National Park Service at the age of 100. Her Moment in Time, the stories she must have during her lifetime of service. She was the oldest living Park Ranger and gave bi-weekly

lectures at the Rosie the Riveter National Historic Park. in Richmond, California. Kudos to Betty.



BRAIN CHALLENGE

Let's Challenge ourselves to see if you can name (without google) the 21 states that end in "A" as the last letter. Then take it one further, 5 states share another letter as the last letter in their name. That letter ranks second place, Name the states and the letter! ****AARP****



FUNNY BONES

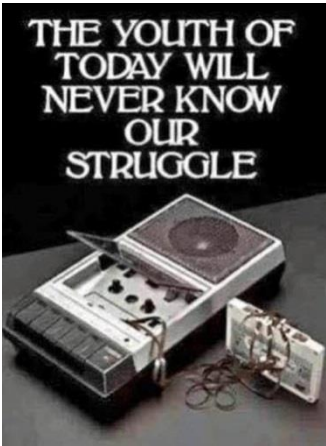
A Gingerbread man went to the doctor complaining of a sore knee,
"A sore knee!" the doctor said. "Have you tried icing it?"



Quote from: Department of Social Services, Greenville, South Carolina.

"Your food stamps will be stopped effective March 2022 because we received notice that you passed away. May God bless you. You may reapply if there is a change in your circumstances."

****If you ever feel a little bit stupid, just dig this up and read it again; you'll begin to think you're a genius.**



THIS AND THAT

Early Check Cashing Fee: All paper checks issued by ADP on behalf of Air Canada should not be cashed before the endorsement date (pay date) on the check. ADP charges a fee for each check that is cashed before the pay date. Therefore, effective Jan. 2020, HR started recovering those costs directly from the retiree via payroll deduction. The fee currently is \$ 35 per retiree, per incident.

Unraveling the mysteries of employee travel. Navigating standby travel can be daunting. The Recognition and Employee Travel team has created a standby travel playbook to act as a guide for you to make the most of your travel privileges. Visit the **EMPLOYEE TRAVEL SITE** and check out Travel Tips-Standby Travel playbook-Travel 101 for details. ****Horizons July 2022****

WANTED: Your Quarterly Newsletter needs your STORIES, PHOTOS, and FEEDBACK!

Send us your workplace stories, photos, and ideas. It's your newsletter, so please share your input. Don't like to write, just send an idea and we will work with you.

pionairsusa@gmail.com

Pionairs Membership: Talk to your fellow retirees and encourage them to become a member of Pionairs. It's only \$ 17 yearly, payable out of your June paycheck. Direct them to pionairs.ca and hit JOIN.

PARTY HARDY

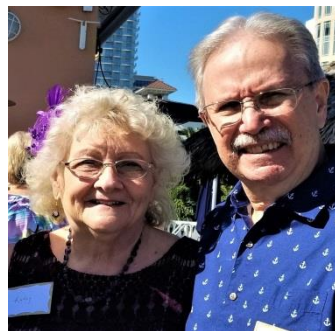
The New York Retirees and the **U.S. District Pionairs** held their holiday gatherings a day apart this year. Judging from all the smiles, both groups enjoyed their special event. I took a survey of the members at the Pionairs party in Florida to obtain a total of the Air Canada years of service present in that room. The amazing total was **880** years. More photos can be viewed on the AC Alumni Facebook page.

Richard Kowel from Long Island, New York does an amazing job organizing the NJ-NY area Retirees for their yearly holiday party. He is the “Northern Glue” and checks up on this group throughout the year. He is one special guy and we want to officially thank him for all he does. Thanks Richard .Thanks also to Alex Chan, the roving photographer.



Photos of US District Pionairs at St. Petersburg Yacht club in Florida





THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Gratitude makes sense of your past
Brings peace for today
And Creates a Vision for tomorrow



TEAM USA AND BEYOND

Director:
Assistant Dir.
Treasurer:
Secretary/Editor

Gloria Sterling
Diane Dormer
Monique Madewell
Kathy Oko

usadistrict@pionairs.org
pionairsusa.diane@gmail.com
pionairsusa@gmail.com
pionairsusa@gmail.com



IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

AC EMPLOYEE TRAVEL CARE TEAM – 9 a.m. – 7 p.m. ET, Mon-Fri. (closed Sat-Sun)

Email: actravel.voyageac@aircanada.ca 1-833-USA-EMPL

Employee Care Team (HR Connect): 1-833-872-3675 (AC employee Customer Service)

Payroll/Benefits Concern: people.usa@aircanada.ca

Postal Address: Employee Care Team, 730 Cote-Vertu Blvd, W. Dorval QC H4S 1Y9

IT Help Desk: 1-866-275-5444 (it can establish or reset Pins)

Employee Call Center: 800-423-1113 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. ET 7 days a week-North America

Personal travel from other locations: 1 204-941-2887

Group Benefits: groupebenefits@aircanada.ca

Aetna Medicare Advantage: 1-855-870-3254 Mon-Fri 8 a.m.- 6 p.m. all time zones

Manager: Employee Services USA: Yasmine Francois 813-287-3891