

Visit to Norway – Courtesy of CHC-PA April 10-11th, 2008

The GHPA was invited to the April 2008 semi-annual meeting of the CHC Pilots Association, held in Bergen, Norway. Unfortunately, due to the limited funds in the GHPA account, I had to initially decline the offer. Generously, the CHC-PA (via HSF, the union representing the Norwegian pilots) later offered to fund the costs of the trip thus making it possible for me to attend.

On behalf of the GHPA, I wish to extend my sincere thanks to the CHC-PA for making the trip possible.

The meetings were scheduled for the 10th and 11th of April. During the meetings, I had the opportunity to meet representatives of the Norwegian, Dutch, Danish and UK unions. Unfortunately, a representative of the Irish union was unable to attend.

Minutes of the meeting will be available on the GHPA website (member's side) under 'CHC-PA News'.

This meeting was the first time the GHPA was in attendance since becoming a full member of the CHC-PA. I was asked to prepare a presentation for the members outlining who the GHPA represented, our formative history, where we are today and how we got there. The briefing I presented has been added to the homepage of the GHPA website.

Without getting into the specifics of the meeting (covered in the CHC-PA meeting minutes), suffice it to say that the meeting was a wonderful opportunity for me to see that the GHPA is not alone. Support for our struggle from the other unions was unanimously pledged to us.

Finally, I would like to extend a special "Thank You" to Mr. Olav Bastiansen for suggesting to the CHC-PA that costs for the trip to Norway would be covered by the CHC-PA and their respective union members. It was a great opportunity to meet with our union 'brothers (and sisters)' and to learn a different aspect of CHC. We all have our struggles and sometimes our perspective is skewed by a sort of tunnel vision'. The visit provided a special insight into the organization of CHC and how they deal with the different pilot unions. The association with the CHC-PA will prove to be especially valuable when we are finally certified and begin bargaining for our first 'collective agreement'.

Regards,

Norm Robichaud

(Interim President GHPA)