

# TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION NO.19

Airline, Aerospace and Allied Employees – Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas

## Houston

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## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

December 29, 2016

**WOW! What a crazy year 2016 turned out to be. Along with a few successes, Local 19 was also faced with a few less than desirable outcomes. Next year, what is going to set us apart from the rest, will be how we move forward and turn what are seen today as adversities, into a more palatable position for tomorrow. From ongoing WN Material Specialist and ExpressJet negotiations in 2016, to the notification from ExpressJet that they would be completely shutting down Shreveport in 2017, to the less than desirable contract outcome for most of us at UAL, this next year we will need to lean heavily on the positives and move forward to enhance both, the representation of, and lives of you, our members.**

**As we close in on the end of 2016 there were a couple of reality checks for me this year, both as a reminder, and putting things into perspective. First and foremost, more of a mortality than reality check. In November my wife Teresa was diagnosed with breast cancer and then just a couple weeks later, after having been with him in negotiations all week, our close friend and Local 19 Business Agent at WN, Kevin Givens, passed away at just 52 years old. Kevin being one of the few that I shared T's news with must have immediately gone to work watching over us. T had surgery last week and at the follow-up this week we were told she was the first case our surgeon had ever seen where all the cancer was completely removed with the biopsy. So one more test to go and we are in hopes she will have only four weeks of radiation and then the five year hormone blocker therapy.**

**Last week I struggled for days to write a letter to the negotiating committee about Kevin and how much we will miss him. No words seemed adequate enough to honor such a great person and his greatness was even made more apparent by the attendances at his services last week. So many people showed up to remember Kevin and importantly to also thank his wife and family for sharing their precious time with him.**

**After thinking about this a lot these past two weeks, what became a reality for me is that knowing, as leaders we certainly would quickly tire and would most certainly never succeed by always blazing the first steps in uncharted directions. Kevin, like several others around me, allowed me to lead in his footsteps and for this, I will be forever thankful.**

**So as we close out 2016, think about whom you blaze that trail for and who, through their footsteps, are the people that in the same way as Kevin did for me, add to your success as a leader, a parent, a spouse, a co-worker or a friend.**

**Have a Happy, but safe, New Year's,**

**Bob Clever  
President & Business Manager Local 19**

*Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters*