

Waypoint

A SWAPAFAMILY  NEWSLETTER



SPOUSE SPOTLIGHT (Page 6)

Teresa Harris, wife of FO Chris Harris, has always had an adventurous and independent spirit.



SWAPAFamily Outreach Chair Jean Peck and family.

SWAPAFamily – It's about You and Your Family

As we move further into 2017, it's important to look over our shoulders with pride at all that SWAPA accomplished in 2016. The strength of our Union has grown because of the leadership that we have in place as well as our determined and resolute membership. There are so many to thank for the new Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) — the “Dream Team” Negotiating Committee, our SWAPA Legal team, Executive leadership, Board of Directors, the Communications Committee and staff (for always keeping us informed), the membership, and, of course, you, the

family that holds us up when we need it the most. Financially and otherwise, we are all reaping the benefits of SWAPA's accomplishment. In addition, we have discovered a whole new dimension to our organization with the introduction of SWAPAFamily. Designed to bring our Pilots and their families together to share and understand what's going on with contract negotiations, it has created a camaraderie that will undoubtedly continue to grow. It was a missing piece of the SWAPA puzzle, and it is so exciting to watch the program develop as our future unfolds.

Since February 2016, we have

traveled many miles across the system with our SWAPAFamily celebration events at each of our 10 domiciles. The positive response was truly inspiring. In addition, we set out to visit those areas where the majority of commuters live with RoundUps and Roadshows. Some traveled many miles to attend these events, further emphasizing how important it is to connect with one another. The real prize for me has been watching all of the new relationships being formed and the rekindling of past friendships. I am looking forward to the celebration events already planned for 2017 (see page 13) — except this year, we will not be bogged down with worry over a new contract! SWAPA will continue to work tirelessly on our behalf, but we can rest for a bit and enjoy the moment.

Moving forward, your participation in SWAPAFamily as a spouse or a family member is more important than ever. Even though we have accomplished a monumental task with our new CBA, we need our collective voice to be louder and undeniable for the next round of negotiations. And because our lifestyles are driven by a crazy airline schedule (at least I am speaking for those of us who are “junior”), we find that our traditional 9-to-5 friends often don’t understand what we go through. It’s our friendships with one another other that hold us up — through the good times and the bad. Even though we can connect through events and local gatherings, our strongest friendship


ally is social media. If you are not on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, you are missing out on some serious fun! Need help signing up? Call me and I will help you.

- **Join** the SWAPAFamily Facebook group
- **“Like”** SWAPA on Facebook
- **“Follow”** SWAPA on Twitter and SWAPAFamily on Instagram
- **Get** the latest updated info on SWAPAFamily.org
- **Persuade** your Pilot to bring home the SWAPA *Reporting Point* newsletter. It can also be found online at SWAPA.org and SWAPAFamily.org.

We hope you enjoy this first edition of *Waypoint*. Our plan is to print one every quarter, but we need your awesome pictures, your input (send us something you’ve written), and your ideas on interesting articles you’d like to read. Let’s make this our newsletter because after all, this is about you and your family!

All the best,

JEAN PECK, Chair
SWAPAFamily Outreach

GREG JONES, Committee Member
SWAPAFamily Outreach 



SWAPA President Jon Weaks with his father Bill Weaks.

Strengthening Our Foundation

Last year was one of the most eventful years in SWAPA's history, so let me start by saying thank you all for sticking together through a tumultuous 2016. We begin a new year filled with new opportunities and challenges.

The single most important element of our past year's success was the unprecedented unity of our Pilot group.

Our unity, however, was not restricted to just the men and women who occupy our flight decks. Over the past year, our families became our support network through the trials of contract struggles. Spouses became involved and informed, and we discovered the power that lies within our families.

As we continue into 2017, we intend

to keep and strengthen the bonds that we have established with our families. While our Communications Committee does a fantastic job of keeping our Pilots informed, SWAPAFamily promises to keep our family members in the loop as well. That's one of the reasons why we have created this quarterly family newsletter. Being a professional Pilot is not a one-man or one-woman commitment. It is a commitment made by a Pilot's entire family. SWAPA does and will continue to honor that commitment as we continue the outreach efforts that we started in 2016.

In addition to keeping our families up-to-date on current events surrounding our Pilot group, SWAPAFamily's overriding goal is to strengthen the friendships among the families of the professional Pilots of SWAPA and to provide a support network within the Pilot network. Studies continuously reaffirm that a strong social support network has positive effects on mental and physical health. With our Pilot group dispersed all over the country, SWAPAFamily is one such support network available to you, and I hope you will use it to your benefit.

Please stay engaged on social media. (See page 8.) Join the SWAPAFamily Facebook group. Follow @swapapilots on Twitter. Get involved with SWAPAFamily and stay engaged. While our fight for a long-overdue contract has ended, there remains much to be done. Not the least of which is ensuring that our new contract

is implemented in accordance with the letter and intent of the agreement. Through our unity of purpose and actions, as well as our leadership, we intend to regain the mystique and swagger that made Southwest Airlines the success it is today.

Once again, thank you for your involvement over the past year and thank you in advance for your involvement in the future of SWAPA and SWAPAFamily.

JON WEAKS

SWAPA President 



Spouse Spotlight

Teresa Harris, wife of FO Chris Harris (LAS/#106358) has always had an adventurous and independent spirit.

Born and raised in Mississippi, Harris left for California to begin her life's journey when she was young.

"I got antsy," she says. "I can't be in one spot for too long. My husband is the same way. I moved to California for the adventure and really loved it. But then I moved back to Mississippi because my grandparents were really ill, and I needed to help out my mom in that respect."

She moved back and forth between Mississippi and California several times and first met her husband in 2001 in Mississippi when he was going through naval training. They were just friends at that time and when he earned his wings and went away, they stopped all communication.

That is until 2009 when they reconnected through Facebook.

"When we reconnected in 2009, there was a lot we had not discussed," Harris says. "There were eight years worth of time to catch up on."

And catch up they did. The two now live in Las Vegas with their two sons, Clark and Grant.

One of the most important parts of Harris's life is motherhood and it is not something she takes for granted. Harris says she always wanted to be a mother but wasn't sure if it would happen for her.

"I did always want to be a mom. We had some struggles trying to become parents and so there was a time in that struggle where I didn't know if I would

ever become a mother, and it definitely solidified my drive to become a parent. As a young child, I knew I wanted to be a mom and I feel that I'm very lucky to be a mom to boys."

Harris gave birth to her first child when she was 35 years old and jokes about having a "geriatric pregnancy." But before her oldest was born in 2013, Harris suffered five miscarriages. "I had five losses before I became pregnant with Clark, so I was scared in that regard," she says. "Nothing ever felt in the 'safe zone,' so that was scary for me. Not necessarily that my age had anything to do with it, but just the history I had with past pregnancies that had ended — those things made me fearful for pretty much my entire pregnancy. I remember that there were probably 15 weeks where I felt like I could relax a little bit."

Harris begins to tear up when she talks about their journey to have a child. "We had decided — I was about six weeks pregnant with Clark and we were discussing that if his pregnancy didn't make it, we would not try again. That would have been my sixth loss. I did end up having a sixth loss between the two boys, but we had just decided that if Clark's pregnancy didn't make it, that would be it. We would not keep trying."

And despite the setbacks, Harris and her husband kept trying and successfully gave birth to their second son, Grant, in May 2016. Now a full-time mother, Harris says she enjoys the little things in life, like going out to eat with her husband and spending time with girlfriends.

Because Harris didn't get married until



she was 31, independence is something she values heavily. "The best part of being a Pilot's spouse is that it allows me to have my own independence when he's home and when he's gone. When he's gone, I have alone time with the boys and that's our time to bond and if I want to hang out with girlfriends, then I can do that. But then when he's home, it allows me to have my alone time as well because he's a great dad who encourages me to get out by myself and spend some time away from the stresses of being a parent. It's a give and take and for me, and when he's home, he's home. There's no office to go into. There's no, 'Let me just take this call. I need to go in to this meeting.' Those are the pluses for me. When he's home, he can go to a doctor's appointment with the kids or stay with them while I go do whatever mommy wants for a little while. So that I think that my favorite thing is that it allows me independence both when he's home and when he's away." *TM*

Let's Get Social!

Since our first request that Pilots join social media, we have seen a great turnout. Twitter and Facebook followers have increased significantly and because of that, we have been able to get our message out quicker, more effectively, and to more people.

While social media is seen by some as a temporary form of media or something that only younger generations are doing, it has proven to help many important causes. Brands and public figures alike look to social media to help deliver a message to thousands — sometimes millions — of people at once. Think about politicians today and their use of social media. While a TV or radio commercial can take weeks to create, a tweet or Facebook post takes a few minutes, which allows the politician to respond to current events and news stories immediately.

According to Facebook, more than 1 billion people are active on its social media outlet. According to Twitter, it has about 241 million active users — meaning they logged in at least once per month. However, many Twitter users turn to the social media platform for information — not to communicate, unlike Facebook.

HOW IT BENEFITS US

Your use of Twitter and Facebook benefits SWAPA greatly. Not only does it send a message to outsiders (think:

the media, the Company) that we are united and share the same goals, but it also helps us get the word out quicker. When we need to update our Pilots on something immediately, we know that posting it on Twitter and Facebook will reach our audience in a matter of hours — sometimes minutes. While email is also a great form of communication, sometimes our message is short and simple enough to just garner a tweet or Facebook post. Social media also benefits us because the feedback is instant. In a matter of seconds, we can conduct an informal focus group by asking our Pilots a simple question or create a “virtual” sense of unity. Time and speed are sometimes imperative.

HOW IT BENEFITS YOU

Whether you're on social media just for SWAPA updates or more, social media is a great way to stay up-to-date with anything that might interest you. For example, SWAPA follows several aviation-related accounts to help us stay informed on the industry, including the U.S. Department of Transportation (@USDOT), aviation reporters, like @andreaahles at the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, @conor_shine at the *Dallas Morning News*, @airlinewriter at the Associated Press, and of course @SouthwestAir and other airlines, @VirginAmerica, @JetBlue, and @AmericanAir.

TWITTER 101

Signing up for Twitter is easy. Follow the steps below.

- **STEP 1:** Go to the Twitter homepage, www.twitter.com, or download the Twitter App on your phone. Click on “Join Twitter Today” and sign up.
- **STEP 2:** Enter your full name, phone number, and a password.
- **STEP 3:** In order to verify your phone number, Twitter will send you an SMS text message with a code. Enter the verification code in the box provided.
- **STEP 4:** Once you’ve clicked “Sign up for Twitter,” you can select a username (usernames are unique identifiers on Twitter) — type your own or choose one Twitter suggests. Twitter will tell you if the username you want is available.
- **STEP 5:** Now you are ready! In the Search Twitter box at the top, enter [@swapapilots](https://twitter.com/swapapilots).
- **STEP 6:** When the swapapilots profile appears, choose +Follow.
- **STEP 7:** You can see all the activity on the [@swapapilots](https://twitter.com/swapapilots) page here. To retweet a post, click on the retweet icon. Twitter will ask you if you want to “Retweet or Quote Tweet.” Just click “Retweet” unless you want to add a comment. If you choose to add a comment, click “Quote Tweet.” You can also “like” the post by clicking on the heart symbol.

FACEBOOK

“Like” the SWAPA page and Join SWAPAFamily Group on Facebook

Connect with SWAPAFamily on Facebook by joining our group! Created specifically for SWAPA members and their families to get to know one another and share information, this private group will be a great place to talk about what’s going on, ask questions, and get answers about what lies ahead. To join, type SWAPAFamily in the Facebook search field and then click the “Join” button. A strong Pilot family network is an integral part our success! 



Let us hear from you!

Everything we do, we do for **you!** Call us, email us, text us — we want to know your thoughts and ideas for making SWAPAFamily and *Waypoint* the best resource for our families. And we love family snapshots! Send us your family pictures and any stories from any of our SWAPAFamily Celebration Events this year. Email us at outreach@swapa.org.



“Thanks for creating the SWAPAFamily group on Facebook! Now we have a way to find out what’s going on!”

—Gene Thatcher, spouse of MCO FO Scott Thatcher

“I can’t wait for SWAPAFamily to begin the 2017 Celebration Events! My kids had so much fun at last year’s Dave & Buster’s party. They are READY!”



—MDW FO Kelly Hanley, pictured here with her husband Tavis Hanley, Luke (5) and Ella (2)

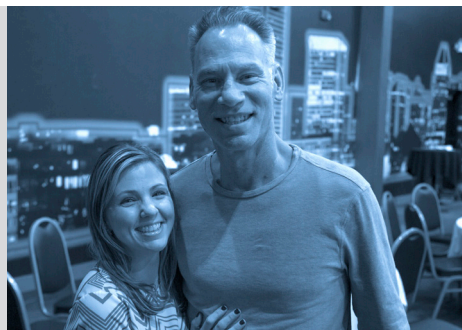


“I’m thrilled SWAPA has created SWAPAFamily! What a great thing to bring us all together.”

—MDW FO Andy and Devan Gonzalez, Carter (10), Ava (3), and Collin (7)

“We had such an amazing time at the SWAPAFamily Celebration tonight. Thanks for a great night out with the family!”

—BWI CA Steve and Alyson Steckler



“I luv that no matter where we fly, we have family — SWAPAFamily! We get smiles and high fives at every airport.”

—HOU FO Ryan and Alicia Luchsinger,
Lilly (3) and Gabe (5)

“I can’t thank you all enough for all you have done to pull us all together. I have performed in front of many crowds, but I have to say, playing for our membership and their families will be one of the most memorable. Thank you so much, SWAPA and SWAPAFamily, for this opportunity.”

—Jeff Senour, PHX CA and
founder of CTS Rock Band



Did You Know?

SWAPA has many resources for you and your family, and help is only a phone call away! Listed below are only a few of the services our Association offers our Pilots and their families.

BENEFITS

- Medical and dental coverage
- Disability and Loss of License
- Aeromedical
- Retirement and 401(k)
- Retiree benefits

HIMS

- Substance abuse assistance

PROJECT LIFT

- Peer-assistance hotline for Pilots experiencing mental health issues

TRAINING AND STANDARDS

- Support for new hire, captain upgrade, and recurrent training

MILITARY

- Support of Pilots affiliated with the National Guard or Reserve forces

CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION

- 24/7 support for contract compliance

SAFETY

- Accident and incident response

To reach any of these resources, and many others, please call SWAPA at 800.969.7972. Or visit us online at SWAPA.org.

DEPENDENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

- For dependents of deceased or disabled Pilots

CIRT - CRITICAL INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM

- Pilots dedicated to the welfare of fellow aviators and their families during operational line incidents or personal family incidents.

SWAPA PILOT RELIEF FUND

- For Pilots and their families who have suffered personal financial hardships in their lives. (See page 14 for more information.)

SWAPAFamily welcomes our new hires. We are glad you're here!





Upcoming Events

2017 SWAPAFAMILY EVENTS

Mark your calendar for and plan to attend one of these SWAPAFamily Celebration Events. The whole family is invited to join in the fun!

APRIL 29

PHX

Dave & Buster's

9460 West Hanna Lane,
Glendale, AZ 85305

MAY 6

BNA

Dave & Buster's

540 Opry Mills Dr.
Nashville, TN 37214

JUNE 20

DAL

Frisco Rough Riders Baseball Game on the Lazy River

Frisco, TX

JULY 26

DEN

Dave & Buster's

2000 South Colorado Blvd
Denver, CO 80222

NOVEMBER 4

LAS

Dave & Buster's

2130 Park Centre Dr. Suite 100
Las Vegas, NV 89135



Pilots Helping Pilots

Your home burns to the ground, a tornado rips through your neighborhood leveling everything in its path, or worse yet, a family member becomes so ill that you can't leave their side to return to work. Unfortunately, these scenarios do happen in our lives and now SWAPA is there for you. The SWAPA Pilot Relief Fund, set up as a Pilot for Pilot endowment, provides financial assistance to families in the event of an unforeseen catastrophe or disaster.

WHO CAN APPLY?

- SWAPA members employed by Southwest Airlines on the date of the application
- SWAPA members on approved medical leave or an approved leave of absence for no more than one year
- SWAPA employees
- In the case of a death of a member or employee, eligible dependents may apply


To apply for a grant, visit <https://emergencyassistancecf.fluidreview.com/>

For more information, call 800.969.7972 or email charity@swapa.org.



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION:

- Go to SWAPA.org, SWAPAFamily.org, or type in <https://emergencyassistancefdn.org/swapa-pilot-relief-fund> (you have the choice of a one-time or recurring donation)
- Mail a check to:
Emergency Assistance Foundation, Inc.
Center for Philanthropy
700 South Dixie Highway, Suite 102
West Palm Beach, FL 33401
- Text-to-Give: Text the keyword "SWAPA" to 50155 and follow the prompts

Every donation helps and when combined with the contributions of others, we can provide help to fellow members when they are facing the unexpected. 

Help Contribute

Place your order for the “SWAPA Rocks” and children’s “Future SWAPA Pilot” t-shirts online by going to www.booster.com/swaparocks or www.booster.com/swapafuturepilots. All proceeds will benefit the SWAPA Pilot Relief Fund.



ADULT T-SHIRTS



KIDS/TODDLER T-SHIRTS



ONESIE





SOUTHWEST AIRLINES PILOTS' ASSOCIATION

1450 EMPIRE CENTRAL DR • SUITE 737
DALLAS, TX 75247

