Leaving a Legacy

TRANSITIONING YOUR BUSINESS TO THE NEXT GENERATION

Only 40% of businesses successfully evolve to the next generation of leadership.

Learn how to start the conversation and ensure a bright future for your company! Attend an informative presentation from Steve Barnhart, Technical Specialist with the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center.

Sep 15, 2015 from 8–9:30 AM

RSVP REQUIRED: Register Online at www.lc.edu/CCL
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Vision
The Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce will be the preferred provider of watch-dog, education and advocacy services that form a mission-critical catalyst for business success.

Mission
The Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce is a member-driven organization, dedicated to a strong, private sector regional economy.

Guiding Principles
Chambers of Commerce honor and respect capitalism and well-informed private sector job creators as a central and foundational element of regional and national prosperity. Chambers of Commerce actively facilitate collaboration and open discussion between business and public officials through education, business advocacy and leadership.

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* denotes committee chair

SEPTEMBER 15
Leaving A Legacy: Transitioning Your Business To The Next Generation of Leadership
Learn how to start the conversation and ensure a bright future for your company! Attend an informative, no-cost presentation from Steve Barnhart, Technical Specialist with the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center (IMEC).

WHEN: 8–9:30 AM Tuesday, September 15, 2015
WHERE: Julia’s Banquet Center (101 EastGate Plaza, in East Alton)
RSVP Online at www.lc.edu/CCL

This program is brought to you by Corporate & Community Learning at Lewis and Clark, IMEC, Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard PC, The Invtestor Group at TheBANK of Edwardsville, the Illinois Metro East Small Business Development Center at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, RiverBend Growth Association and the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce.

I–55 Corridor Plan
The Edwardsville Plan Commission will continue its review of the proposed I-55 development code on Monday, August 17, 2015 at 7 PM at Edwardsville City Hall (118 Hillsboro Avenue in Edwardsville).

The Glen Carbon Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing to hear comments about the proposed regulations on Tuesday, August 18, 2015 at 7 PM at Glen Carbon Village Hall (151 North Main Street in Glen Carbon).

The Madison County Zoning Board of Appeals is expected to continue its review at a later date.
Gold Level
Anderson Hospital
Gateway Regional Medical Center

Silver Level
Ameren Illinois Utilities
Hortica Insurance & Employee Benefits
Meridian Village
Sam’s Club 4878
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Scott Credit Union
TheBANK of Edwardsville
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Walmart of Glen Carbon

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Chez’s Shoppe
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Days Inn
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Doc’s Smokeshack
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National Bank
Network Specialists, LLC
Northwestern Mutual
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Royal Solutions, LLC
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Schmucks Market, Inc.
Sieva Business & Legal Services, PC
Sleep Inn & Suites
South Side’s All-Star Collision Center
Southern IL Underwriters Agency, Inc.
Springfield Energy
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Sunset Hills Country Club
Sunset Hills Family Dental
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Thompson & Lengacher, P.C.
Tiger Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning Services
US Bank
Vision For Life
The Wooden Nickel Pub & Grill

8/4 Tuesday 8-9pm
YPG Learn from a Leader
Breakfast with Frank Padak of Scott Credit Union
at Scott Credit Union
101 Credit Union Way
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online

8/5 Wednesday 8-9am
Chamber 101:
Maximize Your Membership
Ed/Glen Chamber Office
200 University Park Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online

8/5 Wednesday 4pm
Ribbon Cutting
UniQue Personnel Consultants
19 Junction Drive
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

8/6 Thursday 5-7pm
ChamberNET
Anderson Hospital
6800 IL Route 162
Maryville, IL 62062

8/11 Tuesday 7:15-8am
Morning B2B Networking
Brevan’s Patisserie
1009 Century Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online

8/12 Wednesday 4pm
Ribbon Cutting
BJC Medical Group
Convenient Care
8 Sunset Hills Professional Centre
Edwardsville, IL 62025

8/13 Thursday 4pm
Ribbon Cutting
Core Physical Medicine
#4157 Center
Edwardsville, IL 62025

8/20 Thursday 5-7pm
Business After Hours
Scheffel Boyle & Edwardsville
Township at Edwardsville
Township Community Park
6314 Center Grove Road
Edwardsville, IL 62025

8/27 Thursday 4-5pm
Small Business Financial Education Series Session 5:
How to Make Financial Projections with Nathan
Franklin of Franklin & Vaughn, LLC
at Glen Carbon Centennial Library
198 South Main Street
Glen Carbon, IL 62034
RSVP Online

9/2 Wednesday 8-9am
Chamber 101:
Maximize Your Membership
Ed/Glen Chamber Office
200 University Park Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online

9/8 Tuesday 12-1pm
networking@moon
Edison’s Entertainment Complex
2477 South IL Route 157
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online

9/10 Thursday 12-1pm
YPG Social
The Wooden Nickel Pub & Grill
171 South Main Street
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

9/15 Tuesday 8-9:30am
Leaving A Legacy:
Transitioning Your Business
To The Next Generation
at Julia’s Banquet Center
101 EastGate Plaza
East Alton, IL 62024
RSVP at www.lc.edu/ccl

9/17 Thursday 5-7pm
Business After Hours
1818 Chophouse &
BARBERMurphy Group
at 1818 Chophouse
210 South Buchanan Street
Edwardsville, IL 62025

9/24 Thursday 5-7pm
ChamberNET
Edison’s Entertainment Complex
2477 South IL Route 157
Edwardsville, IL 62025

9/24 Thursday 4-5pm
Small Business Financial Education Series Session 6:
Using Labor Market Statistics to Target Your Customer with Vicki
Niederhofer, IDES Economist
at Glen Carbon Centennial Library
198 South Main Street
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Guaranty Title Co., owned by John and Sherry Gibbons, is the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce July 2015 Business of the Month.

The firm, which completes title services for selling, buying, refinancing and reporting on Illinois real estate, was established in 1942, when Founder F. Ritchie Gibbons applied technical advances developed during World War II to the real estate title industry, and brought the whole family into the business. The Gibbons became involved in the industry when the U.S. government needed to acquire title to several thousand tracts of land for the Chain Of Rocks Canal and engaged them to do the real estate title work.

"We make real estate closings happen ‘Fast, friendly, and for sure – we solve title problems,’" said John. Gibbons shared that their target market includes lenders, realtors, land developers, contractors, and attorneys.

The industry has evolved a great deal since 1942, and Guaranty Title Co. has kept on the cutting edge. "Our company has always been the first to implement technical advances, including computer title searches, internet information exchange, microfilm, microfiche, photocopies, digital record storage, and more," John shared. "We began our business in the Musso building on Purcell Street, expanded into the restaurant section there, and relocated to our present larger building on St. Louis Street when Madison County closed Purcell Street and built their new administration building."

When asked how the firm plans for continued growth, Gibbons explained, "We plan to grow as Edwardsville and all of Madison County grows, and ever improve our service to make buying, selling, financing, and owning real estate a pleasant and rewarding experience for the people of Madison County."

Guaranty Title Co. values community involvement and giving back. The company employs people with disabilities for janitorial work. President John Gibbons serves, and has served for many years as a volunteer director for organizations that assist disadvantaged people and people with disabilities, as a volunteer for Catholic Charities Legal Services, as volunteer attorney and director for the Boy Scout Council, and as president of the Edwardsville-Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce and the Edwardsville Rotary Club.

The company’s business philosophy is clear and simple. John said, "We do business by the Rotary 4-Way Test. Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build good will and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?"

Guaranty Title Co. has been an Ed/Glen Chamber member since 1974. "The chamber has brought us closer to other business people in our community, made the community aware of our business, and enabled us to participate in making this a better community," said John.

To learn more about Guaranty Title Co., visit the office at 220 St. Louis Street, in Edwardsville, call 618.656.7195 or 800.642.9540, or go to www.guarantytitleco.net.
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We would like to recognize the many Ed/Glen Chamber members who are celebrating membership anniversaries in the month of July. This monthly feature spotlights members for their ongoing support of the Ed/Glen Chamber. We offer our sincerest thanks to each of the following business for their continued membership!

**40+ YEARS**
- Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc.
- City of Edwardsville
- Regions Bank

**20–29 YEARS**
- Robert Wheatley, DDS
- University Nursing & Rehab Center

**10–19 YEARS**
- University Park SIUE, Inc.
- Gateway Regional Medical Center
- First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust
- Mathis, Marifian & Richter, LTD
- TheEDGE_BANK

**5–9 YEARS**
- Hampton Inn & Suites
- Southern Illinois Real Estate Title Center
- Chef’s Shoppe
- Doubletree by Hilton
- Edwardsville Wrestling Club
- GlenEd Sliders Fastpitch Club
- LaBest, Inc.
- SSM Physical Therapy

**1–4 YEARS**
- Benefit Plans Plus
- Brown Smith Wallace, LLC
- Unfried Chiropractic
- Battery Specialists + Golf Cars
- Homewatch CareGivers
- Main Street Community Center
- LifeVantage
- Tot Spot Children’s Resale
- Edwardsville Township
- Gori Julian & Associates, PC
- CrossFit Ten Twenty
- State Farm Insurance Agency
- T-Mobile Operated by Wireless Vision
- Stur Restaurant
- Integrated Body Studio, LLC
schmooze
business after hours

First Clover Leaf Bank, Bella Milano, Robert 'Chick' Fritz Distributing, Global Brew, Korte & Luitjohan Contractors, Inc., & Gori Julian Associates, June 18

First Clover Leaf Bank, Bella Milano, Robert 'Chick' Fritz Distributing, Global Brew, Korte & Luitjohan Contractors, Inc., & Gori Julian Associates, June 18

First Clover Leaf Bank, Bella Milano, Robert 'Chick' Fritz Distributing, Global Brew, Korte & Luitjohan Contractors, Inc., & Gori Julian Associates, June 18

First Clover Leaf Bank, Bella Milano, Robert 'Chick' Fritz Distributing, Global Brew, Korte & Luitjohan Contractors, Inc., & Gori Julian Associates, June 18

June 18 Business After Hours

June 18 Business After Hours
ribbon cuttings

African Vision of Hope, June 11

Dimond Bros. Insurance, LLC, June 17

Elliott Fine Jewelers, Inc. 40th Anniversary, June 19

St. John's Community Care 30th Anniversary, June 22

5 Ways to See Your Business in Common Ground

1. Purchase Advertising
2. Write an “Ask the Expert” Column
3. Submit an Announcement
4. Win Our Business of the Month Award
5. Come to Chamber Events!
I moved into the area in 1989 and didn’t know anything about the banking situation. So I started checking around and contacted TheBANK of Edwardsville, and I was pleasantly surprised at how welcoming they were and the way they did business. **I was completely sold right from the start.**

So when I was looking for new office space for my business, I never even thought about going to any other institution. I was happy to work with TheBANK. I sat down with my commercial banker, Kyle David, and he explained the different programs available for my situation. There were several different options available, and the one we worked out was perfect for what I needed. **The entire process was extremely satisfying.**

**Everything was taken care of.**

Over the years I’ve been able to get to know so many good people that work at TheBANK. They’re not only great business partners to have, but many are good friends. That’s such a big part of being comfortable with your bank. When you know the people you’re doing business with – when you know them personally and know that they’re quality people – you don’t have those questions, wondering if you’re going to be treated right.

Contact us today to find out how we can help you with all your business banking, lending, and investment needs:

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www.4thebank.com
Anderson Hospital Appoints First Chief Medical Officer

Charles Lane, MD, has been appointed Anderson Hospital’s first Chief Medical Officer (CMO) effective August 1. Dr. Lane has been a member of Anderson’s medical staff for 23 years, having served as bylaws committee chairman, credentials committee chairman and president of the medical staff. He currently serves as surgeon champion related to Anderson’s participation in the Illinois Surgical Quality Improvement Collaborative and is on the executive board of the Southern Illinois Healthcare Association.

Dr. Lane earned his medical degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Peoria and completed an internship and surgical residency at Jewish Hospital of St. Louis at Washington University School of Medicine. He is a fellow in the American College of Surgeons.

“His appointment to this position will facilitate the even greater collaboration necessary between the hospital and medical staff as Anderson focuses on providing exceptional care to our patients,” said Anderson Hospital President Keith Page.

While a part-time position, the CMO will serve as physician advisor and liaison with medical staff, hospital staff and numerous committees; serve as the chief administrative leader responsible for clinical quality within the organization; and strengthen medical staff participation in furthering the mission of the organization and formulating the strategic direction for quality.

Physician involvement is imperative in the ever-changing healthcare environment. The CMO works to develop a productive and collaborative relationship with the medical staff to achieve improved patient quality and safety. The addition of this position was greeted with enthusiasm by Dr. Lane.

“There has been a real need for physician involvement at this level,” said Dr. Lane. “I am proud to be the first to serve in this position.”

He will continue in his current practice as a surgeon with General & Laparoscopic Surgical Associates. “My continued work as a surgeon validates the day-to-day issues that physicians encounter,” said Dr. Lane. “I can best serve my peers and this position as a practicing surgeon.”

Collaboration is the word that comes to mind when Dr. Lane sums up the position. Working together to build a better patient experience is his goal. “I want our patients to know they are receiving safe, quality care using the best practices,” said Dr. Lane.
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BJC HealthCare
Scott Credit Union Named To Top Workplaces List For Fourth Straight Year

Scott Credit Union has remained committed to its strategy of being the best place to work. That commitment paid off again recently when the local credit union was named to a St. Louis Post-Dispatch Top Workplace for the fourth straight year.

Scott Credit Union was ranked 11th on the list of Top Workplaces for medium size businesses in the St. Louis Metropolitan Area. The credit union, which is headquartered in Edwardsville, was one of only 13 companies to receive the honor four years in a row. Scott Credit Union was one of 35 mid-sized companies recognized as a ‘Best Place to Work’ in the annual competition.

In a special publication, the Post-Dispatch joined with Workplace Dynamics to spotlight local companies who treat their employees well. The 35 companies on the list of medium size businesses were named because their workers, on confidential surveys, rated their employers with high marks.

The questions included everything from pay and flexible scheduling to career advancement and management’s openness to new ideas, according to the Post-Dispatch. Scott Credit Union has focused for the past few years on improving employee morale and making the credit union the best place to work.

“It is an honor to receive this recognition a fourth year in a row,” said Scott Credit Union President & CEO Frank Padak. “We are very pleased that the steps we have taken to make SCU the best place to work continue to make a difference with our employees.”

In a service industry, Padak understands the importance of having positive and satisfied employees. “We serve members every day. It is really important that our people enjoy working here and can pass their positive attitude along to our members in the experience that they provide them,” he said. “We were excited to be ranked among the top companies in the region.”

Scott Credit Union has continued to be successful with membership growth, asset growth and loan growth over the past few years. “We truly understand that our employees make all of the difference when it comes to consumers choosing a financial institution,” Padak noted. “It is really important to us that they are satisfied and feel valued.”

Scott Credit Union also surveys its employees each year to measure satisfaction and makes improvements based on the results of the surveys. The credit union also has implemented an ideas program that allows employees to give their ideas on how to help the organization meet its mission – Banking Simplified.

“A small group of Officers cannot completely run our organization without input from our more than 200 employees,” Padak said. “It really takes every employee thinking of ways to make SCU a better place to work and a better place for members to bank. The strategy is simple. We ask our employees to give us ideas and input. We listen and make changes and improvements.”

According to the Post-Dispatch, over 160 companies from the region agreed to submit themselves to the scrutiny of their own employees to participate in the 2015 Top Workplace program. The Post-Dispatch chose the top 35 medium size businesses based on the results.

Juneau Associates Welcomes Borrenpohl

Juneau Associates, Inc., P.C., a professional engineering, land surveying and structural engineering company, today announced the addition of Zachary Borrenpohl as project engineer.

In this capacity, Borrenpohl will be responsible for environmental and water resource engineering design and analysis. He brings to Juneau Associates 10 years of engineering and project management experience having worked as a civil engineer in the Chicago area for two major engineering firms and as a project manager in the Washington, D.C. area for Chemonics International, Inc. Borrenpohl received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois – Urbana/Champaign and a Master of Business Administration from the University of South Carolina – Columbia. He is a resident of Edwardsville.

Charlie Juneau, president of Juneau Associates, Inc., P.C., said, “Zach is a great addition to the Juneau Associates team. We welcome his skills and expertise and look forward to getting him involved in the many projects we have underway throughout the region.”

Juneau Associates provides professional engineering, land surveying and construction engineering services for public and private clients throughout Illinois and Missouri. The firm is a proud Certified Veteran Owned Business in the State of Illinois with offices in Granite City, Edwardsville and Hoffman Estates, IL, as well as St. Louis, MO. For more information go to www.jaipc.com or call 618.659.0900.
Each second a patient waits for treatment, denies the brain of needed blood and oxygen.

As a designated Emergent Stroke Ready Hospital, Anderson can efficiently diagnose, treat, and transfer stroke patients to a primary stroke center.
TheBANK Adds Four to New St. Louis Center

Kevin Powers, President and CEO of TheBANK of Edwardsville, announced the hiring of four top commercial bankers to the staff of TheBANK’s new St. Louis Center in south St. Louis County.

Joining TheBANK of Edwardsville’s Commercial Banking Group are: Sean McKenna, St. Louis Market President; Michael Lucey, Vice President; Joseph Fendi Jr., Vice President; and Zachary Lammers, Vice President. All four started with TheBANK July 1 and will be tasked with growing the company’s commercial loan portfolio in the new market.

“This seasoned, well-established and highly-regarded team of commercial bankers is well-known in the St. Louis region. They bring with them not only a wealth of experience and expertise in the market, but also an impeccable reputation in the industry and the community,” Powers said. “It’s with experienced, respected bankers like these four that we will grow our presence in the market and establish ourselves as the business lender of choice in St. Louis.”

TheBANK of Edwardsville’s St. Louis Center, located at 4700 South Lindbergh Boulevard in St. Louis, opened July 3. The focus of the Center will be on commercial and mortgage lending, as well as wealth management. All four new commercial banking professionals bring a wealth of experience in the greater St. Louis market to TheBANK of Edwardsville team.

St. John’s UMC Announces New Pastor

St. John’s United Methodist Church recently announce that Rev. Troy Benton has been appointed as senior pastor beginning July 1. Prior to that he was the associate pastor of Christ United Methodist Church in Fairview Heights. He has also served in churches in northern Illinois, Ohio, Michigan and Georgia. Benton is a 1995 graduate of Garrett-Evangelical, obtaining a Master of Divinity degree, with an emphasis on the African-American church. He is married to his college sweetheart, Emma. Together they nurture their daughters Taylor and Autumn, and endeavor to serve God faithfully.

St. John’s UMC is located at 7372 Marine Road in Edwardsville. Go to www.thenewstjohns.com to find out more, or “like” St. John’s UMC on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Sivia Law Named Top 50 Fastest Growing Companies

Sivia Business & Legal Services, P.C. (SBLs) is pleased to announce the firm’s selection to the St. Louis Small Business Monthly’s Future 50 Companies list. Winners are chosen based on the expectation the companies will play a significant role in the future of business in the St. Louis area.

Companies are nominated and voted on by other local business owners and executives; all 50 businesses will be featured in the September issue of St. Louis Small Business Monthly.

“One of our objectives, as an advocate for business, is to encourage others to start and grow businesses in the region,” explains Ron Ameln, president of St. Louis Small Business Monthly. “SBLs’s story will not only be inspiring to others but will encourage others to start their own endeavors.”

“It is an honor to have the firm’s growth and potential recognized by the business community," says Sivia. “This is a testament to our staff’s dedication to our clients and the communities we serve." SBLs was named one of the “Top 20 Small Businesses in St. Louis” by St. Louis Small Business Monthly in 2014.
your business

Cork Tree Creative Named One of the Best PR Firms

Cork Tree Creative, Inc. was named one of St. Louis Small Business Monthly’s (SBM) 2015 Best Public Relations Firms in the publication’s July 2015 issue on stands now.

Each month, SBM’s ‘Best in Business’ section features St. Louis area companies aiming to be the best in their industry. Cork Tree Creative, Inc. and 25 other firms were named by SBM readers as one of the best PR firms in St. Louis. This is Cork Tree Creative’s second consecutive year making the list in its 6 years in business. SBM polls its readers monthly, identifying the best businesses in the area in a particular industry. Cork Tree Creative, Inc. topped the list out of more than 200 nominations submitted throughout the region.

“It’s a huge honor to be named as one of the SBM’s Best PR Firms,” said Cork Tree Creative co-owner and public relations director Laura Reed. “We’ve worked hard for our clients, and to be recognized by the business community means a lot to us.”

Cork Tree Creative, Inc., located at 60 South IL Route 157 in Edwardsville, is owned by Jan Carpenter and Laura Reed. The company offers public relations, website development, graphic design, search engine optimization, social media management services, photography/videography services and more. For more information, call 618.656.7333, go to www.corktreecreative.com, or find the firm on Facebook and Twitter.

First Mid-Illinois Receives SBA 2015 IL Lender Award

First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust was named Community Bank of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) at their summit and awards conference in June.

“This award is presented to the community bank with the best overall performance record for lending to small businesses in Illinois,” announced Bob Esquivel, lender relations specialist of the SBA in Chicago.

Eric McRae, EVP and senior lender at First Mid commented, “We rely on small businesses to drive our local economy and at First Mid we’re compelled to explore every opportunity to help them succeed. The SBA lending programs give us another option to provide capital to our customers. We’re honored to receive recognition from the SBA for a second consecutive year for our role in supporting small business.”

First Mid-Illinois Bancshares, Inc. is the parent company of First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust, N.A. (First Mid) and First Mid Insurance Group. A community bank with over $1.6 billion in assets headquartered in Mattoon, IL, First Mid offers comprehensive banking, trust and wealth management services, and insurance services. First Mid’s mission is to fulfill the financial needs of our communities with exceptional personal service, professionalism and integrity, and deliver meaningful value and results for customers and shareholders. First Mid-Illinois Bancshares, Inc. stock is traded on the NASDAQ under the symbol FMBH. More information about First Mid is available at www.firstmid.com.
Illinois Chamber of Commerce Calls for Open & Fair Skies to Protect Thousands of Illinois Jobs

Subsidies and Other Benefits Received by Foreign Airlines Violate Open Skies Policy and Put Thousands of Illinois Aviation Jobs at Risk.

Pilots, flight attendants, and other airline representatives gathered at O’Hare International Airport recently to call on the Obama Administration to level the playing field for U.S. airlines and American workers. Emirates, Etihad Airways, and Qatar Airways have received at least $42 billion in government subsidies and other benefits in the form of interest-free loans, shareholder advances, government assumption of fuel-hedging losses, and subsidized airport charges, all of which are in violation of Open Skies.

“The United States has Open Skies agreements with 117 countries that have provided great benefits to U.S. travelers, airlines and the economy,” said Captain Eric Popper, a pilot with the Air Lines Pilots Association. “However, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are violating the spirit of these Open Skies agreements and the foundation of fair competition on which they are built.”

“Chicago is a prime example of what is at risk if nothing is done to address the subsidies that the Gulf carriers receive,” said Erica Levy, a flight attendant with the Association of Flight Attendants. “If these airlines from the Gulf continue to expand with unfair advantages, domestic carriers may be forced to reduce routes just to stay competitive in the industry.”

“There are over 25,000 aviation jobs in the Chicago area alone that are at stake if these Gulf carriers are allowed to continue to violate Open Skies policy,” said Captain Dennis Tojier, a pilot speaking on behalf of the Allied Pilots Association. “The jobs of hard-working Americans are at risk here. If these subsidies aren’t addressed soon, pilots, flight attendants, and many more aviation employees across the United States will lose their jobs.”

At today’s news conference, the pilots, flight attendants, and other union workers urged the Obama Administration to seek consultations with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar to address the flow of subsidized capacity to the U.S., and to seek a freeze on new passenger service during the consultations.

“While the U.S. government waits, the Gulf carriers are rapidly expanding their presence in the United States,” said Jena Olsen, a flight attendant representing the Association of Professional Flight Attendants. “In fact, just this year, the Gulf carriers have announced plans to expand service into over a dozen American cities, which will result in American job loss and cuts to service for regional travelers.”

“These subsidies not only violate Open Skies policies, they are inconsistent with the U.S. government’s long-standing practice to fight trade distortions caused by subsidized state-owned enterprises,” said Kyle Moore, a pilot with the Southwest Airlines Pilots Association. “The good news is that there is a vehicle in place for the government to address these subsidies.”

Virtually all of the Illinois Congressional Delegation, as well Mayor Rahm Emanuel, the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, the Illinois Manufacturers Association, and the Chicago Federation of Labor have called on the U.S. government to act.

“Gulf carriers want to encourage tourism to their home countries, which is fair, but they have to abide by the rules they agreed to in the open skies agreements,” said Todd Maisch, president and CEO of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce. “We remain concerned that they are growing due to unfair benefits that will result in Illinois residents and businesses facing limited travel options that will devastate local economies who depend on fair and competitive air travel.”

Last week, William Swelbar, one of America’s foremost aviation economists released a report that found the government-subsidized expansion of the Gulf carriers into the U.S. is threatening service and access for communities across the nation. The report concludes that heavily subsidized Gulf carriers are shifting passenger traffic away from U.S. air carriers without generating new demand, thereby threatening the viability of nonstop flights and service to local communities in America.

Swelbar wrote, “With each new U.S. gateway that the subsidized Gulf carriers enter, there will be more and more smaller communities that will see their traffic numbers dwindle and their domestic services threatened as international passengers drive directly to these gateways to access subsidized Gulf carrier flights.”

Additional information is available at www.openandfairskies.com.

Background on Partnership for Open & Fair Skies: The Partnership for Open & Fair Skies is a coalition that includes American Airlines, Delta Air Lines and United Airlines, along with the Air Line Pilots Association, the Allied Pilots Association, the Southwest Airline Pilots’ Association, the Association of Professional Flight Attendants, the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, the Communications Workers of America, and the Airline Division of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. The Partnership presented a white paper, Restoring Open Skies: The Need to Address Subsidized Competition from State-Owned Airlines in Qatar and the UAE, to the U.S. government. The Partnership called on the Obama Administration to open consultations under the Open Skies agreements with Qatar and the United Arab Emirates to address the flow of subsidized capacity to the U.S., and to seek a freeze on new passenger service during the consultations.
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