



A Message From Your Communications Committee

Coalition of Airline Pilots Associations: APA's Force Multiplier on Capitol Hill

The Coalition of Airline Pilots Associations (CAPA) plays a vital role for our membership in Washington, D.C. As the world's largest professional pilot trade association, CAPA focuses primarily on advancing safety initiatives for its member unions.

“CAPA is critical to its members. It puts them on an equal labor footing when participating at the highest levels of government,” CAPA President CA Larry Rooney said. “Along with the APA Government Affairs Committee, CAPA is there to advance our pilots’ safety, security, legislative, and regulatory priorities.”



Shortly after CA Ed Sicher was elected APA President in 2022, CA Rooney introduced him to Rep. Peter DeFazio of Oregon, who chaired the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure at that time.

“Our influence in Washington allows us to affect how laws and policies are written and implemented,” CA Rooney said.

“This ensures that, to the greatest extent possible, we have had a direct and positive impact on the specific needs of the pilots we represent.”

Although the presidency of CAPA rotates among elected pilots, just as it does at APA, Maryanne Demarco has been the coalition’s Executive Director for many years.

“We advocate for strong safety and security programs. We never waiver on safety issues,” Ms. Demarco said. “This industry is vulnerable, and we are proactively monitoring for loopholes in the policies so we can protect the safety of our members.”

Along with her longstanding service to CAPA, Ms. DeMarco also serves on the FAA Women in Aviation Advisory Board.

“We take retroactive data and a proactive approach with the various safety partnership programs we serve on,” said CA Rooney, noting that CAPA is a senior voting member of two key aviation safety initiatives: the Aviation Safety Information Analysis and Sharing System (ASIAS) and the

Commercial Air Safety Team (CAST). ASIAS focuses on safety analysis and data sharing by the FAA and key stakeholders, and CAST is a safety partnership between regulators, manufacturers, operators, unions, and research organizations.



“Our combined work has significantly reduced aviation-related fatalities,” said CA Rooney, pictured with Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania at the Garden of Reflection 9/11 Memorial in Yardley, Pa.

CAPA has regular contact with the White House, senior Congressional leadership, and the regulatory community through both formal and personal relationships. “CAPA is well known in Congress and among regulators for its collective strength, integrity, and responsible approach when addressing issues of shared interest to ensure the safety and security of the traveling public,” Demarco said.

With positions on numerous DOT-, FAA-, and TSA-appointed boards and advisory panels, CAPA subject-matter experts can speak frankly

in aviation terms with lawmakers and regulators about the issues we face as professional aviators.

CAPA serves more than 35,000 professional pilots. Its member unions:

- Allied Pilots Association (APA), representing the pilots of American Airlines
- Independent Pilots Association (IPA), representing the pilots of UPS
- NetJets Association of Shared Aircraft Pilots (NJASAP), representing the pilots of NetJets
- International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 357, representing the pilots of Republic Airlines
- International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 1224, representing the pilots of Horizon Air, ABX Air, Cape Air, Omni Air, and Silver Airways
- International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 2750, representing the pilots of Atlas Air