



TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION LOCAL 555

REPRESENTING THE RAMP, OPERATIONS, PROVISIONING, AND FREIGHT AGENTS OF SOUTHWEST AIRLINES
TWU555.ORG • 1341 W MOCKINGBIRD LANE STE 1050E DALLAS, TX 75247 • 1.800.595.7672

September 8, 2025

Brothers and Sisters,

On Thursday, August 28, a motion was made, seconded, and passed by a majority of the LEB to suspend President Abilio Villaverde and Recording Secretary Nicole Salinas.

To reduce any uncertainty and the spread of rumors concerning this action, the following will include the basis of why the decision was made, the protocol when a situation like this occurs, and the next steps as we move through this process.

By taking prompt action, any adverse effect on the day-to-day operations of the Local has been minimized. The constitution of our governing body, the Transport Workers Union International, specifically, provides a framework for this process.

The International was immediately involved to provide counsel, and we are working closely with them to ensure that the actions this Local has taken and continues to take moving forward are well within practice according to the constitution. Our top priorities after the suspension of the officers were to secure the financial and logistic holdings of our Local, which have been addressed.

Article XIX and the Oath of Office For Installation of Officers in the TWU Constitution lists specific acts that typify conduct unbecoming a member of the union. The alleged actions of the officers fall under the acts listed in the Article and the Oath.

The specifics of what has been alleged cannot be divulged at this juncture. Yes, the LEB voted to suspend these officers based on alleged conduct unbecoming a member of a union and an alleged violation of the Oath of Office, but like any rank-and-file member of our Local, they are afforded due process in disciplinary issues. Article XXI of the Constitution specifically covers “Suspension of Local Officers,” and it is that language that we must abide by as we move towards these possible outcomes:



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- If the officer is removed, they can appeal the decision by following the procedure outlined in Article XXII.
- If the officer is cleared of any wrongdoing, it is within their right to return to serve the membership in the position for which they are elected to for the remainder of their term.
- If the officer is found to commit an action considered conduct unbecoming of a union member, they may be removed from office, or the Local Executive Board may take another form of appropriate action.

The Local Executive Board is committed to upholding our constitution and protecting the integrity of our Local. The actions taken are a necessary step to ensure that we hold our leadership accountable. In the meantime, the work of our union continues. Your contract, your benefits, and your day-to-day needs remain our top priority. We are committed to maintaining stability and providing strong leadership throughout this process.

In Solidarity,

TWU Local 555 Executive Board