Dear PCN (of over 2500 subscribers),

Mark’s Remarks

Firsts:
Recently I have had a chance to accomplish some firsts for my company and I in my current job. We operated a new used 767-200ER for its 1st flight under our registration to Trinidad-Tobago. Speaking of Port of Spain, that was my 1st time into that airport. It was the first time I have ever flown with the “carribean” call sign. And it will me my first flight of the year 2012. First times can sometimes be quite nice. In fact, maybe even a little spice of life. Anyway, this year you may have a first or two and if you do, I hope it is of the variety that brings a smile instead of a frown. Happy New Year!

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News Section……

Delta News (Recent stories of interest): Yahoo, AIC

From: Bean, Judy M
Date: 12/30/2011 8:54:30 AM
To: Bean, Judy M
Subject: SURPLUS CLEARANCE SALE

Surplus Clearance Sale

Thursday, January 5th, 9a-2p

In Historic Hangar 2 at Delta’s General Office complex

Blankets, Pillows, Dishes, Glasses and much more!!

Items are priced for quick sale.

PLEASE NOTE: The Museum Store will be closed to accommodate the sale.

ALSO: Visitors coming from off campus should use the SOUTH gate for entry. (Quicker and easier for all concerned.)
It's never been safer to fly; deaths at record low

The past 10 years have been the safest in American aviation history; deaths are at record low

By Joshua Freed, AP Airlines Writers | AP – Sat, Dec 31, 2011 2:03 PM EST

NEW YORK (AP) -- Boarding an airplane has never been safer.

The past 10 years have been the best in the country's aviation history with 153 fatalities. That's two deaths for every 100 million passengers on commercial flights, according to an Associated Press analysis of government accident data.

The improvement is remarkable. Just a decade earlier, at the time the safest, passengers were 10 times as likely to die when flying on an American plane. The risk of death was even greater during the start of the jet age, with 1,696 people dying — 133 out of every 100 million passengers — from 1962 to 1971. The figures exclude acts of terrorism.

Sitting in a pressurized, aluminum tube seven miles above the ground may never seem like the most-natural thing. But consider this: You are more likely to die driving to the airport than flying across the country. There are more than 30,000 motor-vehicle deaths each year, a mortality rate eight times greater than that in planes.


Airlines tumble 31% in 2011; outlook cloudy

Withering demand and high fuel prices will hurt profits, experts say

By Christopher Hinton, MarketWatch
WASHINGTON (MarketWatch) — Airline stocks on ended a rough year deep in the red on Friday as sputtering demand and soaring fuel prices squeezed the industry’s profits, and 2012 is expected to be just as challenging.

“It’s going to be another tough year for airlines,” said Vicki Bryan, bond analyst with Gimme Credit. “We had a rebound in fare pricing earlier this year, but we started to lose that as demand faded. That’s going to continue next year, so even if fuel stays where it is, the weaker pricing will challenge margins and profits.”

In recent weeks some equity analysts tempered their 2012 profit expectations for the major carriers such as Delta Air Lines, US Airways and United Continental, according to data provided by FactSet Research.


AMR Shares to Be Removed From NYSE: What Investors Need to Know

By John Grgurich | More Articles
December 30, 2011

What's happening in the headlines can affect you as an investor. Here's what's going on, what you need to know, and what you can expect next.

The headline
Financial Times is reporting that AMR (NYSE: AMR) , the bankrupt parent company of American Airlines, will lose its listing on the New York Stock Exchange.

The details
The shares will come down the first week in January, after trading for more than 70 years on the exchange. NYSE said AMR was "no longer suitable for listing" because the company's shares had fallen below the exchange's minimum requirements. Its average closing price has fallen below $1 for more than 30 days. The decision comes after AMR filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection at the end of November.

Now what?
Regularly scheduled bankruptcy seems to be the new norm for American carriers. Many of AMR’s peers went through it already and were consequently able to reduce burdensome labor costs such as union contracts and pensions.

Larry Lynch  
Email larrylynch1@gmail.com  
Issue Area General  
Comments - Hi Mark;  
I have received a definative response from the IRS on the tax issue with the SS withheld on our lump some being counted as wages. It is about 13 pages long. Do you want to post it and if so how should I send it to you?  
All the Best  
Larry  

Editor: Larry, send it in and I will publish it online with a link in the HL. Thanks.

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**Remaining financial items for retirees to watch:**

After Aug 2007 these are retirement items remaining with financial consequence.  
1. PBGC 2nd look re-calc at qualified annuity benefits - completed 8/24/07  
2. PBGC make up lump payment for underpayments since termination: most reported received 1/31/08  
3. Final claim distribution by DAL through BSI – distributed at or around Mar 23, 2011.  
4. Class Action suit against DAL concerning 5 yr look-back worth in excess of $100 million - withdrawn  
5. Appeal of Final Benefit Determination Letters (BDL’s) PBGC re-calc "determination" of qualified annuity (likely after claim stock sale) – in process until end of year (only 45 days to appeal) Appeal extensions generally granted in Nov 2010 now extended by our law firm for all to: revised to Feb 18, 2011 Now Mar 18, 2011, April 29, 2011, July 29, 2011, Aug 29, 2011, Filed with PBGC on Oct 28, 2011  
6. Pension reinstatement/contribution request by DP3 representing the retired pilots. very long shot….pending  
7. Roth IRA creation as per Worker, Retiree, and Employer Recovery Act of 2008 – deadline June 22nd, 2009  
8. Expiration of HCTC 80% premium subsidy will expire on December 31, 2010. Action has continued 80% for Jan & Feb. Action expired and subsidy effective April 1, 2011 payment, the HCTC is at 72.5%.  
9. Financial condition of the D&S Plan--a plan that pays benefits to eligible survivors of deceased pilots as well as to disabled pilots. A form 5500 for the D&S Plan is filed annually.  
10. Formation of a VEBA Health Insurance plan by DP3 – VEBA has been created and in effect.

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**Insurance** (issues about health, life or disability that are of interest):
On behalf of the DP3 trustees, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our members a healthy and enjoyable New Year. I hope all of you have enjoyed some quality time with your family and friends over the holidays.

Next Steps for PBGC Appeal
As we move into 2012, we believe that things will be relatively quiet on the DP3 front as we eagerly await the PBGC Appeal Board’s decision on the issues we have appealed. The board normally takes up to a year to render a decision, but they have advised our attorneys that they hope to have a decision in our case by early summer. We can only wait and see how things develop.

Most of you have now received letters from the PBGC confirming that our attorneys have filed an appeal on your behalf. We do not need copies of those letters, nor do we require copies of letters informing those who did not file appeals within 45 days of the issuance of their BDL that their appeal has been denied.

The PBGC’s enforcement of a 45-day deadline is included as an issue in our appeal, and even if the Appeal Board does not rule in our favor, we are prepared to take this issue to federal court (unless the PBGC adheres to its prior statements that it will apply any favorable decisions to all affected retirees, not just those who appealed their benefits in a timely fashion).

Now that the formal PBGC appeal has been filed, it will not be possible for us to include new appellants, except for those retirees who are still waiting the issuance of their Final Benefit letters. According to the PBGC, this group is limited to a few retirees with QDRO agreements involving a split of their benefits with former spouses.

2012 Dues
Thanks to your continued support, DP3 is ending 2011 in a strong financial position and we are currently evaluating our projected capital requirements for 2012 prior to setting the dues level for next year. We should reach a decision in January and we plan to maintain our past practice of asking for all 2012 dues to be paid by the end of March.

DP3’s Continued Efforts on Capitol Hill
As you know, DP3 is a member organization of the National Retiree Legislative Network (NRLN) and I currently serve as an NRLN director. The NRLN is the only national organization that works in our nation's capital in an effort to protect, or enhance, retiree rights and benefits. Among the legislative goals for the NRLN in 2012 are adjustments to current PBGC procedures that would increase the benefits of most retired Delta pilots and changes in bankruptcy laws that will make it harder for companies to dump pension plans and other retiree benefits through the bankruptcy process.

One of the major assets of the NRLN is its Grassroots Network that can quickly and effectively target key congressional members when legislation beneficial to retirees is under discussion in Congress. The Grassroots Network consists of over 50,000 members in virtually every congressional district in the country. The Network members utilize the NRLN's CAPWIZ system to generate automatic messages to Congress whenever we need to provide timely input to our elected leaders. (We have used this system several times to support DP3 specific issues.)

NRLN President Bill Kadereit is seeking a volunteer to fill the currently vacant South East Regional Grassroots Leader position. The DP3 trustees are fully engaged in representing our members in our battle with the PBGC, but the NRLN is a key component of our strategy to win this battle, and we are seeking a volunteer to fill this position. Please let us know if you are willing to help us out in this capacity by emailing DP3 at: contactus@DP3.org

SSA Form 131 for 2011 Tax Returns
Finally, I would like to remind you that it is against DP3 policy to provide tax advice, but as we approach the end of 2011, DP3 has been receiving questions regarding the treatment of the final bankruptcy claims that were awarded in 2011. In the paperwork you should have received from Delta, along with your final
bankruptcy distribution, was SSA Form 131. This form verifies that the income you received from Delta in 2011 was earned in prior years and should not affect your Social Security benefits. Please discuss this form, and its implications, with your tax advisor prior to filing your 2011 taxes.

Thanks again for your support.

Will Buergey
Chairman, DP3

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From: NRLN President Bill Kadereit
Date: 1/1/2012 1:03:00 PM
To: Mark Sztanyo
Subject: Invitation to Visit Revamped NRLN Website

The National Retiree Legislative Network (NRLN) is beginning 2012 with an invitation to you to visit our revamped NRLN Website. Click here to access the home page. Or, type www.nrln.org into your Internet browser.

Thanks to many hours of work by the NRLN Webmaster, our website has been given an improved appearance and content update:

• There is a new header with the NRLN Logo.

• A Google search engine has been added for searching the website by key words.

• Headline links to articles of interest to retirees are now "In the news..." section of the home page rather than on three separate webpages.

• The navigation tabs under the header have been updated.

• Additional links have been added to the "Useful Links" webpage to provide easy access to a number of federal agencies and non-profit organizations that provide services to retirees.

• We hope you will agree that the home page has a cleaner look with the color that has been added.

I encourage you to go to our website and take a few minutes to access a number of the webpages. If you have feedback for us about the NRLN website, send an email to nrlnmessage@msn.com or go to www.nrln.org/Feedback.htm.

The NRLN website is vital to communicating with our members, providing information to retirees who are potential members and sharing information with members of Congress, their staffs and others in the federal government. We are often told during our meetings on Capitol Hill that our website has been a source of information on our mission, our retiree association members and our legislative agenda.

If you have not yet accessed the website to read the NRLN’s full 2012 Legislative Agenda or at least the top initiatives for "Lobby Focus" this year, I urge you to do so. These documents are under the "Legislative Action" tab.
A brief summary of our top initiatives in 2012 include:

**PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF RETIREE INCOME:**

- Gain legislation that stops corporations from using pension plan assets for non-pension expenses.
- Reform Pension Benefits Guaranty Corporation rules to ensure equitable calculations of benefit payments to retirees when the PBGC has to take over a pension plan.
- Reform corporate bankruptcy laws to place retirees’ pensions and benefits on a list of obligations that companies can’t shed in the bankruptcy process.
- Gain legislation that protects retirees’ pensions when companies merge, are acquired or divisions are spun off.

**PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF RETIREE HEALTH CARE:**

- Gain legislation on the NRLN’s Maintenance of Cost Protection (MCP) proposal that would establish a fixed monthly payment to retirees equivalent to the value of the benefits an employer provided prior to the reduction or cancellation of retirement health care, prescription drugs, life insurance, long-term care or other benefits.
- Gain legislation for the reduction of prescription drug costs through passage of legislation that:
  1. Enables re-importation and importation of safe prescription drugs approved by the FDA;
  2. Enables Medicare to develop formularies and take competitive bids for prescription drugs;
  3. Staffs and funds the FDA to reduce generic drug approval backlogs;
  4. Prevents drug companies from colluding to control pricing or subvert free markets.

**PROTECTION OF SOCIAL SECURITY:**

The NRLN’s position is:

- Social Security is a contributory plan, an earned and paid-for benefit, not a government welfare program.
- Congress should address any long-term funding gap by focusing on modest increases in the payroll tax rate and increasing the cap on maximum wages subject to the tax.
- There is no need to reduce Social Security Cost of Living Allowances (COLAs), do means-testing or make other cuts in benefits.
- Social Security Trust assets should be insulated from access by Congress and never again be loaned out as a piggybank to cover other government spending.

**PROTECTION OF MEDICARE:**

The NRLN’s position for preserving federal budget dollars for Medicare is to:

- Eliminate waste, cut back federal budgets for projects, non-strategic grants and planned budget expenditures and stop authoring wasteful preferential bills and amendments.
- Attack Medicare fraud and include prison time for defrauding the Medicare system.
- Pass legislation for Medicare prescription drugs that would compel safe importation, competitive bidding, funding to accelerate generic drug sales and eliminate non-competitive practices in the prescription drug industry.
- Set fair and equitable rate formulae for determining physician fees and make adjustments up or down annually.
• Examine costly referrals and redundant visit practices and disallow them.
• Increase the Medicare tax on workers and employers until such time as payroll taxes can again fund 60-65% of the Medicare budget.

With your help by communicating NRLN initiatives with your elected representatives and financial support through an annual NRLN Individual Membership, we will work together to gain legislation that will make a positive difference in the lives of retirees.

Bill Kadereit, President
National Retiree Legislative Network

As the PBGC appeals progresses the sensitivity of the information does as well. While the PCN has re-published many of DP3 general postings, we will refrain from re-publishing “private emails” in view of the nature of the process. So when there is a general update we will re-publish and when there is a private email we will help announce its existence.

To PCN subscribers these links are “hot” and will take you directly to the DP3 resource page or checklist for filing an appeal concerning your PBGC benefits.

Click for Appeal info:
http://www.dp3.org/

Call PBGC in DC- 1-800-400-7242

Link of explanation for BSW (Benefit Statement Worksheet)
(Note: Must know your DP3 assigned passwords which cannot be shared in our newsletter!)

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Commercial Section......

Investment (Legitimate firms that have helped our group are encouraged to contact PCN to add articles here):
Where Germs Lurk on Planes

What to Do When Stuck At 30,000 Feet Next To Sneezers and Coughers

- By SCOTT MCCARTNEY
- Like this columnist

It's a common complaint: Fly on a crowded plane and come home with a cold. What's in the air up there?

Air travelers suffer higher rates of disease infection, research has shown. One study pegged the increased risk for catching a cold as high as 20%. And the holidays are a particularly infectious time of year, with planes packed full of families with all their presents—and all those germs.

Air that is recirculated throughout the cabin is most often blamed. But studies have shown that high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters on most jets today can capture 99.97% of bacterial and virus-carrying particles. That said, when air circulation is shut down, which sometimes happens during long waits on the ground or for short periods when passengers are boarding or exiting, infections can spread like wildfire.

One well-known study in 1979 found that when a plane sat three hours with its engines off and no air circulating, 72% of the 54 people on board got sick within two days. The flu strain they had was traced to one passenger. For that reason, the Federal Aviation Administration issued an advisory in 2003 to airlines saying that passengers should be removed from planes within 30 minutes if there’s no air circulation, but compliance isn’t mandatory.

Much of the danger comes from the mouths, noses and hands of passengers sitting nearby. The hot zone for exposure is generally two seats beside, in front of and behind you, according to a study in July in the journal Emerging Infectious Diseases, published by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

A number of factors increase the odds of bringing home a souvenir cough and runny nose. For one, the environment at 30,000 feet enables easier spread of disease. Air in airplanes is extremely dry, and viruses tend to thrive in low-humidity conditions. When mucous membranes dry out, they are far less effective at blocking infection. High altitudes can tire the body, and fatigue plays a role in making people more susceptible to catching colds, too.

Also, viruses and bacteria can live for hours on some surfaces—some viral particles have been found to be active up to a day in certain places. Tray tables can be contaminated, and seat-back pockets, which get stuffed with used tissues,
soiled napkins and trash, can be particularly skuzzy. It's also difficult to know what germs are lurking in an airline's pillows and blankets.

Research has shown how easily disease can spread. Tracing influenza transmission on long-haul flights in 2009 with passengers infected with the H1N1 flu strain, Australian researchers found that 2% passengers had the disease during the flight and 5% came down within a week after landing. Coach-cabin passengers were at a 3.6% increased risk of contracting H1N1 if they sat within two rows of someone who had symptoms in-flight. That increased risk for post-flight disease doubled to 7.7% for passengers seated in a two-seat hot zone.

The epidemic of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in 2002-03 suggested a wider exposure zone, however. On one flight studied, one passenger spread a particular strain to someone seated seven rows away, while people seated next to the ill passenger didn't contract the disease.

That said, most people sitting near someone who is ill probably won't get sick. "When you get aboard an aircraft, most of us don't have a say on who we sit next to. But that doesn't doom you to catching the flu," said Mark Gendreau of Boston's Lahey Clinic Medical Center.

In 2005, he was part of a team that published a paper in the Lancet that concluded the perceived risk for travelers was higher than the actual risk, and that's still the case today, he said.

Even so, there are some basic precautions passengers can take to keep coughs away.

**Hydrate.** Drinking water and keeping nasal passages moist with a saline spray can reduce your risk of infection.

**Clean your hands** frequently with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. We often infect ourselves, touching mouth, nose or eyes with our own hands that have picked up something.

Use a **disinfecting wipe** to clean off tray tables before using.

**Avoid seat-back pockets.**

**Open your air vent,** and aim it so it passes just in front of your face. Filtered airplane air can help direct airborne contagions away from you.

**Change seats** if you end up near a cougher, sneezer or someone who looks feverish. That may not be possible on very full flights, but worth a try. One sneeze can produce up to 30,000 droplets that can be propelled as far as six feet.

Raise concerns with the crew if **air circulation** is shut off for an extended period.

**Avoid airline pillows and blankets** (if you find them).

"If you take the proper precautions, you should do quite well," said Dr. Gendreau. "In most of us, our immune system does what it was designed to do—protect us from infectious results."
From: Richard Gardner  
Date: 12/31/2011 8:27:22 AM  
To:  
Subject: Happy New Year!!!  
I know it's before the fact but before you all get into the swing of things (if you CAN get into the swing of things) I wanted to send out my wish for a happy and hopefully better New Year. Also, to let you know that I'm still kickin'.

Cheers, Dick Gardner

From: Eric Jensen  
Date: 12/29/2011 11:24:22 PM  
To: Delta-Retirement Network  
Subject: FW: January Retired Military Newsletter  
Thought this would be interesting for our military Navy types. Ca Eric Jensen

Subject: January Retired Military Newsletter  
Date: Tue, 27 Dec 2011 14:15:12 -0800

Fellow Retiree,

We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and that you have an enjoyable and healthy 2012.

Your January newsletter is attached. As we have mentioned before, if you know other retirees, who might benefit from receiving these letters, have them contact us.

Regards,

John Ryan  
Publisher


From: dalatcam  
Date: 12/27/2011 9:47:25 PM  
To:  
Subject: Thanks  
Mark: Thanks for another good post. The video of Santa and the reindeer singing brightened my day. Happy New Year!  
Jerry Bartlett
Human Interest:

Good Read (Good book recommendation & Community Author’s blurbs):

Event Announcements (Click here for Calendar): to post pcn.calendar@gmail.com

This is the PCN Calendar designed for you to publish your 2011 event dates. Please send them in to Kim.
Click here for our PCN Calendar.

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I am looking for......” (Share a post of who you are seeking, if one sought answers....wallah):
Good Deal/Bad Deal (Share a quick good deal or bad deal you have found – no commercials here!)

From: Jerry Rollins
Date: 1/1/2012 3:06:36 PM
To: mark@pilotcommunication.net
Subject: Verizon mobile phone accounts

Verizon has offered 20% discounts to Delta employees and a few Delta retirees have obtained the 20% discounts as well. As part of the discount signup process, a Delta email address or Delta phone number is required. Do you, or does a retiree you know, have information on how to sign up with Verizon for the 20% discount? Many retirees have tried, and the great majority seems to have been turned away. Any help or assistance would gratefully received.

Jerry Rollins

Editor: We have covered this before in a past issue or two but I could not find it quickly. Yes, the discount is not applied evenly. It sort of depends on the sales person and office. The discount is generally speaking designed for active employees of qualifying corporations. As an example I receive a 20% discount from an affiliation I had with Mass Mutual insurance. Delta is also one of them. I will ask those who have received the Delta disc to send in some help for Capt Rollins.

Hangar Flying (Share a bit of ole hangar flying with the net. Need a sim buddy? Use PCN for request):

From: Bill Houseman
Date: 12/30/2011 6:43:24 AM
To: mark@pilotcommunication.net
Subject: Jobs

Mark

Found this link to a jobs site hiring pilots for mostly Chinese airlines. Some of our recent retirees may be interested.

http://www.wasinc.aero/

Bill Houseman

+C 130 Paris Air Show

In the last HL issue # 110 the link for the C130 Paris Air Show was broke. Here are some multiple links to that flight demonstration. By the way, you can often find a video link at you tube if another sources proves broken.

http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=c+130+paris+air+show&oq=c+130+paris&aq=0&aqi=g1&aql=&gs_sm=c&gs_upl=192967990l101011117l011110l13841523515-2.0.3l5
Fellow pilots, please save this as it is priceless on our old planes. Geo. On that Navy AN FIB, plane we used to fly out of MSY, NAS at nite to practice celestial Nav to Mexico and back into Laredo, Tex. I never did get a type rating in this slow clunker.

LAST COLLECTION OF OPERATING TRAMP FREIGHTERS IN THE USA!

I THOUGHT THIS WAS SOMETHING YOU WOULD ENJOY SEEING.. YOU OLD AVIATORS AND MASTER MECHANICS WILL LIKE THIS...

I STILL LOVE THESE BIG NOISY OLD KLUNKERS.........

THEY ARE GOING "AWAY" EVEN FASTER THAN WE GROW OLDER.

http://www.michaelprophet.com/News_articles/OPS.html

Political (food for thought):

Humor/Sobering or Fun (Share some humor with the net):

Sent in by Capt Jim Miller: Senior Love
I was in my back yard trying to launch a kite.

I threw the kite up in the air, the wind would catch it for a few seconds, then it would come crashing back down to earth.

I tried this a few more times with no success.

All the while, my wife Nancy is watching from the kitchen window, muttering to herself how men need to be told how to do everything.

She opens the window and yelled to me,

'You need a piece of tail.'

I turned with a confused look on my face and yelled back,

'Make up your mind. Last night, you told me to go fly a kite.'

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Yeah it passed Christmas but this is pretty funny:

From: Ed Uselmann
Date: 12/26/2011 10:54:28 PM
To: sz >> Mark Stanyo
Subject: Santa's checkride

Even our non-pilot friends should get a laugh out of this!

One of the better ones out there….enjoy
Even Santa has to face the inevitable checkride . . .

http://www.youtube.com:80/watch?v=50vE47DGEy4&feature=player_embedded

Mark
Mark Sztanyo (Stăn’yō), PCN Dir & HL Editor
Pilot Communication Net from Aug 2009
Contact the Net
Life on earth will soon be past, only what’s done for Christ will last!

Serving the Delta community, and pilots (active and retired) and their families, including original Delta, and former: C&S, Northeast, Pan-Am, Western, NWA, Republic, North-Central, Southern Airways, Hughes- Airwest, and all the Delta Connection carriers.

Delta Pioneers - http://www.deltapioneersinc.com/
Delta Retiree Connection - http://www.dlretiree.info
Delta Retirement Committee - http://www.dalrc.org/
DAL Pilots DDPSA - http://www.ddspsa.com/
National Retiree Legislative Network - http://www.nrln.org/

To assure receiving the High Life set spam filters to accept from @pilotcommunication.net.

To Unsubscribe simply click and send with unsubscribe in subject line and please help the PCN improve by adding a reason.