

Hello, my name is Mary Martinez and I am running for President of Local 4201. I have been an employee of LAA for 32 years and currently work in the Global Support Center (OGSC) in Chicago as an operational supervisor. My experience with American Airlines includes both full and part-time employment stationed at the ticket counter, gate area and terminal 5 arrivals. I attended community college for two years with a focus on paralegal/legal secretary studies.

Recently, I was elected as a member of the steering committee and helped to develop the by-laws for District 4201. I have also personally filed grievances, witnessed for many employees under investigation and assisted fellow employees through the arbitration process. As a steering committee member, I attend monthly meetings with local management to begin the process of communication as an organized workforce.

I am running for president to help develop local 4201 in Chicago, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio. My personal experience with unions, within the airline industry, have included the power of organized labor to provide a better work environment and compensation for employees through a contract. During the past bankruptcy proceedings, many work groups received better pay and benefits simply due to these 'contracts'. Also, the company cannot force outsourcing without the approval of the membership.

During my time at American Airlines, I was part of the Agent Advisory Board and saw minimal change at best. Issues were discussed, but the true issues agents faced were never acknowledged. A ratified contract will hold management accountable and enforce positive change for us all.

A president is someone that should not only know of your issues, but also understand them and be willing to fight for change. I look forward to working as a team and ensuring that all employees, no matter their position, will have a voice.