



AIR TRANSPORT



DISTRICT LODGE 142

400 N.E. 32nd STREET • KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64116
816-452-6646 • FAX: 816-455-4793
iamdl142@swbell.net

August 20, 2010

Via Email & US Mail

Ms. Patricia A. Friend, International President
Association of Flight Attendants-CWA
501 Third Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-2797

Mr. Greg Davidowitch, President
United Master Executive Council
Association of Flight Attendants-CWA
6250 N. River Rd. Suite 4020
Rosemont, IL 60018

Dear Sister Friend and Brother Davidowitch:

We are in receipt of your July 23, 2010 letter to General Vice President Roach and General Chairperson Wozniak regarding our ongoing Flight Attendant negotiations at Continental. As we are charged with the responsibility to negotiate a contract for Continental Flight Attendants, Brother Roach has requested that we respond.

While we are still evaluating the proposed merger between United and Continental, the IAM Flight Attendants are currently engaged in intensive negotiations with Continental Airlines to improve on what is already one of the best Flight Attendant contracts in the industry. Our goals have been directed by Continental Flight Attendants through a democratic process that includes soliciting proposals from our membership, conducting numerous bargaining priority surveys, and having a diverse cross section of our members represented on the negotiating team.

Our bargaining priorities include:

Pay: Enhancing all steps of the pay scale, including our current top base rate of \$50.00 per hour.

Pensions: We are working to protect our retirement benefits, including our Continental defined benefit pension plan, our back-up IAM National Pension Plan (which was approved by our members in the last round of negotiations to automatically take effect if Continental's pension plan is frozen or terminated), and our 401(k) plan.

Flexibility, Job Security: Ensuring our members remain secure in their careers with the unrestricted ability to choose to fly as much or as little as they want.


As we recently informed our membership, the pace of our negotiations has increased significantly and we have been making considerable progress on many issues. As you know, we have a legal and moral obligation to act in the best interests of our members at the bargaining table. Therefore, we cannot alter the course our members set for us at this crucial time in negotiations without membership approval.


The IAM has worked together with your union on many important projects, and we already share our bargaining experiences with you and all members of the Coalition of Flight Attendant Unions. We are confident that the Flight Attendants at United will benefit from the standards set in our negotiations with Continental and your membership can be assured that the IAM will never take any action at the bargaining table that would adversely affect any Flight Attendant group.

IAM-represented Flight Attendants already enjoy industry-leading compensation and scheduling flexibility that maximizes their earnings and time off, creating a better quality of life for our members. We believe that by negotiating the best Flight Attendant contract for our members it will benefit and help elevate all Flight Attendants in the industry.

We look forward to continued cooperation on Flight Attendant matters and to continuing the good relationship between our organizations. If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact District 142 President Tom Higginbotham at 400 N. E. 32nd Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64116 and/or via telephone (816) 452-6646.


Sincerely,



Tom Higginbotham
President/Directing General
Chairman



Ernest Dominguez
General Chairperson
IAH Based Flight Attendant


Randy Hatfield
General Chairperson
CLE Based Flight Attendant



Brent Thompson
General Chairperson
EWR Based Flight Attendant



Brian Wozniak
General Chairperson
IAH Based Flight Attendant


Marcus Valentino
President LL 2339C
CLE Based Flight Attendant


Morna McDonald
President LL 2339G
GUM Based Flight Attendant


Rosalie Canton
President LL 2339H
IAH Based Flight Attendant


Joey Guider
President LL 2339N
EWR Based Flight Attendant


Sheila Hammond
Negotiating Committee Member
IAH Based Flight Attendant


Nick Ruiz
IAH Grievance Committee Chairperson
IAH Based Flight Attendant

cc: IP Buffenbarger
GVP Roach