



AIR TRANSPORT



DISTRICT LODGE 142

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August 18, 2008

Dear IAM-Represented Flight Attendant at Continental Airlines, ExpressJet and Continental Micronesia:

Recently, the District has received a number of complaints from Flight Attendants who are receiving unsolicited and unwanted bulk emails from other Flight Attendants. In the course of investigating these complaints, I have learned that at least one fake email has been circulating recently that purports to be from IAM Grand Lodge Representative and current Local Lodge 2339N Trustee Carla Winkler to GVP Robert Roach.

The email is designed to appear as if it was sent by Carla Winkler, but it was not. An extensive investigation by the IAM's Information Systems Department shows that not only was the email never sent from Carla Winkler, but the supposed recipients, also IAM representatives, never received them. For those who may question our research methods, there is further, simpler proof. Anyone who has received an email from Carla Winkler or any IAM Grand Lodge employee can compare that email to the fraudulent one that was circulated and see that our propriety servers format email headers (the From, To, CC, Subject and Sent fields) differently than the counterfeit email. Additionally, the IAM's email servers, located at IAM headquarters in Maryland, are not set to Pacific Daylight Time, as in the phony email. The IAM's Information Systems personnel have identified numerous other telltale signs that it is a forgery but we'd rather not educate the few who are inclined to commit such deceit on our membership.

As you know, protecting our members' identities and privacy has always been paramount. Unfortunately, we have also learned that victims of sham emails are not confined to IAM Grand Lodge employees. A Local Lodge 2339N representative has had their email hacked and fraudulent emails sent from their account to the representative's coworkers, family and personal friends. This is not how professional Flight Attendants conduct themselves.

The IAM communicates openly and honestly. We post information on IAM websites, not anonymously on commercial for-profit sites that allow anonymous, slanderous comments. If you are forwarded an email and question its authenticity, contact the sender for proof of its origin. If the only source is a non-IAM website, it is not an IAM communication. Additionally, if you are tired of receiving unsolicited emails, contact the sender to be removed from their distribution lists.

The Internet is a wonderful tool that has allowed us all to communicate faster and more efficiently than any previous medium. Unfortunately, it has also created a platform for unscrupulous people to anonymously generate and distribute false information. It is disheartening to see professional Flight Attendants, our members, engaged in such an upsetting practice.

Sincerely,

Tom Higginbotham
PRESIDENT-DIRECTING
GENERAL CHAIRMAN

TH/tf

cc: R. Roach, Jr.
District 142 Executive Board

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