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Weekly Update



The Update Message from the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers

Friday, April 27, 2007

Presidential Candidates To Join 'Day Of Action' – New York Senator Hillary Clinton, Delaware Senator Joe Biden and Ohio Rep. Dennis Kucinich will address the Transportation Department's 2007 'Day of Action' rally in Washington, D.C., on May 17, 2007. The rally is aimed at highlighting the sacrifices and contributions of transportation workers worldwide. "Our goal is to articulate a clear message, 'Enough is Enough!' and to do so at the front end of the 2008 presidential election cycle," said Transportation GVP Robert Roach, Jr., who is coordinating the event. "Union members have suffered grievously under the current gang that occupies the White House, but on May 17 our members will make their voices heard." The day-long rally will begin at 10 a.m. on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. where more than 10,000 union members and representatives of global unions are expected to attend. Additional information can be found at www.17may07.org.

Continental Airlines Graduates New Class Of Flight Attendants – Continental has 27 new flight attendants who soon will be boarding CAL flights. Operations Executive VP Mark Moran congratulated the 11th class of 2007 as they graduated in Houston Thursday, April 26, 2007. The new co-workers will all be based in EWR. CAL is currently seeking Greek-speaking flight attendants to help launch the new service to Athens, Greece, in June.

CBO Study Finds Middle Class Wages In Free Fall – For many middle class families, wages are not only stagnant, they are taking a complete nose-dive. A report prepared for Senators Charles Schumer (D-NY) and Jim Webb (D-VA) by the Congressional Budget Office found that roughly one-in-five workers saw their earnings fall by more than 25 percent between 2002 and 2003. About one-in-seven saw their earnings fall by more than 50 percent. For workers with lower levels of education, the volatility in earnings was even more prevalent. Twenty-six percent of workers without a high school diploma saw their earnings decrease by at least 25 percent, and 16 percent saw their earnings drop by at least 50 percent. For those who finished high school, nearly 21 percent saw their earnings drop by at least 25 percent and more than 12 percent saw their earnings drop by more than 50 percent. The CBO used Social Security Administration records for their report, allowing them to cover more people and produce more reliable results.

Northwest, Flight Attendants Reach Agreement – Northwest Airlines and the union representing its flight attendants reached a tentative agreement on pay cuts Thursday. The agreement could allow the workers to take a \$182 million claim in the airline's reorganization. The claim could be worth up to \$18,000 per flight attendant. Union leaders were meeting Thursday to decide whether to send the agreement to workers for a vote.

Judge Approves Delta's Plan To Exit Bankruptcy – A federal bankruptcy judge on Wednesday approved Delta Air Lines' plan to emerge from bankruptcy protection. Delta operated under bankruptcy protection for nearly two years and shed 6,000 jobs and \$3 billion in annual costs. "I feel elated," CEO Gerald Grinstein said. "For the 47,000 (employees) ... they're the ones who went through all the angst and made the sacrifices. It's for them I feel extreme relief." The airline will exit bankruptcy early next week.

Continental And United 'Eye UAE Landing Rights' – Dubai: American carriers Continental and United Airlines could begin flying to the UAE soon, a top US official said yesterday. Marion Blakey, Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), said the two airlines were keen to follow in the footsteps of Delta Air Lines, which will begin flights from its Atlanta hub to Dubai in late May. The two airlines could also enter into a code-sharing agreement with Etihad Airways to network Abu Dhabi with various points in the US, Blakey added, noting that Etihad has expressed interest in partnering with US carriers. Currently, the Abu Dhabi-based airline flies non-stop to New York and Toronto, Canada. "Etihad is engaged in lots of discussions with other airlines, but in no way is anything imminent and on the table," a spokesperson told Gulf News. "These discussions are laying a foundation which will hopefully bear fruit in the future." The FAA's office in Abu Dhabi will help the FAA certify foreign carriers flying into the US as well as repair centres here serving US airlines.

Find this article at: <http://www.gulfnews.com/business/Aviation/10121075.html>

Get Ready For The Day Of Action – The IAM Transportation Department is preparing for a major March and Rally on May 17, 2007, in Washington, DC. Thousands of working men and women from every state of the Union will join us on that day to say **“ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!”** For more information, visit 17may07.org

We would like to encourage all members to attend your Local Lodge business meeting. Each base must have a quorum to conduct business. The following is a schedule for upcoming meetings:

Newark: Tuesday, May 8th, 3:00 p.m. at the Doubletree Airport Hotel.

Cleveland: Thursday, May 10th, 1:00 p.m. at 669 North Rocky River Drive.

Houston: Tuesday, May 15th, 1:00 p.m. at 15710 JFK Blvd.

Guam: Wednesday, May 16th, 4:00 p.m. at the Airport Conference Room.