



District 142

Weekly Update



Continental • ExpressJet • Micronesia • Gulfstream

The Update Message from the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
representing Flight Attendants in the 2339 Local Lodges

Friday, May 25, 2007

Iraq Bill Includes Airline Pension Provision – Continental Airlines and American Airlines have successfully lobbied Congress to include new pension relief in emergency spending legislation. There are a number of provisions unrelated to military operations in the \$120-billion Iraq war bill that lawmakers in the House of Representatives and the Senate are scrambling to complete before starting a one-week recess this weekend. Last year broad pension reform was approved for many companies with traditional pensions. Continental Airlines and American Airlines feel they were short-changed and they have lobbied for additional changes now being considered by Congress. The Iraq war funding bill includes provisions allowing Continental Airlines and American Airlines to lower their contributions to their pension plans by almost \$2 billion over the next 10 years. President Bush is expected to sign this bill into law.

'Day of Action' Signals Grassroots Revival – The thousands of Machinists who came to Washington, DC, last week for the 2007 Legislative Conference and the Transportation Department's "Day of Action" returned home after witnessing firsthand the impact that grassroots political involvement can have. From an impassioned speech by John Edwards at the Legislative Conference, who repeatedly echoed the Machinists theme of "**Enough is Enough**," to Hillary Clinton's vow to restore visibility to union members and working families, it became clear that candidates are already listening closely to what IAM members have to say. "Last week's events are one part of a comprehensive strategy to ensure our members' concerns are part of this nation's political dialog heading into the 2008 presidential election," said International President Tom Buffenbarger, whose own [remarks](#) at the Day of Action were greeted with cheers of approval. "I want to thank every member who took part in last week's activities. This union is clearly motivated and it's inspiring to see such solidarity in action and to hear it reflected in the remarks of candidates seeking the highest office in the land."

Spanish Leadership At WWW Center – The IAM's second Leadership I program, conducted entirely in Spanish, is taking place this week at the William W. Winpisinger Center in Hollywood, Maryland. Twelve IAM members from six states, along with two trade unionists from Guatemala, are participating in Spanish Leadership I – Liderazgo I. "This program demonstrates the IAM's commitment to provide all of its members with the skills and tools they need to more effectively represent their sisters and brothers in the workplace," said International President Tom Buffenbarger. "I am very proud of each of these members and I have challenged them to go back to their locals and to their workplaces and put to use what they learned at the Winpisinger Center." The Winpisinger Center's 2007 calendar includes another Spanish Leadership I Program on July 8 -13. Local and District Lodges are encouraged to enroll members in this and other [Winpisinger Center](#) programs as soon as possible.

Continental Adds 16 International Service Mangers For June – Continental Airlines graduated 16 International Service Managers (ISM) Thursday, May 17th, 2007. All 16 Service Managers will be based in EWR.

Skybus Attendants To Work On Commission – "Just what the airline industry needed: Flight attendants on commission." Mark Tatge of Forbes.com, writes that Skybus can get you to Columbus for as little as \$10, "but you'll pay in peace and quiet." Skybus flight attendants will be hawking not only food and water but also such sundries as suntan lotion and jewelry to an extremely captive market. And the attendants will have incentives aplenty to tap you on the shoulder. Paid only \$9 an hour, or \$16,000 a year, they'll get a 10% commission on any merchandise sold in this flying souk. "Pilots, paid \$75,000, don't get a cut, but we can only imagine the infomercial-like announcements," Tatge adds.

Explosive Detection Devices Won't Change Policy On Carry-On Liquids – The TSA said Tuesday early tests of a device that can detect liquid explosives inside sealed bottles have been positive. The TSA will deploy up to 200 of the machines in major airports by October, but officials noted that the ban on liquids will remain in place. "Though we do not anticipate changes to the liquid ban in the near future, this flexible, accurate new technology gives an important additional tool to our security officers," TSA Chief Technology Officer Michael Golden said.

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, June 12th, 3:00 p.m. at the Doubletree Airport Hotel.

Cleveland: Thursday, June 14th, 1:00 p.m. at 669 North Rocky River Drive.

Houston: Tuesday, June 19th, 1:00 p.m. at 15710 JFK Blvd.

Guam: Wednesday, June 20th, 4:00 p.m. at the Airport Conference Room.