



District 142

Continental • ExpressJet • Micronesia • Gulfstream

# Weekly Update



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

## Friday, June 15, 2007

**It was reported this past week that Continental Airlines** has agreed to discuss the possibility of opening contract negotiations early with their Pilots. It is the position of the IAM that **any** pay or benefit restoration to **any** employee group must be extended to the Flight Attendants as well. Our members can rest assured that we are monitoring future developments and we will keep you advised.

**Senate Set to Debate Employee Free Choice Act** — The U.S. Senate is set to begin debating the Employee Free Choice Act on Monday. A vote on the bill could come as early as next Wednesday. The Employee Free Choice Act would enable workers to bargain for better wages, benefits and working conditions by strengthening their rights to form unions. The House passed the Employee Free Choice Act in March by a vote of 241-185. Urge your Senators to stand up for working families and support the Employee Free Choice Act by clicking [here](#).

**ExpressJet Corporate Charter Negotiations Update** — As you were previously advised meetings resumed June 5, 2007 and continued through June 6, 2007. Substantial progress was made on both the Corporate Charter operation as well as grievances filed relating to that operation. Since those meetings some limited discussions have continued. We are hopeful this matter will be resolved in the near future. As always your patience and support is appreciated. Sincerely and fraternally, Tom Higginbotham President-Directing General Chairperson

**Continental Flight Attendants are reminded that transfer requests on-file** will be removed July 1st, 2007, in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement. Section 12.B.4, Base Transfers, states, "Transfer requests remain on file until granted, replaced or withdrawn, rescinded by the Company, or until July 1st, whichever comes first. (All requests will automatically expire on July 1st each year. Flight Attendants who continue to desire to transfer after July 1st must therefore resubmit such requests.)" The Company offers additional information regarding the transfer request expiration in Inflight Bulletin # 07-34, stating "Those of you who currently have transfers on file who are still interested in transferring, may either submit a new request after July 1st (and prior to the July 5th deadline), or may indicate your wish for your request to remain on file after the July 1st expiration date by checking the box supplied for this purpose on the transfer page of the Inflight Forms System. (This box was made available for your use on June 1). Requests to transfer for the August bid month must be on file by 1000 hours local time on July 5th." **Continental Micronesia Flight Attendants** also have this provision in their agreement, Section 17.K. If you have any further questions about this process contact your Base or Inflight Administration Department or your local IAM Union Representatives.

**Continental Micronesia Flight Attendants will have the opportunity to attend a presentation on the IAM National Pension Plan.** Workshops are scheduled for June 19th to the 23rd at the GIAA conference room. The power-point presentation will begin at 1:30 p.m. and take approximately 45 minutes to complete. District 142 General Chairperson Larry Newcomb will be available to answer any questions you might have during the presentation. We hope you will find the workshops informative and it will answer your questions about the pension plan as well as help you plan for your retirement. Mark the dates in your calendar and we'll see you there.

**Northwest IAM Members Start Earning IAM Pension Benefits** — Northwest Airlines, now operating outside bankruptcy protection, will begin making payments into the IAM National Pension Plan (NPP), effective June 1, 2007, for IAM members at the carrier. The payments are in accordance with the IAM-negotiated collective bargaining agreements with the carrier. The NPP will be sending information directly to Northwest IAM members. Additional plan information is available at [www.iamnpf.org](http://www.iamnpf.org). "This achievement was made possible because of the membership's solidarity and the difficult decisions made while the airline was in bankruptcy," said District 143 President and Directing General Chairperson Stephen Gordon. IAM members are the only Northwest Airlines employees who still earn pension benefits in a federally-guaranteed, secure pension plan. IAM members at Northwest join IAM members at US Airways, United Airlines and Aloha Airlines who have the distinction of being the only workers at those carriers who still have a defined benefit pension. "Surviving bankruptcy with a guaranteed pension is a unique benefit of IAM membership; one that other airline employees wish they had," said Transportation General Vice President Robert Roach, Jr.

**United Airlines Remains Interested In A Merger, CFO Jake Brace Says** — United Airlines remains interested in industry consolidation and would like to team up with a U.S. carrier with a strong presence in the Northeast and a hub in the South, its chief financial officer said Wednesday. Jake Brace told analysts there are candidates for such a merger. He said United would like to combine with another airline that is strong in the Atlantic and needs a southern-tier hub to strengthen its service to the Caribbean and Latin America, where it has a smaller presence than other U.S. airlines. "Our focus is on the Northeast, a southern-tier hub and helping us in Latin America," he said. Delta, US Airways and Continental Airlines Inc. all have been mentioned as possible merger partners for United, although Brace didn't name names.

**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, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 p.m. at the Doubletree Airport Hotel.

**Cleveland:** Thursday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m. at 669 North Rocky River Drive.

**Houston:** Tuesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m. at 15710 JFK Blvd.

**Guam:** Wednesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m. at the Airport Conference Room.