



District 142

Continental • ExpressJet • Micronesia • Gulfstream

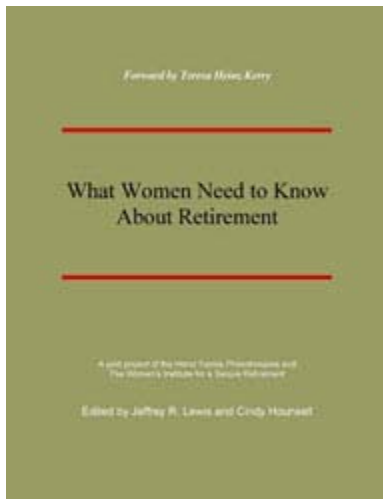
# Weekly Update



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

## Friday, July 20, 2007

### Free Book — A Wealth of Information for Women



The Heinz Family Philanthropies and The Women’s Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER) have published “What Women Need to Know About Retirement,” a 78-page e-book, available free [here](#). The book contains information on retirement savings, Medicare, long-term care and features a chapter on unexpected events that is co-authored by Maria Cordone, Director of [IAM Community Services and Retirees Department](#). “Good planning can help a personal tragedy from becoming a financial disaster,” said Cordone, who co-wrote her chapter with WISER Chairman Jeffrey R. Lewis. “Nothing can prevent the tragedies in life. You can’t cheat death, accidents happen and not all jobs or marriages will last. No one can predict the future, but this book can help women plan for the unexpected and help to ensure they are protected no matter what lies ahead.” Founded in 1996, WISER provides women with basic information about the obstacles they face in

establishing long-term financial security. WISER also advocates changes that would reshape retirement policies that are a product of a bygone age when men were the primary bread winners and more employers offered traditional pension plans. Those changes include finding ways not to penalize women who sacrifice retirement benefits by taking time off to care for children or elderly relatives.

**U.S. Labor Secretary Insults U.S. Workers** — In a recent issue of Parade magazine, Department of Labor (DOL) Secretary Elaine Chao lectures American workers on how they can stop losing their jobs to foreign workers: “American employees must be punctual, dress appropriately and have good personal hygiene.” In the article, “**How Safe Is Your Job?**” Chao says U.S workers could lose a job to a foreign worker not because he’s cheaper, but because he has better workplace skills and discipline. “They [**American workers**] need anger-management and conflict-resolution skills, and they have to be able to accept direction,” continued Chao. This is the same Labor Secretary who led the fight to cut overtime pay in 2004, allowed meetings between DOL officials and anti-union consultants and virtually transformed the agency charged with protecting American workers’ rights into a compliant corporate lapdog. Chao even went after her own workforce when she attempted to outsource 250 DOL jobs to non-union contractors.

**All Flight Attendants at Continental, ExpressJet & Continental Micronesia** are reminded to check their system seniority lists for accuracy. Contractually, each list must be up-dated and posted every six months, in January and July, in each domicile. The lists are also available through the company websites. Any member who thinks they may have discovered a discrepancy should file a protest within 30 days of the posting of the list in question. Contact your Local Lodge or District Representatives with any information regarding any possible protest.

**Jumpseat issues have been popping up around the system this Summer** as load factors reach record numbers. It has been reported that some out-stations have had problems with printing the necessary documentation to complete the process. Also, some out-stations are applying the more restrictive pilot jumpseat authorization policies with the less restrictive flight attendant jumpseat policies. The Union and the Company have been discussing these conflicts and the Company says it is working to address and correct the situation when it arises. Should you encounter difficulties at an out-station in receiving printed jumpseat authorization, politely remind the agent that they may still revert to the past paper process for jumpseat authorization.

**Continental Airlines Reports 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Profit Gains** — Continental Airlines said today that its quarterly earnings rose, in part because of strong demand for trans-Atlantic flights, along with generally higher fares. Through June 30, 2007, the company has accrued \$92 million for its current year profit sharing pool, a \$32 million increase over the same six-month period last year. The actual amount of profit sharing that the company will be able to distribute to employees in February 2008 depends on the company's full year financial results. Continental's net profit rose to \$228 million, compared to \$198 million in the second quarter of 2006.

**On-Time Departure for FAA's Blakey?** — Frustrated over increasing delays, near misses and labor disputes, Democratic Sen. Charles Schumer of New York today called for Federal Aviation Administrator Marion Blakey to resign. "The leadership at the FAA time and again has failed," Schumer said. "So now it is time for that leadership to change." But Blakey already has one foot out the door: Her term expires in September and she has no intention of pushing for a second go-round. At a hearing last week, Blakey, a former director of the National Transportation Safety Board, reiterated that she is a "one-term administrator" and is eager to pursue other opportunities. A Schumer spokesman today said the bigger concern is that Blakey will continue to serve until she's replaced, which could run through the end of the Bush administration given the current state of relations between the White House and Congress. Schumer is irked with the sharp increase in flight delays and cancellations in the New York area and several side issues — most notably the FAA's ongoing labor spat with air traffic controllers — that is slowing the rollout of new technologies that could begin to ease headaches for travelers and airlines. Schumer in part blamed significant shortages of air traffic controllers at JFK, Newark and LaGuardia airports. Blakey disputed the numbers, saying staffing is adequate.

**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:

**Cleveland:** Thursday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m. at 669 North Rocky River Drive.

**Newark:** Tuesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 p.m. at the Doubletree Airport Hotel.

**Guam:** Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m. at the Airport Conference Room.

**Houston:** Tuesday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 1:00 p.m. at 15710 JFK Blvd.