



District 142

# Weekly Update



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

## Friday, January 11, 2008

**Coalition of Flight Attendant Unions held the First-Ever Flight Attendant Strategic Bargaining Summit in Washington, D.C., January 8 – 10, 2008** — The Coalition of Flight Attendant Unions (IAMAW), (AFA-CWA), (APFA), (TWU) representing over 90,000 Flight Attendants at 26 U.S. airlines, leave the Strategic Bargaining Summit committed to a coordinated campaign to raise the industry standard for wages, retirement, health care, benefits and working conditions for all Flight Attendants and retirees. Together we launched a campaign to reverse the era of concessions forced on many of us during recent bankruptcies and restructurings. We commit to collective action to advance Flight Attendant contracts and careers. With the majority of Flight Attendant contracts open for negotiations in the next two years, we have a rare opportunity to increase our leverage through close coordination of bargaining strategy, field mobilization, information sharing and communications. Our fight extends beyond our legitimate and necessary contract demands. We also stand together to overturn the trend toward ever more excessive executive compensation, and to put an end to anti-worker labor relations practices across the industry. In the year of a U.S. Presidential election, and important Congressional elections, the Coalition unions are making plans for political mobilization of their 90,000 members. We must stress the importance of electing candidates who support issues important to Flight Attendants and other airline workers. The Coalition's member unions also pledge to fortify or establish intra-carrier and industry-wide union coalitions and bargaining networks to strengthen cooperation and coordination for contract negotiations and collective action. In other action, the Coalition appointed a Strategic Action Task Force to formulate specific plans to put the Coalition's goals into action. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for March.

**Mediator Maggie Jacobsen, Former Continental Flight Attendant has Passed Away** Former three-term National Mediation Board member Maggie Jacobsen, an early proponent of interest-based bargaining, has died. Nicknamed "**The Iron Lady**," she was an early proponent of interest-based bargaining -- a process she said "produces partnerships rather than mutual resentment. The time has come," she said, "for the sides to craft a mutually acceptable solution through joint problem solving and end the testosterone-fueled debates that often dump the problem into lawmakers' laps." From 1965 to 1972, Jacobsen was a Continental Airlines flight attendant and union representative, where she studied the Railway Labor Act, which applies equally to airlines. She later was elected secretary-treasurer of the Flight Attendants Department of the Air Line Pilots Association, representing some 20,000 flight attendants on some 20 air carriers. In 1972, Jacobsen accepted a position as a labor relations manager for Continental Airlines, and in 1976 became a mediator with the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, a National Labor Relations Act agency. Funeral arrangements were pending the morning of Jan. 7 and will be reported at [www.utu.org](http://www.utu.org) when received.

**Crewmember Self-Defense Training** – The TSA is currently offering a self defense training class available for airline crewmembers at or near their home base. A one-day Crewmember Self Defense Training (**CMSDT**) course will be conducted by the Federal Air Marshal Service (**FAMS**) in Houston, Texas and in Newark, New Jersey for airline crewmembers. Classes will be held in Houston, Texas at North Harris Montgomery Community College and the tentative dates for 2008 are January 11, 25, February 19, 20, March 19, 20. Training in Newark will be held at the Essex County College Police Academy, Cedar Grove, NJ., and the tentative dates for 2008 are February 19, 22, March 10, 13, April 21, 23. This course is free of charge. To participate, you must be an active airline crewmember. For more information regarding **CMSDT**, or to enroll, log on to [www.tsa.gov/cmsdt](http://www.tsa.gov/cmsdt). To download/view an electronic brochure with more information, please click on the following link. <http://www.iamdl142.org/fa/pdf/CMSDT.pdf>

**The mediation board has set the election period for CommutAir Flight Attendants** from 12:01 a.m. January 3, 2008 through 2:00 p.m., January 24, 2008 for their IAM representation election. If you know and or see any CommutAir Flight Attendants, please encourage them to participate in their election and send in their ballots.

**Anti-missile technology will not be tested on flights carrying passengers**, officials said. The technology will be tested on up to three American Airlines jetliners. American opposes equipping commercial jets with anti-missile systems but agreed to participate in the tests. American Airlines has said anti-missile defense is best achieved by stopping terrorists from getting missiles that could shoot down commercial jets and by improving security around airports.

**Senate Provision Beefs Up Air Travel Complaint Department** – The New Jersey senator responsible for landmark laws banning smoking on airplanes is lending a voice to customers frustrated over canceled flights and lost luggage. Democratic Sen. Frank Lautenberg authored a provision providing \$2.5 million to enforce airline passenger protections and improve response to customer complaints. The measure was signed into law last week as part of a 2008 appropriations bill. The money will help transportation officials investigate more complaints about overbooked flights, lost luggage, long delays and other air travel indignities. Lautenberg says too many complaints get filed in a drawer. The additional money won't improve airline service, but it could help irate passengers be heard.

**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:

**Houston:** Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m. at 15710 JFK Blvd.

**Guam:** Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m. at the Airport Conference Room.

**Newark:** Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 p.m. at the Doubletree Airport Hotel.

**Cleveland:** Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m. at 669 North Rocky River Drive.