



District 142

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Weekly Update



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

Friday, January 4, 2008

Flight Attendant Unions Prepare to Take On Airline Industry – More than half of all Flight Attendant contracts in the U.S. will become amendable in the next two years and union leaders representing nearly 90,000 Flight Attendants will meet in Washington, DC on January 8-10 for an unprecedented bargaining summit. Representatives from the International Association of Machinists (**IAM**), the Association of Flight Attendants/Communication Workers of America (**AFA-CWA**), Association of Professional Flight Attendants (**APFA**), and the Transport Workers Union (**TWU**) will meet to discuss an overall strategy to secure gains, as the airline industry continues to profit, in upcoming contract talks. Union leaders anticipate that by coordinating their combined efforts they will increase their bargaining leverage, improving their ability to raise industry standards for all Flight Attendants. Flight Attendants and other airline workers have sacrificed pay, benefits and working conditions through a long series of bankruptcies, restructurings, layoffs and threatened liquidations over the past few years. That era is now over. Attending this three-day summit will be leading academics, consultants and lawyers to outline a strategy for this crucial round of bargaining. Union leaders will focus on ways to share information and coordinate individual strategies, as well as strengthen their inter-union communications network. Recognizing that airline executives are unlikely to agree to significant improvements without a fight, union leaders will also lay plans to mobilize their members in support of their bargaining demands. The purpose of this bargaining summit is to allow these unions and others representing smaller groups of Flight Attendants, to refine their strategy to gain much-needed contract improvements for their Flight Attendants. Flight Attendant productivity is up, working hours are up and time away from home is up. But when it comes to wages and benefits, airline executives have rewarded only themselves. That too, is now over.



Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y.

New Poll Lists Top Voter Concerns – A host of domestic issues, including the economy and health care, are the most pressing issues for Americans as the 2008 election season kicks off this week with the Iowa caucuses, according to polling released by the Associated Press and Yahoo News. Fifty-three percent of respondents listed health care as an “extremely important” issue in the 2008 elections, up from 48 percent in November.

The poll found 65 percent of Americans favor universal health care coverage, compared to just 34 percent who favor the current system. The economy was also a top concern, with 52 percent of those polled rating it as “extremely important,” up from 46 percent in November. Nearly 50 percent of Americans listed Social Security and gas prices as “extremely important” as well, ahead of such issues as the war in Iraq and terrorism. On both the economy and health care, a majority of those polled overwhelmingly favored Democrats to handle those issues over Republicans.



Sen. Barack Obama, D-III.

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.

ExpressJet Update – Your District 142 General Chairpersons will be meeting with ExpressJet management in January 2008 to discuss numerous issues, some of which include passes, jumpseat, grievances, and arbitration cases. We will keep you apprised of any specific information that results from this meeting.

ExpressJet, ExpressJet Branded and ExpressJet Charter Flight Attendants as a reminder, although vastly different in its operations, ALL Continental Express, ExpressJet Branded, ExpressJet Charter, and ExpressJet/Delta Connection Flight Attendants are protected and governed by the provisions of our union contract. It should also be noted that under no circumstance shall an operation-specific supplemental guideline supersede the actual Inflight Manual. For any questions regarding these matters please contact your local union representative.

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, January 8th, 3:00 p.m. at the Doubletree Airport Hotel.

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

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

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