



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, February 1, 2008



Local Lodge 2339 representatives along with District 142 General Chairs attend Grievance Committee training at the William W. Winpisinger training facility at Placid Harbor.

### **Inaugural Grievance Conference Takes Flight**

– Grievance Representatives from Houston, Cleveland, Guam and Newark attended the first annual Flight Attendant Grievance Conference at the William W. Winpisinger Center, the week of January 22 – 25, 2008. The focus of the meeting was to seek input from the front line representatives as to how we could improve our services to the membership. Several workshops and spirited discussions took place over topics that included professionalism, accountability, and exceeding our member's expectations. Additional topics that were discussed

included effective communications, and the apparent Merger Mania that the airline industry seems determined in pursuing. The meetings culminated at the IAM National Headquarters, with a briefing from IAM Transportation General Vice President Robert Roach, Jr., about the many challenges we face in the near future. The grievance representatives finished the meeting with an extensive Question & Answer session covering issues that concern our members. The General Chairs have been reviewing the proceedings and are in the process of preparing for next year's conference. Once again, our sincere thanks to all the representatives that participated in this year's inaugural conference.

**Your District 142 and Local Lodge Representatives want to encourage** all members to participate in next week's "**Super Tuesday**" primary elections. Voters in 22 states, including New York, New Jersey, California and Illinois, will select a large number of delegates that will be instrumental in determining the Presidential candidates for the general election in November.

**Gulfstream Update** – The company and your IAM representatives met for 3 days of contract negotiations, in Fort Lauderdale, under the auspices of the National Mediation Board. Progress was made and a bulletin is being released on the District 142 website. We encourage you to stay informed with the status of your negotiations.

**Continental Micronesia Update** – Informational meetings to address and answer any questions regarding the “Reduced Flying – Options” continue through February 12, 2008. The location is the GIAA Conference Room at the Guam International Airport.

**At ExpressJet the Union and the company have selected an arbitrator** for the Main Cabin Door Arbitration. The parties have selected arbitrator Josh Javits and are currently soliciting dates to hear the arbitration. We will advise you once we have selected a date with the arbitrator.

**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.

**Endless Speculation of Airline Mergers** - Since the rise in oil and aviation fuel prices, every day seems to bring more talk about airlines merging together. The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM&AW) has not been idly standing by, but rather has developed a Transportation Merger Team, headed by General Vice President (GVP) Robert Roach, Jr. The Machinists formed the Transportation Merger Team to protect the interests of IAM&AW members affected by airline mergers. In preparation of any possible airline merger that may affect IAM&AW members, a team of employee representatives, lawyers, economists and many other individuals that specialize in the airline industry, have been assembled. On January 24, 2007, GVP Roach testified. His testimony was entitled "State of the Airline Industry: the Potential Impact of Airline Mergers and Industry Consolidation." GVP Roach testified, "The merger of two or more air carriers is not a simple process. There are many aspects to be considered in an airline merger; the integration of routes, consolidation of hubs, blending of aircraft and effects on competition and consumer pricing are but some of the many intricacies of a merger. Perhaps the biggest challenge in any merger is the integration of the workforce so that the newly merged carrier's employees can work most efficiently under common conditions. Rumors of a merger prompt endless speculations from industry analysts, insiders and casual observers. Mergers, however, don't fail or succeed on such speculation. Sound business and integration plans are essential if a merger is to be successful." The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, District 142 and all transportation districts have taken a proactive stance to protect the interests of our membership. As news reports and rumors occur, your Union representatives ask that all members remain calm and to please stay informed via your Local Lodge meetings and by visiting the District 142 website for updated information. We are committed to providing you with the very latest information, in real time, as quickly as possible. If you would like to receive email updates, please visit [www.go142.org](http://www.go142.org) and click on “Join the Mailing List” on the main menu of choices.

**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, 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.

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

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