



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, February 8, 2008



Mergers! What is the Union Doing and How Can Members Help?

– The IAM's Merger Team has been active since 2006 evaluating potential mergers. The Merger Team consists of attorneys, economists, Transportation District Lodge Presidents, IAM lobbyists and Transportation Department staff. The Machinists Union has assessed the impact of these potential mergers and determined that any of the combinations proposed would have an adverse effect on the cities the airlines currently serve, the flying public, and the employees that have given major concessions to allow these airlines to continue flying. We will do whatever is legally possible to protect our members' contracts and their pensions. Even if two airlines agree to merge, the merger's successful completion is far from guaranteed. The Department of Justice must approve any merger and the Department of Transportation will evaluate any proposal for its impact on the public. A final decision could take more than

a year. It took 15 months for the proposed United Airlines – US Airways merger proposal (which the IAM opposed) to unravel and die. Members have asked what they could do to ensure they have the protection and guarantees of an IAM contract after a merger. There are two ways every member can defend themselves. The first is by remaining a solid, undivided workforce. Our solidarity cannot be questioned. If airline management senses the least bit of fracture among the membership they will use it to their advantage. **Unity and solidarity among all Machinists Union members will help your IAM representatives protect you in a merger.** The second is to help us organize workers at Delta, Continental and AirTran. The IAM has active campaigns underway for Delta, Continental and AirTran Ramp Service, Customer Service and Reservation employees. Organizing these workers before a merger can protect our current membership by ensuring you have a voice in the workforce integration process no matter which carrier survives. Visit www.goiamnow.org or contact your local organizing committee for information about these campaigns. Finally, stay informed and stay involved by reviewing the Union bulletin boards located at each base crew room, sign up for Union email ([link here](#)) or visit www.go142.org to "Join the Mailing List", and be an active Union member! Ask questions and get answers from your Union representatives and then share your knowledge with other Flight Attendants. Our Union's Power is achieved by our unified Solidarity!

It has been reported that ExpressJet Reserve Flight Attendants have been kept on hold for excessive periods of time at the end of a pairing, when trying to block in from a trip. As the union has previously reported, the company and union have had discussions on this problem and have agreed that a flight attendant is not required to remain on hold for excessive periods of time, but should instead call the duty desk or ask to speak to a supervisor to be released.

A call for contract proposals has been issued for our newly organized Flight Attendants at **CommutAir** as preparations for the negotiation of their First Contract commence. Proposal forms can be obtained by visiting the District 142 website at www.go142.org. We would like to thank the CommutAir Flight Attendants for their support and would like to welcome you into our IAM family.

Roach Warns Senate on Mergers – IAM General Vice President Robert Roach, Jr., was the sole labor representative at the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee hearing on airline mergers and industry consolidation. “Proposed mergers must be scrutinized to ensure that employees’ hard earned pensions are preserved,” said Roach. “At a time when airline-sponsored pension plans have either been terminated or under-funded, preserving existing pension plans, and extending benefits to employees without pensions, is a priority for the IAM. When considering the merger of two airlines, a key element to consider is how their management handled past mergers,” said Roach. “US Airways has not yet negotiated a transition agreement with the Machinists Union that would merge our represented employee groups following its 2005 merger with America West Airlines. Their issues deserve to be addressed at the bargaining table before US Airways is allowed to merge with any other airlines.”



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 the first date to hear the arbitration has been set for April 30, 2008. We will keep you advised of any developments regarding this arbitration.

IAM / Gulfstream Airlines Negotiations Update – Negotiations resumed last week with meetings on January 28 through January 30, 2008. National Mediation Board Mediator Denise Hodges was present for these meetings. Time was spent updating the Mediator on the history of our meetings and the status of the issues. Proposals were exchanged between the parties and with the assistance of the Mediator, significant progress was made. While we are pleased with this progress there is much more to be accomplished in order to bring these negotiations to conclusion. The Mediator has scheduled three-day meeting sessions over the next several months. We have outlined the subjects to be discussed at our next meeting which will assist in making these meetings more productive. Your continued support is appreciated and an update will be provided after our next meeting which are February 20 through 22, 2008. Fraternaly yours, Brian Wozniak – District 142 General Chairperson

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.

Third Annual Flight Attendant Conference Coming in April 2008 – The IAM has announced that it will sponsor its’ third Flight Attendant Conference April 7th through April 10th, 2008, at the IAM William W. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center in Hollywood, MD. Participants will include your Local Lodge Officers and Grievance Committee Members as well as any Flight Attendant members who want to attend on a voluntary basis. Transportation to and from the conference will be provided along with meals and lodging. Topics for this year’s conference are still being finalized and we will provide more information at a later date. If you would like to attend please contact your Local Lodge President as soon as possible so we can plan for the number of interested participants. We look forward to seeing you!

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 12th, 3:00 p.m. at the Doubletree Airport Hotel.

Cleveland: Thursday, February 14th, 1:00 p.m. at 669 North Rocky River Drive.

Houston: Tuesday, February 19th, 1:00 p.m. at 15710 JFK Blvd.

Guam: Wednesday, February 20th, 4:00 p.m. at the Airport Conference Room.