



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, May 23, 2008

Memorial Day Radio Event to Honor Vietnam Veterans –



The Wall of Faces will show pictures of every person whose name is on The Wall. Images will be shown on their birthdays. (Rendering courtesy of Ralph Appelbaum Associates)

May 26 is Memorial Day, the national holiday marked by public parades and private remembrances for the men and women who died in service to their country. Among the many tributes to service and sacrifice being held this weekend is a unique Radiothon on the Talk Radio Network to raise funds for the construction of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Education Center in Washington, D.C. The Center will be constructed adjacent to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and provide photographs and personal stories to go with the more than 58,000 names that are inscribed on what is now simply known as “The Wall.” “The IAM is proud to support the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center, and this year we are also supporting the work of Sons and Daughters in Touch, the national organization of family members who lost loved ones in Vietnam,” said International President Tom Buffenbarger. “Every generation bears an obligation to the generation that went before it. I believe we have a special responsibility to the men and women who served and died in the Vietnam War. The Memorial Center and Sons and Daughters in Touch give us the opportunity to help preserve that generation’s awesome legacy of service and sacrifice.” For more information, visit <http://www.vvmf.org/> or tune into Rusty Humphries on the Talk Radio Network for the Memorial Day Weekend Radiothon on May 23, 24 and 26.

CommutAir Negotiations – Negotiations for the first CommutAir Flight Attendant contract commenced this week, with meetings on May 14 and 15, 2008. An outline for discussions was agreed upon and numerous proposals were discussed. Additional meetings have been scheduled for July 16, 17 and August 13, 14 to continue negotiations.

S&P Puts Airlines Ratings on Negative Creditwatch – Standard & Poor's Ratings Services said Thursday it placed nine major domestic airlines on CreditWatch with negative implications over the "potential severe financial damage" they face due to record high jet fuel costs. "The dramatic increase in jet fuel prices has increased airline costs significantly over the past two months, and, if sustained, could threaten their liquidity and financial profiles," said Standard & Poor's credit analyst Philip Baggaley in a statement. In response, airlines have implemented fuel surcharges, fare increases and other fees. S&P said it placed the following on CreditWatch: AirTran Holdings Inc.; Alaska Air Group Inc., the parent of Alaska Airlines: AMR Corp., parent of American Airlines; Continental Airlines Inc.; JetBlue Airways Corp.; Southwest Airlines Co.; UAL Corp., which owns United Air Lines: and US Airways Group Inc., which owns both US Airways and America West Airlines. Northwest Airlines Corp. and its Northwest Airlines unit are already on already on CreditWatch due to the proposed merger with Delta Air Lines Inc.

Just Say No! To Airline Mergers – The Machinists Union strongly opposes mergers among the major airlines for the following reasons: airline hubs will be eliminated; service frequency will be reduced; competition will be diminished; jobs will be lost; customer service will deteriorate; and pension obligations will be jeopardized; and fuel prices will remain unaffected by a merger. The IAM is part of a coalition of consumer advocates, political leaders and passenger rights groups who oppose the mega-mergers, but we need your help. All IAM members are asked to contact their elected representatives and urge their opposition for airline mergers that will only benefit airline executives and bankers.

Link to contact representatives: <http://capwiz.com/iamaw/issues/alert/?alertid=11231996>

Crewmember Self-Defense Training – Following meetings between the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the Machinists Union, The TSA and the Federal Air Marshal Service are now offering Crew Member Self-Defense Training (CMSDT) in the Houston, TX and Newark, NJ areas. The techniques presented in this course are easy to perform and effective when applied correctly – something that is critically important when you must respond quickly. **Regardless of your physical size or fitness level, anyone can learn and execute these defense techniques quickly, efficiently, and effectively.** Participation is voluntary, but your Union representatives encourage you to take advantage of this unique opportunity! We are pleased to advise you that the TSA has reported a marked increase in participation in the self defense training classes and therefore they have added additional training dates for May and June in the Houston area. Spread the word with your co-workers and challenge them in joining you to attend this training course. In the Newark area - Essex County College Police Academy 250 Grove Avenue Cedar Grove, NJ 07009, **May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 26, July 1, 10, 17, 24, August 5, 12, 19, 27** - Contact: Rocco L. Miscia (973) 877-4352 Email: miscia@essex.edu or Mary Beam (973) 877-4350 Email: beam@essex.edu and in the Houston area – Lone Star College - North Harris 10041 Regal Row, Suite 170 Houston, TX 77040, **June 19, 20, July 15, 17** - Contact: Deb Pruitt (281)260-3598 Email: Debra.L.Pruitt@nhmccd.edu.

We would like to encourage all members to attend your Local Lodge business meeting. Each Local Lodge must have a quorum to conduct business. The following is a schedule for upcoming meetings:

Newark: Tuesday, June 10, 2008, 3:00 p.m. at the Renaissance Newark Airport Hotel (formerly Doubletree)

Cleveland: Thursday, June 12, 2008, 1:00 p.m. at 669 North Rocky River Drive.

Houston: Tuesday, June 17, 2008, 1:00 p.m. at 15710 JFK Blvd.

Guam: Wednesday, June 18, 2008, 4:00 p.m. at the Airport Conference Room.