



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 30, 2008

### Doubt, Resistance Grows Over Airline Mergers –



Northwest Airlines CEO Doug Steenland (left) and Delta Airlines CEO Richard Anderson received skeptical treatment at a series of Congressional hearings to weigh the impact of airline consolidation.

On Capitol Hill and in the court of public opinion, airline mergers have been getting a chilly reception. At a House Transportation Subcommittee hearing held last week to examine the proposed Delta-Northwest merger, Transportation General Vice President Robert Roach, Jr. declared: “A Delta-Northwest merger will eliminate jobs, reduce choices for passengers, further deteriorate customer service, trigger additional senseless mergers, make millionaires even richer, and most importantly, do nothing to address the problems of a failing industry.” The judgment of lawmakers and industry analysts, who normally support airline management, has been equally grim. Below is a sampling of opinion drawn from recent testimony at four congressional hearings:

“The inescapable lesson of 29 years of deregulation is that mergers and a reduction in competition are likely to lead to higher fares, a deterioration of service, and financially weakened survivors.” Rep. James Oberstar (D-MN). “Mergers have been good for airline executives, but not so good for consumers and employees.” Rep. Jerry Costello (D-IL). “Airline mergers have a checkered track record, rarely delivering on expected gains and usually creating labor unrest and service disruption.” Philip Baggaley, Managing Director, Standard & Poor’s Ratings Services. “If there is one thing that we have learned from the long history of antitrust, it is that efficiencies are easy to assert, difficult to achieve, and rarely of the magnitude that their parties – in their self-interest – claim.” Albert Foer, President, American Antitrust Institute. “Delta/Northwest and other mega-mergers can not be justified by synergies and improved efficiencies.” Hubert Horan, Airline industry analyst and consultant. “There are amalgamations that make economic and public policy sense but...this is not one of them.” Aaron Gellman, Professor, Northwestern University’s Transportation Center. “There are powerful reasons why these mega-mergers would be harmful to consumers, and would solve none of the industry’s most serious problems.” Kevin Mitchell, Chairman, Business Travel Coalition. Links to the complete testimony from all witnesses and archived video can be accessed at [www.goiam.org/mergers](http://www.goiam.org/mergers).

### Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) –

The AFL-CIO wants feedback on things like equal pay, sick day benefits, health care coverage, pensions and flex time. What are the most challenging issues for women in the workplace? They will forward what working women have to say to the politicians with the power to make it better. The survey is open to all and will be available online until June 20 at [www.askaworkingwoman.com](http://www.askaworkingwoman.com).



Take the [Ask A Working Woman survey!](http://www.askaworkingwoman.com)



**The IAM and District Lodge 142 is pleased to announce the graduation of Continental Airlines Flight Attendant class, "08-06" and to welcome our newest members to our IAM family, Congratulations!**

**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, **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](mailto:miscia@essex.edu) or Mary Beam (973) 877-4350 Email: [beam@essex.edu](mailto: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](mailto:Debra.L.Pruitt@nhmccd.edu).

**Next week, the Weekly Update will be posted Saturday, June 7, 2008. The Weekly Update will resume its normal posting on Friday, June 13, 2008.**

**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

**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.